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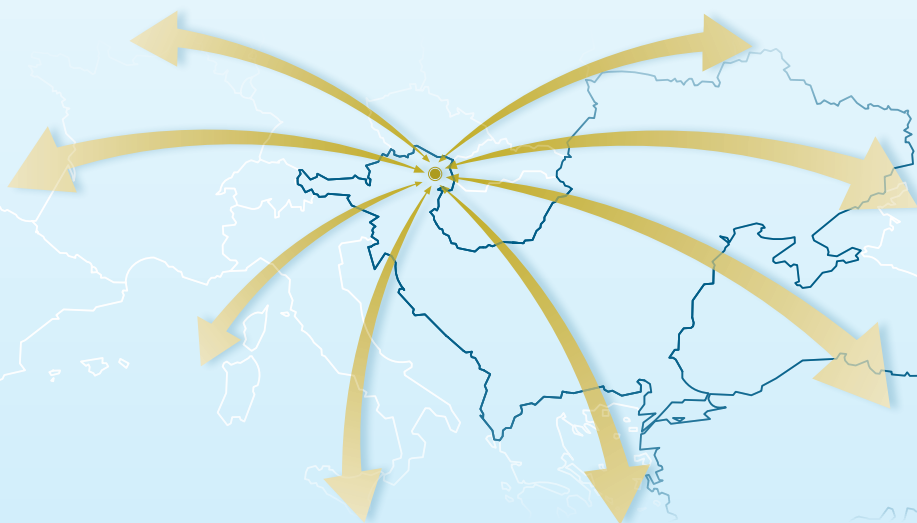


CONSULTATIVE STATUS
WITH THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS (ECOSOC)

Go South East

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OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



REVIEW 2019
PREVIEW 2020

Vienna Economic Forum

has the honor to cooperate for a better understanding in the region with:



Anatolian Businessmen Association,
Istanbul



Bled Strategic Forum, Bled, Slovenia



Biopolitics International
Organisation (B.I.O.), Athens



Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce
and Industry (BCCI), Sofia



Business Advisory Council for
South-Eastern Europe, Thessaloniki



business ladies club



Central European Initiative (CEI),
Trieste



Confederation of the Employers and
Industrialists in Bulgaria (CEIBG), Sofia



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Delphi Economic Forum NPO,
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EastEuroCo Executive Search
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International Business and Diplomatic
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Sarajevo



Turkish Enterprise and Business
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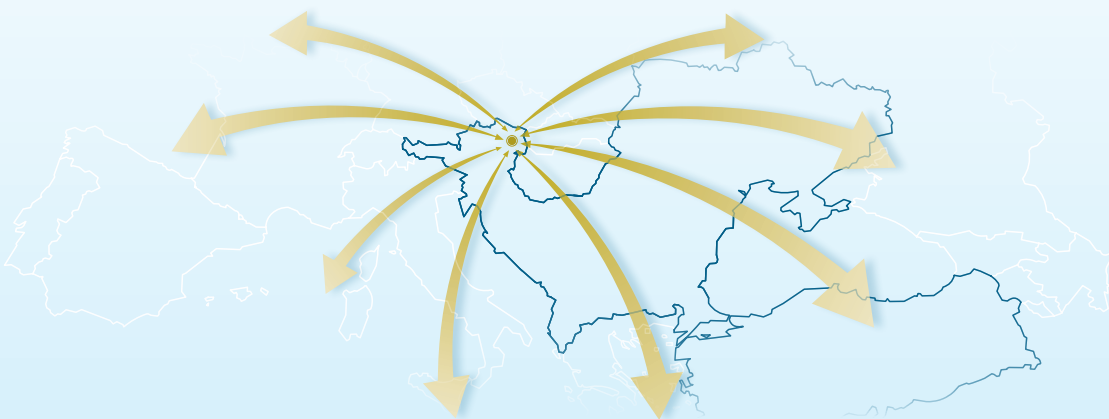
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VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



REVIEW 2019
PREVIEW 2020

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Bundesministerium für europäische
und internationale Angelegenheiten

DVR: 0000060

Wien, am 7. Jänner 2011

GZ: BMeiA-N9.8.19.12/0036-I.2/2010

An das

Vienna Economic Forum (VEF)
z.Hd. Fr. Dr. Elena Kiricheva
Stubenring 16/3
1010 Wien

