



BULGARIA ECONOMIC FORUM

Bulgaria Economic Forum
Let's Talk about Economy Growth Generators
14-15 November 2013, Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan

14 November 2013 (Thursday)

Royal 1 Hall

09:00 - 09:45 Registration

09:45 - 10:00 Official Opening

H.E. Mr. Plamen Oresharski, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria

10:00 - 11:30 Let's Talk about Economy Growth Generators

A brief overview of the key factors that could help the Bulgarian economy to emerge from the stage of stagnation will be made in this session and more particularly: foreign direct investments, EU Funds, foreign economic relations, tourism, infrastructure development, telecommunication, agriculture.

Format: Round table with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/English

Speakers:

H.E. Mrs. Daniela Bobeva, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Development of the Republic of Bulgaria

H.E. Mr. Krassin Dimitrov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Florin Lupescu, Principal Adviser, DG CONNECT, European Commission and DAE Ambassador for Bulgaria Representative, Corporate Commercial Bank AD

Moderator: **Mr. George Tabakov, Chairman, Bulgaria Economic Forum**

11:30 - 11:45 Break

11:45 - 12:45 Investment Promotion: Overcoming Legal, Non-legal and Administrative Barriers Facing the Business

Lead investors as well as directors of invest promotion agencies from the region will take part in this session. The Round table is hosted by InvestBulgaria Agency.

Format: Round table with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/English

Speakers

Mr. Svetoslav Mladenov, Executive Director, InvestBulgaria Agency

Mr. Milos Jovanovic, Director, Montenegrin Investment Promotion Agency (MIPA)

Ms. Edit Gyenge, Adviser to the Minister, Department for Infrastructure Projects and Foreign Investments, Minister Dan Sova, Romania

Mr. Tibor Nemet, Head of Trade Department, Embassy of Hungary

Representative, Agency for Foreign Investments and Export Promotion of the Republic of Macedonia

Ms. Stefka Slavova, Alternate Director for Poland, Bulgaria and Albania. Board of Directors, EBRD)

Mr. Plamen Dilkov, Executive Director, PVB Power Bulgaria

Moderator: **Mr. Aleksandar Medjedovic, Board Member of the Turkish-German Chamber of Commerce TD-IHK, Berlin, Germany**

12:45 - 14:00 Business lunch Major Environmental Infrastructure Projects

Key-note speaker: Mrs. Iskra Mihaylova, Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria
(by invitations only)

Working language: Bulgarian



BULGARIA ECONOMIC FORUM

14:00 - 15:00 Business Aspects of Digital Economy and How to Get Benefits from It

Some of the hottest topics in the field of ICT will be discussed here: e-management, digitalization, e-government. The priority areas in Digital Agenda 2020 Programme will be presented. Focus will be made on current and forthcoming projects for Bulgaria and opportunities for Bulgarian ICT companies to benefit from them.

Format: Round Table with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/English

Speakers:

Mr. Hristo Hristov, Acting Director, Information Technology and e-Governance Directorate, Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Florin Lupescu, Principal Adviser, DG CONNECT, European Commission and DAE Ambassador for Bulgaria
"The Digital Society – investing in ourselves"

Mr. Veselin Bozhkov, Chairman, Communications Regulation Commission of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. George Brashnarov, Chairman, Bulgarian Association of Software Companies

Mr. Nikolay Nedialkov, Executive Director, Information Services

Mr. Yoto Raichev, Director Business Development, Methodia Inc - "Optimization of the business processes. Integrated "cloud" solutions for business management."

Moderator: **Gergana Passy, Digital Champion of Bulgaria - Education in the digital world. Why is the change so important?**

15:00 - 15:15 Coffee-break

15:00 - 18:00 EU Funds: Priority Areas to be Funded during the New Programme Period 2014-2020

Short presentations of the priority areas for the new Programme Period of the three Operational Programmes focused directly on fostering the business will be delivered. The OPs are: Human resource development 2014-2020, Innovations and competitiveness and rural development programme. Each presentation will be followed by Q&A session.

Format: Round Table with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/English

Mr. Renaldo Mandments, Head of Unit E.3, Bulgaria, DG REGIO, European Commission - Past experiences and future challenges of programming and implementation (From the past into future).

