

BELGRADE ECONOMIC FORUM XXIV

Tuesday-Wednesday, October 29-30, 2024
Metropol Palace Hotel



Metropol Palace Hotel, Belgrade
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Arrival of Guests

12. 00 OPENING SESSION

Opening Keynote Address

- ✓ **Milos Vucevic**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia

Welcome remarks

- ✓ **Mike Michel**, President of the Foreign Investors Council & CEO of Yettel Serbia
- ✓ **Stefan Lazarevic**, AmCham President & VP NCR Noyix Serbia

12.30 WHAT FUTURE FOR EU ENLARGEMENT AND THE WESTERN BALKANS?

ASSESSING THE NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AFTER THE RECENT EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

A panel on the outlook of the new Von der Layen Commission, its priorities, a profile of relevant Commissioners (i.e. Enlargement) and how they might have changed due to the results of the recent European Elections.

- ✓ **Luca Gori**, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to the Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **Anke Konrad**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **József Magyar**, Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to the Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **Jakov Devic**, Director, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Serbia and Montenegro
- ✓ **Srdjan Majstorovic**, Chairman, Governing Board of the European Policy Centre, Serbia

- ✓ Chair: **Milan Parivodic**, Principal Attorney at Law, Parivodic Lawyers



13.15 WESTERN BALKANS GROWTH PLAN: ROAD FULL OF CHALLENGES OR A PATH TO PROSPERITY

Reforms | Challenges | Prospects

How can we achieve growth, in a time of climate & energy crisis, a multi-polar world, especially in view of the EU goals for climate neutrality by 2050? What are the WB6 challenges in terms of connectivity potentials, investment opportunities, and sustainability prospects for civil engineering, agriculture, tourism or commerce and how can they be met?

- ✓ **Dr Tanja Miscevic**, Minister for European Integration of the Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **Christian Ebner**, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **Luca Gori**, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to the Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **Gordana Delic**, Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, German Marshal Fund
- ✓ **Jelica Minic**, Executive Board Member, European Movement in Serbia
- ✓ **Goran Svilanovic**, Consultant, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs (2000-2024)
- ✓ **Danijela Gacevic**, Acting Director, Central European Free Trade Agreement CEFTA (online)

14.15 Networking break

14.45 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON POLITICAL COOPERATION IN THE REGION

A panel to identify the current state of political cooperation as well as its challenges, seeking to propose actionable strategies for enhancing collaboration and emphasizing the importance of continued dialogue for achieving political stability.

Marko Djuric, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Serbia

Dr Timcho Mucunski, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Republic of North Macedonia

- ✓ **Christopher R. Hill**, Ambassador of the United States of America
- ✓ **Prof. PhD Zijad Becirovic**, Director, IFIMES Institute
- ✓ **Zoran Tadic**, CEO at Neofyton & Honorary Consul of the Republic Austria in AP Vojvodina

15.25 FIRESIDE CHAT: CASHLESS PAYMENTS

Empowered by Visa

- ✓ **Ana Draskovic**, Vice President and General Manager for the Southeast Europe, VISA
- ✓ **Goran Pitic**, Professor FEFA Faculty
- ✓ Chair: **Zivana Saponja Ilic**, Journalist

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15.55 INFRASTRUCTURE: MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE REGION

Infrastructure development is crucial for the region's economic growth, integration, and competitiveness. Major projects in transport, digital infrastructure, and urban development are transforming the region, creating opportunities for enhanced connectivity, economic activity, and quality of life.

✓ **Goran Vesic**, Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure

Boris Bjelica, Acting Director, Construction Directorate of Serbia

✓ **Zoran Blagojevic**, Chairman of the Executive Board, Wiener Städtische Osiguranje

✓ **Dusan Borovcanin**, CEO, EXPO 2027

✓ **Chair: Toplica Spasojevic**, President, ITM Sistem

17.00 End of Day 1 | Networking Cocktail

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09.00 Arrival of Guests

09.30 OPENING SESSION

Opening Keynote Address

- ✓ **Tomislav Momirovic**, Minister of Domestic and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Serbia

09.45 THE SERBIAN ECONOMY OVER THE YEARS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Strategic Advantages | Key partners | Human capital

According to IMF projections, the Serbian economy is expected to reach \$116 billion of worth by 2029, consolidating its position as the most powerful economy in the region. Government officials, university professors, representatives from scientific institutions, and civil society come together to discuss Serbia's path toward growth.

