



SOFIA

THE EU-BALKAN SUMMIT

PAVING THE WAY TO RECOVERY AND GROWTH

OCTOBER 17th-18th 2013

Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan

ALBANIA

**BOSNIA
AND
HERZEGOVINA**

BULGARIA

CROATIA

GREECE

**F.Y.R.
OF
MACEDONIA**

MONTENEGRO

ROMANIA

SERBIA

DAY 1–Thursday, October 17th, 2013

15:00 Registration

15:30 Coffee and refreshments

16:00 Chairpersons' welcome:

THE EIU FORECAST ON THE BALKAN REGION

- From crisis to sustained recovery?
- Which countries will fare best and which will struggle?

Laza Kekic, *Regional Director, Europe, Economist Intelligence Unit***Joan Hoey**, *Senior Analyst & Regional Editor, Europe, Economist Intelligence Unit*

16:20 Discussion

16:30 **Official opening****IN DIALOGUE WITH THE PRIME MINISTERS OF BULGARIA AND ROMANIA****Plamen Oresharski**, *Prime Minister of Bulgaria****Victor Ponta**, *Prime Minister of Romania*

17:15 Discussion

18:15 **THE UPCOMING GREEK-EU PRESIDENCY**

- How significant for developments in EU-Balkan relations?
- What priorities have been set?
- Which challenges are being faced?
- EU enlargement and Europe's position
- Accession processes – where do we stand?

***Evangelos Venizelos**, *Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece*

18:30 Discussion

19:00 Cocktail reception

20:00 **GALA DINNER***Guests of honour and keynote speakers:***Rosen Plevneliev**, *President of Bulgaria*

DAY 2-Friday, October 18th, 2013

08:30 Arrival of delegates

09:00 **Setting the Stage:****SE EUROPE: WHAT SHOULD WE ANTICIPATE?**

- EU's strategy of enlargement in the Balkan region
- Western Balkans: Opportunities & obstacles to overcome

Laza Kekic, *Regional Director, Europe, Economist Intelligence Unit***Dimitris Kourkoulas**, *Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greece***Dimitar Bechev**, *Senior Policy Fellow, Head, European Council on Foreign Relations, Bulgaria***BULGARIA, ROMANIA AND THE EU**

- What has been the impact of EU membership on their economy?
- How has it affected the business sector?
- Will the young, educated and skillful workforce remain home?

Liviu-Nicolae Dragnea, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania* (acceptance in principle)* **Daniela Bobeva**, *Deputy Prime Minister, Bulgaria*

09:40 Business roundtable discussion

10:10 **CROATIA: THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK**

- A vision for Croatia's future development

Alen Leveric, *Deputy Minister of Economy, Croatia** **Nadan Vidosevic**, *President, Croatian Chamber of Economy** **Tomislav Presecan**, *Vice-governor, Croatian National Bank***Business roundtable discussion with CEOs**11:00 **Break**11:30 **THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE IN THE BALKANS FOR THE NEXT DECADE**

In an in-depth discussion we shall analyse how the Euro zone crisis has affected the Balkan region, predict growth indicators and assess the outlook for business and investments

- Key priorities for the next five years
- Strategies to achieve sustainable economic growth
- Assessing business and investment opportunities in the region

* **Michael O' Halloran**, *Head of Division, Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus, European Investment Bank***Max Watson**, *Visiting Fellow, St Anthony's College, Member, SEESOX Steering Committee***Peter Sanfey**, *Lead Economist, EBRD*

The business response:

Stamatios Theodoropoulos, *Chairman, Hellenic Business Council in Bulgaria (HBCB)* and *Country Manager, Chipita, Bulgaria*

* **Minas Angelides**, *CEO, Coca Cola 3E, Bulgaria*

11:45 Roundtable discussion

12:30 THE BANKING OUTLOOK

- **Financial services: overcoming the crisis, looking forward**
- **Greece's presence in the financial landscape: future plans?**

* **Christian Popa**, *Vice Governor, National Bank of Romania (BNRO)*

Claudio Cesario, *CEO, Unicredit Bank Serbia*

Representative, Piraeus Bank (Name to be advised)

13:00 Discussion

13:15 Networking luncheon**14:15 ENERGY: UNTAPPING THE SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL**

- **What are the prospects & challenges?**

From renewables, natural gas, hydrocarbons and shale gas fracturing to new pipelines and LNGs for transportation purposes, the potential for collaboration in this field is vast and geographically of utmost importance to re-designing the energy map of Europe. Moreover, the southeastern European countries are playing a significant role for the security of energy supply in Europe.

Keynote address:

* **Amos Hochstein**, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy, US Department of State*

* **Flavio Zanonato**, *Minister of Economic Development, Italy*

Dragomir Stoynev, *Minister of Economy and Energy, Bulgaria*

Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, Albania (Name to be advised following the recent elections)

15:00 Discussion

**15:20 PIPELINE PROJECTS IN THE SOUTHERN CORRIDOR
AND THEIR GEOSTRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE REGION**

* **Elshad Nassirov**, *Vice-president for Investments, Socar, Azerbaijan*

* **Kjetil Tunglund**, *Managing Director, Trans Adriatic Pipeline*

Elio Ruggeri, *CEO, IGI Poseidon, Italy* and *Chairman BoD, ICGB, Bulgaria*

* **Harry Sachinis**, *Chairman and CEO, DEPA (Public Gas Corporation), Greece*

15:50 Discussion

16:10 **THE LIBERALISATION OF THE ENERGY MARKET
OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT VENTURES AND COLLABORATION IN THE REGION**

Andreas Mitafidis, *Director, Energy Management Division, Public Power Corporation, Greece*

16:20 Discussion

16:40 **GOVERNMENT IN DIALOGUE WITH BUSINESS**

- **INFRASTRUCTURE, TOURISM, REAL ESTATE, TELECOMS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
- **Improving the business climate: how?**
- **What incentives are being given for investment?**
- **What obstacles need to be overcome?**

* **Rasim Ljajic**, *Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade and Telecommunications, Serbia*

* **Sanjin Halimovic**, *Minister of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

* **Valon Saraqini**, *Minister of Economy, FYR of Macedonia*

Branimir Gvozdenovic, *Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro*

17:20

- **The business response:**

Business representatives from Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, F.Y.R. of Macedonia, Bosnia & Herzegovina (Names to be advised)

18:10 **Conclusions – End of conference**

18:30 Cocktails

* **Awaiting Confirmation**

Last update: **July 17th 2013**

This agenda is registered to the Economist Events. Speakers mentioned herein **have confirmed their participation**, apart from those that appear with an asterisk. We reserve the right to amend topics if necessary.