

25th BELGRADE ECONOMIC FORUM

December 17, 2025
Metropol Palace Hotel

agenda

09.30-10.00 Registration

10.00 Welcome Remarks

Georgia Vlachou, Event Director, Delphi Economic Forum

10.15 Redrawing the Global Blueprint: Geopolitical Shifts and the Future of International Relations

Captures the profound transition to a multipolar world order, where the USA, EU, China, and Russia each wield significant influence. For countries like Serbia, this means constantly navigating competing interests and opportunities from these major powers.

Jelica Minić, Member of the Executive Board, European Movement in Serbia

Prof. Dragan Djukanović, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade

Dr. Igor Novaković, Senior Associate, International and Security Affairs Centre

Gordana Delić, Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, German Marshal Fund

Moderator: **TBA**

10.45 European Funding: Fostering Development in the Western Balkans

In 2024, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development significantly increased their funding for the Western Balkans, primarily focusing on sustainable projects and the private sector, with a notable emphasis on Serbia.

Marko Jovanović, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance of Serbia

Damien Sorrell, Head of Regional Hub for the Western Balkans, EIB

Amer Kapetanović, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council

Ioannis Kirkinezis, Vice President and Managing Director, Balkans, Hill International

Tomislav Knežević, Programme Manager, GIZ Serbia

Moderator: **Prof. Dr Dejan Šoškić**, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade

11.30 Serbia and the EU: A Prolonged Process, Enduring Goals

Serbia's long EU accession process is now at a crossroads, with both Serbia and the EU questioning whether the slow progress is worth the effort, especially given Serbia's ties to Russia and China.

***H.E. Andreas von Beckerath**, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of European Union to the Republic of Serbia

H.E. Mrs Pernille Dahler Kardel, Ambassador, Royal Danish Embassy in Belgrade

Mira Radenović Bojić, State Secretary, Ministry for European Integration of Serbia

Jakov Devčić, Head, Konrad Adenauer Foundation Serbia and Montenegro

Moderator: **Toplica Spasojević**, President, ITM Sistem

12.00 Networking Coffee Break

12.30 Investing in Tomorrow: Serbia's Strategy to Combat Brain Drain

The discussion describes the country's dual challenge of attracting foreign investment while simultaneously retaining its skilled workforce. The discussion highlights that while low labor costs draw international business, they also contribute to a high rate of working poverty, pushing many Serbs to seek better wages abroad.

Tatjana Matić, Director, Development Fund of the Republic of Serbia

Nicola Pontara, Country Manager for Serbia, World Bank

Lev Ratnovski, Resident Representative for Serbia, IMF

Dr. Jasmina Knežević, Business Consultant, Founder, BelMedic

Moderator: **Nikola Makojević**, Professor, Faculty of Economics

13.00 Keynote Speech

***Jorgovanka Tabaković**, Governor, National Bank of Serbia

13.15 Unlocking Growth: How Serbia's Investment Strategy is Fueling Economic Transformation

Serbia is fueling its economic transformation by strategically attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) through a combination of tax incentives, free trade agreements, and a business-friendly environment. This investment is being channeled into key sectors like green energy, infrastructure, and the IT industry, aiming to boost productivity and accelerate economic growth.

Rados Gazdić, Director, Development Agency of Serbia

Mihailo Vesović, Vice President & Director for Strategic Analysis, Services & Internationalization, Serbian Chamber of Commerce

Nikola Altiparmakov, Board Member, Serbian Fiscal Council

Oliver Lepori, Executive Director, Japanese Business Alliance in Serbia (JBAS)

Moderator: **Aleksandar Ljubić**, Executive Director, Foreign Investors Council Serbia

14.00 Light Lunch

14.45 Serbia's Energy Mix: Ensuring Security, Sustainability, and Resilience

The discussion will focus on Serbia's significant energy challenges and the strategy to overcome them by balancing the critical demands of energy supply security, environmental sustainability, and systemic resilience.

***Dejan Popović**, President of the Council, Energy Agency of the Republic of Serbia

Milos Colić, Chairman of the Board, Renewable Energy Sources Association

Repr. from TITAN Serbia

Dragan Milošević, President, GRAS

Moderator: **Milan Parivodić**, Principal Attorney at Law, Parivodic Lawyers

15.30 Shaping Serbia: Infrastructure & Property Trends

"Shaping Serbia" outlines the nation's push to modernize and expand its urban centers, primarily through large-scale property and infrastructure projects.

Mario Kijanović, President, FIC Infrastructure & Real Estate Committee

Zoran Blagojević, Chairman of the Executive Board, Wiener Städtische osiguranje

Stylianos Tsoktouridis, Managing Director, Alumil Yu Industry

Pavle Škerović, Director of Commercialization, EXPO 2027

Moderator: **Dragana Korica**, Executive Director, Serbia Green Building Council

16.00 Innovation Boom: Digitalization & Startup Potential

The panel describes the country's strategic push to develop its technology sector and global standing. The nation is investing heavily in startups and infrastructure, particularly in artificial intelligence, to transform its economy and compete on the world stage.

Dr. Saša Lazović, Managing Director, Innovation Fund of the Republic of Serbia

Dr. Jelena Begović, Assistant Director for International Cooperation and Business,

Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade

Vladimir Mrkajić, Head of Research & Development, InoSens

Repr. from Science Technology Park of Belgrade

Moderator: **Vladimir Vasić**, CEO & Founder, BBS Capital Investment Group

16.30 End of Summit

*** Invited Speaker**