Adrijana Mesarovic, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Serbia

- ✓ **PhD Nikola Altiparmakov**, Fiscal Council Member
- ✓ **Lev Ratnovski**, Resident Representative in Serbia, IMF
- ✓ **PhD Prof Nebojsa Savic**, Professor, FEFA
- ✓ **PhD Prof Dejan Soskic**, Professor, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Economics
- ✓ **Peter Tabak**, Regional Lead Economist, EBRD

10.45 PANEL I PHARMA

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11.45 Networking break



12.10 AI & DIGITALISATION: NAVIGATING THE PATH TO RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE TECH IN EVERY HAND

Digital Utopia | Post-digital Society | The promise of AI

The post-digital society utopia: the promise of AI and the digital revolution is the gift of human leisure and release from mundane tasks and bureaucratic procedures. How far is Serbia from a universal implementation of sustainable business solutions, including applications of AI in real estate, smart buildings and banking? How far is digital utopia?

- ✓ **Dr Jelena Begovic**, Minister of Science, Technological Development and Innovation
- ✓ **Michelle Cameron**, Ambassador Designate of Canada to Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia
- ✓ **Pierre Cochard**, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **Edward Ferguson**, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **Yakub Beris**, Resident Representative, UNDP
- ✓ **Dr Vladimir Crnojevic**, Director, BioSense Institute
- ✓ **Neda Teslic**, Vice-President Telecommunications & Digital Economy Committee FIC, A1 Srbija

13.10 CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION: A POWERFUL DUO

Digital warfare | Digital Resilience | Digital Defense

Cyber security is the new defense. In an emerging / increasingly multi-polar world and a multi-crisis international environment where warfare is constantly evolving, security also transfers from land to cyberspace. Can we become both digitally safe and resilient? Are there silver bullet solutions in cyber security?

- ✓ **Marina Papadakis**, Secretary General, Association of Serbian Banks
- ✓ **Predrag Miladinovic**, FIC Financial Services Committee Vice President & Managing Partner VP Law Firm
- ✓ **Aleksandar Stankovic**, West Balkan Countries Manager, Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V.

13.40 Networking Buffet lunch

14.20 IN CONVERSATION WITH: FOREIGN DIRECTIVE INVESTMENTS IN SERBIA

Marko Cadez, President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

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14.40 THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN DIRECTIVE INVESTMENTS IN SERBIA

A discussion on the impact FDI can have in contributing to diversify Serbia's economy by investing in various sectors such as manufacturing, services, and technology and how it can help make the economy more resilient to external shocks.

- ✓ **Bodin Bulatovic**, Country Officer Serbia & Western Balkans, IFC
- ✓ **Milan Grujic**, President, German-Serbian Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ **Aleksandar Ljubic**, Director, FIC
- ✓ **Oliver Lepori**, Director, JBAS
- Patrizio Dei Tos**, President, Confindustria Serbia
- François Berisot**, Vice-President, CCI France Serbie & Belgrade Airport

15.20 THE ENERGY OUTLOOK IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE WITH FOCUS IN SERBIA

A panel to explore the energy situation in Southeast Europe and particular how Serbia is shaped by a combination of factors such as aging infrastructure, dependance on fossil fuels, a growing emphasis on renewable energy and the need for regional cooperation to ensure energy security.

- ✓ **Dr Plinio Nastari**, President & CEO Consultoria Ltda.
- ✓ **Prof. Dr Nikola Rajakovic**, Association of power engineers, Faculty of Electrical Engineering
- ✓ **Jasmina Trhulj**, Head of Electricity Unit, Energy Community

16.00 End of the Forum | Cocktails