BESCHIED

Der Bundesminister für europäische und internationale Angelegenheiten als Behörde gemäß § 1 des Bundesgesetzes über die Einräumung von Privilegien an nichtstaatliche internationale Organisationen, BGBl. Nr. 174/1992, entscheidet wie folgt:

Spruch

Dem Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) wird die Rechtsstellung einer Organisation im Sinne des Bundesgesetzes über die Einräumung von Privilegien an nichtstaatliche internationale Organisationen (NGO-Gesetz), BGBl. Nr. 174/1992, eingeräumt.

...

Für den Bundesminister:


(Ges. MMag. Gregor Schusterschitz)
Leiter der Abteilung I.2 – Allgemeines Völkerrecht

United Nations  Nations Unies

Non-Governmental Organizations Branch
Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

DC1-1480, 1 U.N. Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017 • Tel. (212) 963-8652 • Fax (212) 963-9248
Website: www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo • Contact: www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo/contact

27 July 2012

Dear NGO Representative,

I am pleased to inform you that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its Substantive Session of July 2012 adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to grant **Special** consultative status to your organization **Vienna Economic Forum**. On behalf of all staff of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch, please accept our heartfelt congratulations.

Consultative status for an organization enables it to actively engage with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in a number of ways. In order to better understand this relationship, we take this opportunity to provide some critical information about the **privileges** that consultative status with ECOSOC confers on your organization, as well as the **obligations** that your organization will be required to meet under this relationship. **We therefore urge you to take the time to carefully review the information we have provided below.**

Privileges and benefits of consultative status

1) ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31

- Arrangements for consultations with NGOs are regulated by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, adopted by the Council on 25 July 1996. Please review the entire resolution at: <http://csonet.org/content/documents/199631.pdf> for detailed information. It provides information on ways to participate in the work of the Council, including opportunities to organizations such as yours to consult with Member States and the United Nations system at large, based on the nature and scope of work that your organization undertakes. Consultative relationship with NGOs also enables the Council or one of its bodies to seek expert information or advice from organizations with special competence in a subject matter.

- Consultative status allows you to be informed about the provisional agenda of the Economic and Social Council;

...

Vienna Economic Forum

IT IS EASY TO DESTRICT POLITICAL BRIDGES BUT NOT THAT EASY TO DESTROY ECONOMICAL ONES



After three years under my presidency, please let me give a short summary about this period, the lessons learned and the outlook for the future of Vienna Economic Forum.

When I took over the responsibility in 2017 from my predecessor Dr. Busek, former Vice-Chancellor of Austria, Vienna Economic Forum already had a very positive track record and was well established in the relevant community. The mission was and is the work for a prosperous united Europe and to support the growth of economic wealth in all the member countries of VEF.

It was and is the aim, to build a strong open and transparent business network and bridges, supported by the local governments and administration of the VEF region. This process has not ended until now, as we have recognised over the last years because of so called global Megatrends in economy, technology, politics and last but not least climate. These multidimensional challenges also have to be reflected in the work of VEF to fulfill its mission successfully. Board Members, Partners, Patrons, Committees and last but not least the small team around the Secretary General were seriously engaged to initiate conferences, talks and meetings to reach VEF's targets.

As outgoing President, I would like to thank all of you in the different positions and VEF bodies cordially for your support and wish Vienna Economic Forum under the new incoming President DI Peter Umundum, member of the Executive Board of Österreichische Post AG, all the best and a bright future.

DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner
President

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, MEMBERS AND PARTNERS OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM!



The time has come again to present you with the Report on the past year 2019 and to thank you for your long-standing loyalty and support.

The year 2019 was marked by the 30th anniversary of the end of the block system of the Cold War. Therefore, Vienna Economic Forum duly dedicated the **16th Vienna Economic Forum – Economy Meets Politics to the topic “From planned Economy to Market Economy 30 Years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain”**.

Allow me to state once again that without the end of the Cold war, without the enthusiasm of the first free years of the new democratic development of our region, without the joy, the willingness and the goal to transform the region of Vienna Economic Forum with joined forces into a European region, we hardly would have had the opportunity to create our Vienna Economic Forum and pursue our common goal ambitiously and continuously, with heart and mind.