Moderator: **Eugeniy Ivanov, Member of the MB, Bulgarian Association of EU Programms Consultants and General Manager Euroconsultants Bulgaria SA AD**

15:00 - 15:15 Overview of the European Programmes and Funds under Management of European Commission

Format: Presentation with Q&A

Mr. Anselmo Caporossi, President of Observatory of Structural Funds and EU Programmes, Italian Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria

15:15 - 15:45 OP Human Resource Development 2014-2020

Format: Presentation with Q&A

Mrs. Natalia Efremova, General Director, GD European Funds, International Programmes and Projects, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria



BULGARIA ECONOMIC FORUM

15:45 - 16:15 OP Innovations and Competitiveness 2014-2020

Format: Presentation with Q&A

Mrs. Eli Milusheva, General Director, GD European Funds for Competitiveness, Ministry of Economy and Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria

16:15 - 16:45 Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

Format: Presentation with Q&A

Mr. Vladislav Tsvetanov, Head of Measures under Axis 1 Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Bulgaria

16:45 - 17:15 OP Development of Fish-breeding Sector 2014-2020

Format: Presentation with Q&A

Mr. Lachezar Zolev, Head of Programming and Monitoring Department, European Fund for Fish-breeding Directorate, Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture

17:15 - 18:00 The European Funds and the New Strategic Sectors for the Sustainable Development of the Economies: the Social Enterprises and the EASE & SEE Project

Format: Presentation with Q&A

Mr. Anselmo Caporossi, President of Observatory of Structural Funds and EU Programmes, Italian Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria

Royal 3 Hall

BULGARIAN-SERBIAN BUSINESS FORUM

10:00 - 11:00 Registration

11:00 - 12:30 Opening Session: Fostering Economic Relations between Bulgaria and Serbia

The geographic proximity, low transportation costs, proximity of languages and good political relations are a prerequisite for the development of good bilateral economic relations between Bulgaria and Serbia. The potential is huge and the interest mutual. During the session the ways to promote the economic relations between the two countries will be discussed. The main focus will be on trade, investment and tourism.

Format: Presentations with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/Serbian

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Krasin Dimitrov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria

Ms Jasmina Radonjić, Department for European Integration and International Cooperation, Ministry of transport of the Republic of Serbia

H.E. Mr. Vladimir Curgus, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia

Mr. Miodrag Kostić, Deputy Director, Koridori Srbije

Mr. Zoran Markovic, Regional Chamber of Commerce Nish

Moderator: **Mrs. Marina Hristeva, Co-chair, Bulgarian-Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

12:45 - 13:45 Lunch break



BULGARIA ECONOMIC FORUM

14:30 - 15:30 Latest Developments and opportunities in Trade and Investments between Bulgaria and Serbia

The discussions will focus on the prospects for improving the business climate in Bulgaria and Serbia for increasing of the trade turnover and investments between the two countries.

Format: Presentations with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/Serbian

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Krasin Dimitrov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Aleksandar Medjedovic, Chairman of the Turkish-Serbian Business Council at DEIK/TOBB, Istanbul, Turkey

Ms Boryana Mincheva, Head of International collaboration department, Bulgarian SME Promotion Agency

Mr. Zoran Petrovic, Free Zone Piro

Mr. Zoran Jovanovic, General Director, Esensa

Moderator: **Mr. Aleksandar Simonovic, Co-chairman, Bulgarian-Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

15:30 - 15:45 Coffee-break

15:45 - 16:45 Opportunities for Common Tourist Destinations Development in the Cross-border Region

Increase in the tourist flow between Bulgaria and Serbia, as well as expansion of business contacts between tour operators operating on their territory, is a necessity realized by both sides. Discussions will focus on tourist sites near the border of the two countries that are potential opportunities for the development of common tourist destinations

Format: Round table with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/Serbian

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Branimir Botev, Deputy Minister of Economy and Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria (tbc)

Mr. Aleksandar Milicevic, First Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Serbia

Mr. Nikola Hristovich, Manager, Finsys

Mr. Urosh Parlich, Tourist Organization of Nish (tbc)

Mr. Krasimir Kirilov, Chairman, Vidin Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr. Dejan Tosic, President, Regional Chamber of Economy Zajecar

Mrs. Svetlana Atanasova, President, Bulgarian Association of Travel Agents

Moderator: **Mr. Aleksandar Milicevic, First Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Serbia**

17:00 - 18:00 B2B Meetings and Networking Opportunities between Bulgarian and Serbian Companies

AGRO-START CONFERENCE

Sredets Hall

11:00 - 11:45 Registration



BULGARIA ECONOMIC FORUM

11:45 - 12:30 Opening Session: Agriculture: Encouraging the Development of SMEs in the Animal Breeding and Horticulture Sectors

An overview of the key issues in regard with the development of the animal breeding and horticulture sector will be made. The session will provide opportunity for discussion of trends and needs in these sectors in Southeast Europe.

