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Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia  
to the Republic of Austria  
Honorary Consulate  
of the Republic of Slovenia  
in Lower Austria



## 18<sup>th</sup> VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM VIENNA FUTURE DIALOGUE 2021

Economy Meets Politics in a Digital World

During the Slovenian Presidency  
of the Council of the EU 2021

Energy Transition  
Infrastructure and Financial Challenges  
for the Countries of the VEF Region

22 November 2021

Federation of Austrian Industries  
House of Industry  
Schwarzenbergplatz 4  
1030 Vienna



Working Language: English

## PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2021

**LOCATION**  
Hotel Imperial  
Kärntner Ring 16, 1015 Vienna

6:00–8:00 p.m. **WELCOME COCKTAIL (by invitation)**  
hosted by the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum  
and Verbund AG

Verbund

MONDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2021

**LOCATION**  
Federation of Austrian Industries, House of Industry  
Schwarzenbergplatz 4  
1030 Vienna

**ONLINE Participants**  
via **LIVE STREAMING LINK:**  
<https://juraczka-live.at/events/d1ykiEq2OelbYuom>  
also available on the  
**Vienna Economic Forum Homepage:**  
[www.vienna-economic-forum.com](http://www.vienna-economic-forum.com)  
and on Europe by Satellite (EbS)

**Moderation**  
Ms. Daniela PHILIPP

9:00–9:30 a.m. **OPENING OF THE HYBRID EDITION OF THE  
18<sup>th</sup> VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM**

**Welcome Words**  
Mr. Georg KNILL  
President of the Federation of Austrian Industries, **onsite**

**Opening**  
Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTCEVA, Member of the Board  
Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**

**Greeting Words**  
DI Peter UMUNDUM, Member of the Executive Board of  
the Österreichische Post AG  
President of Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**

**Video Messages**  
H.E. Mr. Janez JANŠA, Prime Minister of **Slovenia**  
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, **Video message**  
DI Dr. Erwin PRÖLL, Former Governor of Lower Austria  
Honorary Consul of Slovenia with the Consular District  
of Lower Austria, Honorary member of Vienna Economic  
Forum, **Video message**

**Outline**  
Dr. Erhard BUSEK, Former Vice-Chancellor of Austria  
Founding Father and Honorary President of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**

9:30–10:40 a.m. **1<sup>st</sup> SESSION**

## ENERGY TRANSITION

**Impulse Statement**  
H.E. Ms. Kadri SIMSON  
European Commissioner for Energy, **Video statement**

**Keynote**  
H.E. Mr. Denys SHMYHAL, Prime Minister of **Ukraine**  
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**

**Statements**  
H.E. Mr. Kreshnik BEKTESHI  
Minister of Economy of **North Macedonia**, **onsite**  
Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ, President of **Serbian**  
Association of Economists, Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Mr. Marko PERUNOVIĆ, State Secretary for Energy  
and Mining, Ministry of Capital Investments of  
**Montenegro**, **onsite**  
Mr. Admir ANDELIJA  
General Manager of JP Elektroprivreda d.d.  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **onsite**

**Onsite/Online Discussion**  
Dr. Achim KASPAR, Member of the Executive Board  
COO, Verbund AG, Vice President of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Mag. Stefan SZYSZKOWITZ, Spokesman of the  
Executive Board, EVN AG, Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Ahmet Burak DAĞLIOĞLU, President, Presidency of  
the Republic of **Turkey** Investment Office, Member of the  
Board of Vienna Economic Forum, **online from Istanbul**  
DI Peter UMUNDUM, Member of the Executive Board of  
the Österreichische Post AG  
President of Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Dr. Gabriel LANSKY, Partner, LANSKY, GANZGER,  
GOETH, FRANKL + partner, Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**

**Session Summary**  
Dr. Janez KOPAC, Director  
Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna, **onsite**

10:40–10:50 a.m. **SHORT BREAK**10:50 a.m. **2<sup>nd</sup> SESSION**INFRASTRUCTURE AND  
FINANCIAL CHALLENGES FOR THE  
COUNTRIES OF THE VEF REGION

**Keynote**  
H.E. Mr. Edi RAMA, Prime Minister of **Albania**  
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, **online from Tirana**

H.E. Mr. Albin KURTI, Prime Minister of **Kosovo**  
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**

**Main Statement**  
Dr. Lilyana PAVLOVA, Vice-President  
European Investment Bank (EIB), **onsite**

**Onsite Discussion**  
Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER, CEO, A1 Telekom  
Austria Group, Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Mr. Wilbert VERHEIJEN, Managing Director  
Canon CEE GmbH, Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Mag. Peter HÖFINGER, Member of the Board of  
Vienna Insurance Group AG, Cooperation Partner of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Dr. Friedhelm BOSCHERT, Managing Director  
MIFI GmbH, CEO Oikocredit Austria  
Member of Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**

**Participants Onsite/Online**  
Dr. Ognian DONEV, Chairman of the Board of  
Directors and Executive Director, Sopharma PLC  
Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Mag. Heinz MESSINGER, Managing Director  
AME International GmbH, Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Mr. Emmanuel FOREST, Member of the  
**EU Mission Board** for Climate-neutral and Smart  
City, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum  
**online from Paris**  
Amb. Prof. Dr. Vasilka POPOSKA-TRENEVSKA  
Honorary member of Vienna Economic Forum  
Representative of OMEKS d.o.o. **Slovenia**, **onsite**  
Dr. Nina DRAKIĆ, Acting President, Chamber of  
Economy of **Montenegro**, Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **onsite**  
Dr. Dennis HESSELING, Head of Department  
Infrastructure, Gas and Retail, EU Agency for the  
Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) with  
Headquarters in Ljubljana, **onsite**

**Session Summary**  
Amb. Victor JACKOVICH, President, Jackovich  
International LLC, USA, Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum, **online from Washington**

12:30 p.m.

**END OF 18<sup>th</sup> Vienna Economic Forum –  
VIENNA FUTURE DIALOGUE 2021**

**“Economy meets Politics in a digital world”**

**END OF THE EXTERNAL STREAM**