If you compare the region and the economic development of the member countries of Vienna Economic Forum today and just 15 years ago – you could recognize a generally positive development in the areas of infrastructure, in the energy, banking and transport sectors, in production, as well as in the field of services.

In all these years, VEF has continuously provided support to the economic development of the region thus contributing to the many changes in the VEF countries.

Only one thing has remained unchanged. All of the countries from the region remain in the focus of the economic interest of the Members of Vienna Economic Forum and this interest is shaped by the long-term motivation to participate in the economic regeneration and development of the entire region.

The goal of Vienna Economic Forum remains the same: Continued focus on the economic development of the Member countries, as well as attracting and bringing renowned Austrian, European and international companies with serious interest in the economic development of the countries from the region on board of Vienna Economic Forum.

And we can assure you that we shall continue to do so!

Yours

Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva
Secretary General



Vienna Economic Forum looks back on 16 years of success. During this time, it has become an important institution and created an economic and political network in the region from the Adriatic to the Black Sea.

But Europe, and with it the environment of VEF, has changed a lot during these years.

We should also strategically adapt Vienna Economic Forum to these changes.

On one hand, it is about sharpening the regional focus and expanding it if necessary. On the other hand, however, to gain more comprehensive content-related topics (such as digitization, sustainability, etc.) to center stage.

Proven formats like the annual Vienna Future Dialog in autumn and Vienna Economic Talks are important and successful cornerstones. Additional formats may follow.

At this point let me cordially thank Dr. Rabensteiner for the years of his successful presidency, his dedication and commitment. His personality has strongly influenced and shaped the appearance of VEF.



My special thanks also go to our Secretary General, Mrs. Dr. Kirtcheva. Without her tireless efforts, her wide-ranging contacts and her unbroken consequence, Vienna Economic Forum would probably not exist in this form.

In my new role as President of VEF, I look forward to working with all our board members, partners, patrons and members and I would like to ask for your support already by now so that we can support Vienna Economic Forum well and successfully on its path to the future.

DI Peter Umundum
President of Vienna Economic Forum
March 2020

BOARD OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

MARCH 2020

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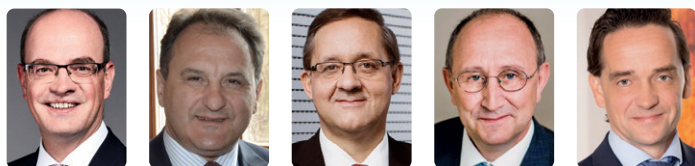
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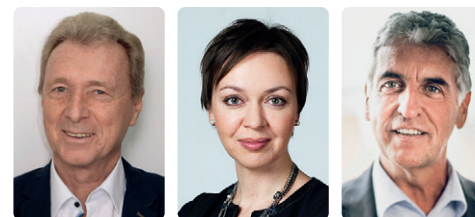
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Raiffeisen Bank International AG



Mag. Ekkehart STREMITZER, Managing Director
AME International GmbH

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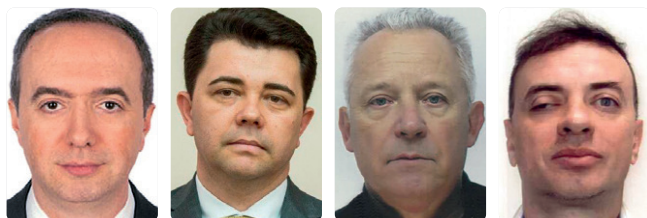
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H.E. Mr. Ozan CEYHUN, *Ambassador of Turkey*



H.E. Dr. Oleksandr SCHERBA, *Ambassador of Ukraine*

The Board of Vienna Economic Forum is honoured to have the **elected Prime Ministers of the Vienna Economic Forum Member Countries**, as well as **Dr. Heinz FISCHER**, former President of the Republic of Austria (2004–2016), as **Members of the Vienna Economic Forum Patrons Committee** and to call them **Patrons of Vienna Economic Forum!**

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Honorary President of Vienna Economic Forum