Format: Round table with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/English

Speakers:

Mr. Miroslav Nikolov, Executive Director, State Fund Agriculture, Bulgaria (tbc)

Mr. Igor Zlatkov, Director, National Extension Agency, FYROM

Mr. George Gkekas, International Business Development Manager, Founder of Fooditerranean PC, Greece

Ms. Dessislava Dimitrova, National Coordinator, Slow Food, Bulgaria

Ms. Biljana Petrovska-Mitrevska, Communication Officer of AGRO-START Project

Moderator: Mrs. Christina Zlatanova, Administrative Director, Bulgaria Economic Forum

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 - 14:15 Presentation of the Transnational Database with Products and Services Suppliers for SMEs in the Animal Breeding and Horticulture Sectors

Format: Presentations with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/English

Speaker: Mrs. Christina Zlatanova, Administrative Director, Bulgaria Economic Forum

14:15 - 15:15 Presentation of Business Practices and Cases in the Animal Breeding and Horticulture Sectors. Trends and Needs in the Provision of Business Support Services for SMEs in the Sectors. (Part I)

The session will present best practices in the animal breeding and horticulture sector and will elaborate on the trends and needs in the provision of business support services for SMEs in these sectors in Southeast Europe.

Format: Presentations with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/English

Speakers:

Mr. Evtim Stefanov, Executive Director, Regional Development Agency and Business Centre – Vidin, Bulgaria

Mr. Simone Mangoni, CEO, Telematica Italia, Italy

Mr. Svetozar Kavardjiev, Manager, Agroproject SM, Bulgaria

Mr. George Gkekas, International Business Development Manager, Founder of Fooditerranean PC, Greece

Moderator: Mr. Adolfo Colagiovanni, Project Coordinator, University of Molise, Italy

15:15 - 15:30 Coffee-break

15:30 - 17:00 Presentation of Business Practices and Cases in the Animal Breeding and Horticulture Sectors. Trends and Needs in the Provision of Business Support Services for SMEs in the Sectors. (Part II)

Format: Presentations with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian/English

Speakers:



BULGARIA ECONOMIC FORUM

Prof. Mariyana Ivanova, Vice-Rector, University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Bulgaria

Mr. Goce Dzurovski, Head of Department for Services, FFRM, FYROM

Ms. Ivana Dimitrijevic, Senior Consultant, DataLAB MK d.o.o., FYROM

Phd. Gianfranco Brusaporci, Expert, LugoNextLab, Italy

Dr. Francesco Di Lucia, Agronomist, Sunchem Holding, Italy

Moderator: Mr. Adolfo Colagiovanni, Project Coordinator, University of Molise, Italy

19:30 BEF Casual Party with Music and Networking Opportunities

(by invitations only)

15 November 2013 (Friday)

Royal 1 Hall

Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan

BULGARIA ECONOMIC FORUM

09:30 - 10:00 Registration

10:00 - 12:00 Major Infrastructure Projects: Priority Areas to be Funded during the New Programme period 2014-2020

Format: Round table with Q&A

Working language: Bulgarian

H.E. Mrs. Desislava Terzieva, Minister of Regional Development of the Republic of Bulgaria (tbc)

Mr. Assen Antov, Chairman of the MB, National Company Strategic Infrastructure Projects

Mr. Stilyan Krotnev, Director, Strategic Development and Investment Projects Directorate, National Railway Infrastructure Company

Mr. Angel Zaubrtov, Deputy Director General, Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company

10:30 - 11:00 OP Regional Development 2014-2020

Format: Presentation with Q&A

Mrs. Snezhina Petrova, Acting Director, DG Programming of the Regional Development, Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Bulgaria

11:00 - 11:30 OP Environment 2014-2020

Format: Presentation with Q&A

Mrs. Malina Kroumova, Director, Cohesion Policy for Environment Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria

11:30 - 12:00 OP Transport 2014-2020

Format: Presentation with Q&A



BULGARIA ECONOMIC FORUM

**Mr. Martin Georgiev, Head of Programming Department, DG Coordination of Programms and Projects,
Ministry of Transport, IT and Communications**