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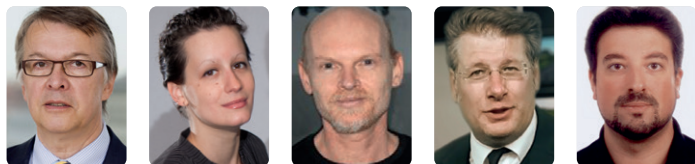
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WWV Partner Steuerberatungs GmbH, Tax Consultant



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Journalist & Media-Trainer, Main Media Partner



Mr. Nikolay A. PETKOV MA, *CEO, nikoweb.net(works), web Support*

Vienna Economic Talks

Vienna Economic Talks behandelt spezifische Themen, Regionen und Wirtschaftssektoren, die nicht nur für die Mitgliedsländer des Vienna Economic Forum von großem Interesse sind, sondern auch für andere Interessierte in der Region.

Vienna Economic Talks deals with specific topics, regions and economic sectors, which are of great interest not only for the member countries of the Vienna Economic Forum, but also for other interested parties in the region.

FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING



Yours,
Vienna Economic Forum Team



Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*CEO
A1 Telekom Austria Group*

Photo Mr. Arnoldner © Renee De Meester

“As A1 Telekom Austria Group we are at the epicenter of digitization. We are the leading provider of digital services and communications solutions in the CEE region with around 25 million customers in seven core markets: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovenia, Belarus, the Republic of North Macedonia (A1), the Republic of Serbia (Vip mobile). More than 18,000 employees and state-of-the-art broadband infrastructure enable digital lifestyle and allow customers, companies and devices to connect anywhere, anytime.

The digital transformation opens up enormous potential for more economic efficiency, social equality of opportunity and resource conservation in the interest of people and the environment. Cooperation and a common approach are the key to unlocking the enormous potential of digitization. Ultimately, it is always a question of how one can ensure even better living conditions for people and future generations within one's sphere of influence.”

„Als A1 Telekom Austria Group stehen wir im Epizentrum der Digitalisierung. Wir sind führender Provider für digitale Services und Kommunikationslösungen im CEE Raum mit rund 25 Millionen Kunden in sieben Kernmärkten: in Österreich, Bulgarien, Kroatien und Slowenien, Weißrussland, der Republik Nordmazedonien (A1), der Republik Serbien (Vip mobile). Mehr als 18.000 Mitarbeiter und State-of-the-Art Breitband Infrastruktur ermöglichen digitalen Lifestyle und erlauben Kunden, Unternehmen und Geräten, sich überall und jederzeit zu vernetzen.

Die digitale Transformation eröffnet enormes Potenzial für ein Mehr an Wirtschaftlichkeit, sozialer Chancengleichheit und Ressourcenschonung im Interesse von Mensch und Umwelt. Zusammenarbeit und ein gemeinsamer Ansatz sind der Schlüssel, um das enorme Potenzial der Digitalisierung zu erschließen. Denn letztlich geht es stets um die Frage, wie man in seinem Einflussbereich für noch lebenswertere Bedingungen für die Menschen und nachfolgende Generationen sorgen kann.“



Priority

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Du kannst alles.
Im 5Giganetz von A1.



Dr. Wolfgang POSPISCHIL

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*CEO
Pöyry Management Consulting
Austria GmbH*

“In February 2019 ÅF and Pöyry joined forces to become an international engineering, design and advisory company, driving digitalisation and sustainability for the energy, infrastructure and industrial sectors all over the world. In November 2019 ÅF Pöyry launched a new common brand – AFRY – a combination of the letters in ÅF and Pöyry. Strongly focussing on sustainable solutions, we bring the best from ÅF and Pöyry into the new brand AFRY. Today, 17,000 experts within the fields of infrastructure, industry and energy, operate across the world to create sustainable solutions for future generations. Our core business is driven by the need for **sustainable solutions in five key areas**; Smart cities and infrastructure, Future mobility, Industrial digitalisation, Changing energy markets and Transition to bioeconomy.

- We support manufacturing and industrial clients with circular packaging, circular business models and digitalised, sustainable industrial plants.
- We provide structured methods for sustainable urban planning within mobility, waste management and smart buildings
- We support our clients in the transformation to renewable power sources in times of rapidly increasing energy demand

With a **holistic approach and brave leadership**, we have a real opportunity to influence many parts of society through digitalisation and reduced climate impact.”

„Im Februar 2019 schlossen sich ÅF und Pöyry zu einem internationalen Ingenieur-, Design- und Beratungsunternehmen zusammen, das die Digitalisierung und Nachhaltigkeit in den Bereichen Energie, Infrastruktur und Industrie weltweit vorantreibt. Im November 2019 führte ÅF Pöyry eine neue gemeinsame Marke ein – AFRY – eine Kombination aus den Buchstaben in ÅF und Pöyry. Mit einem starken Fokus auf Nachhaltigkeit bringen wir das Beste von ÅF und Pöyry in die neue Marke AFRY ein. Heute arbeiten 17.000 engagierte Experten in den Bereichen Infrastruktur, Industrie und Energie weltweit daran, nachhaltige Lösungen für zukünftige Generationen zu schaffen. Unser Kerngeschäft wird von der Notwendigkeit nachhaltiger Lösungen in fünf Schlüsselbereichen bestimmt: Smart Cities und Infrastruktur, Mobilität der Zukunft, industrielle Digitalisierung, sich wandelnde Energiemärkte und der Übergang zur Bioökonomie.

- Wir unterstützen Kunden aus der verarbeitenden Industrie in den Bereichen Circular Packaging, Circular Business Models und digitalisierte, nachhaltige Industrieanlagen
- Wir bieten strukturierte Methoden für nachhaltige Stadtplanung betreffend Mobilität, Abfallmanagement und intelligente Gebäude
- Wir unterstützen Kunden bei der Umstellung auf erneuerbare Energiequellen in Zeiten eines rasch steigenden Energiebedarfs

Mit einem ganzheitlichen Ansatz in einer mutigen Vorreiterrolle haben wir eine echte Chance, viele Teile der Gesellschaft durch Digitalisierung und einer Verringerung der Klimaauswirkungen zu beeinflussen.“



New brand. ÅF and Pöyry
come together as AFRY.

#makingfuture

AFRY is an international engineering, design and advisory company. We support our clients to progress in sustainability and digitalisation. We are 17,000 devoted experts within the fields of infrastructure, industry and energy, operating across the world to create sustainable solutions for future generations.

**Mag. Heinz MESSINGER**

*Member of the Board, Financial Referent
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Managing Director
AME International GmbH*

“Traditionally, Austria has strong relation to the region of the partner countries Vienna Economic Forum. AME International GmbH and myself have been actively working on strengthening the healthcare systems for VEF member countries for almost 25 years, creating a sustainable benefit for patients in the region. Recent project examples include the creation of a nationwide health information exchange e-health platform for Albania, connecting around 80 public hospitals and polyclinics. We were also pioneers in improving cancer treatment in Albania and have established the first Radiotherapy Unit at Mother Theresa Hospital. In view of the increase of cancer incidence we are putting a strong focus on medical technology for cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment including telemedicine and radiotherapy. We are looking forward to repeating our success.”

„Österreich hat traditionell einen starken Bezug zu den Partnerländern des Vienna Economic Forum. Die AME International GmbH und ich arbeiten fast 25 Jahre aktiv an der Stärkung der Gesundheitssysteme für die VEF-Mitgliedsländer und schaffen einen nachhaltigen Nutzen für die Patienten in dieser Region. Jüngste Projektbeispiele umfassen die Schaffung einer landesweiten E-Health-Plattform für den Austausch von Gesundheitsinformationen für Albanien, die etwa 80 öffentliche Krankenhäuser und Polikliniken verbindet. Wir waren auch Vorreiter bei der Verbesserung der Krebsbehandlung in Albanien und haben im Mutter-Theresa-Krankenhaus die erste Strahlentherapie-Abteilung eingerichtet. Angesichts des Anstiegs der Krebsinzidenz legen wir einen starken Fokus auf die Medizintechnik für Krebsvorsorge, -diagnose und -behandlung, einschließlich Telemedizin und Strahlentherapie. Wir freuen uns darauf, den Erfolg zu wiederholen.“

„We improve healthcare delivery by using Cutting Edge Technology“

AME International GmbH (AME) is a global healthcare technology solutions provider based in Vienna, Austria. Founded in 1995, AME has gained extensive know-how in developing, implementing, operating and financing international healthcare projects. To date, around 80 health and eHealth projects in Europe, South East Asia, Africa and the Middle East have been successfully

implemented by AME. The social impact of our projects has resulted in strengthening clinical care in over 180 hospitals worldwide covering around 50.000 beds, improving the health situation for 1.6 million inpatients and over 19 million outpatients and as such extending the benefit of improved access to care for a catchment area of 165 million people.



eHealth



Medical Package & Turn-Key
Solutions



Consulting & Hospital Engineering





Mr. Emmanuel FOREST

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

**CEO
BOUYGUES EUROPE SA
Brussels, Belgium**

“Bouygues Group is proud to have been working in the Vienna Economic Forum region for years, in particular in Croatia, where we operate the Bina-Istra motorway concession and where we have built Zagreb new airport terminal. Colas is also present, and keen to participate in further infrastructure development projects. We strongly believe in the future of south-eastern Europe, and we look forward reinforcing our links with these countries, within the framework of tighter links between Balkan states and the EU, with their next possible accession to full EU membership as stated recently by the European Commission.”

„Bouygues Group ist stolz, seit Jahren in der Region des Vienna Economic Forum tätig zu sein, insbesondere in Kroatien, wo wir die Autobahnkonzession Bina-Istra betreiben und den neuen Flughafen Zagreb gebaut haben. Colas ist ebenfalls präsent und möchte an weiteren Infrastrukturentwicklungsprojekten teilnehmen. Wir sind fest von der Zukunft Südosteuropas überzeugt und freuen uns darauf, unsere Beziehungen zu diesen Ländern im Rahmen engerer Beziehungen zwischen den Balkanstaaten und der EU mit ihrem nächst möglichen Beitritt zur vollen EU-Mitgliedschaft zu verstärken, wie kürzlich von der Europäische Kommission betont wurde.“



Istrian Y motorway – 209 km of motorway – Concession Croatia

Under the terms of a 32-year concession contract, construction of 209 km of motorway in Istria, Croatia.

This project is part of the project for development of tourism and enhanced European integration for the Republic of Croatia.





Mr. Wilbert VERHEIJEN

Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum

Managing Director
Canon CEE GmbH



“The work as we know it is rapidly changing. According to the ‘Digital Transformation in CEE’ research from DT-Global Business Consulting, one-third of companies in the CEE region already process the majority of documents in digital format. Even more, digitization and digital talent are becoming the biggest competitive advantages for businesses in the CEE region looking to redefine their growth strategies. On top of that AI and advanced robotics are expected to reach widespread adoption in the region over the next five years.

All those changes are slowly but inevitably forcing us to start thinking differently about the way we work. Where is our company losing time and how can we be more productive? Are we challenged by the growing need for mobility? And what have we done to secure our most valuable data? One thing is clear. Employees of tomorrow need to become more autonomous, and the tools they are using for their day-to-day activity more connected and secure. Canon is able to support businesses through their digital transformation journey, by offering solutions for process automation, information security and mobility. Are you ready to make your business a better place to work?”

„Wie wir wissen, verändert sich die Arbeitsweise schnell. Laut der Studie ‚Digital Transformation in CEE‘ von DT-Global Business Consulting verarbeitet bereits ein Drittel der Unternehmen in der CEE-Region die Mehrzahl der Dokumente in einem digitalen Format. Des Weiteren werden Digitalisierung und digitale Talente zu den größten Wettbewerbsvorteilen für Unternehmen in der CEE-Region, die ihre Wachstumsstrategien neu definieren wollen. Darüber hinaus wird erwartet, dass KI und fortgeschrittene Robotik in den nächsten fünf Jahren in der Region weit verbreitet werden.“

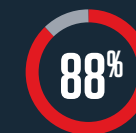
All diese Veränderungen zwingen uns langsam, aber unweigerlich dazu, über unsere Arbeitsweise anders nachzudenken. Wo verliert unser Unternehmen die Zeit und wie können wir produktiver sein? Werden wir durch das wachsende Bedürfnis nach Mobilität herausgefordert? Und was haben wir getan, um unsere wertvollsten Daten zu sichern? Eine Sache ist klar: Die Mitarbeiter von morgen müssen autonomer werden, und die Werkzeuge, die sie für ihre tägliche Arbeit verwenden, müssen vernetzter und sicherer werden. Canon ist in der Lage, die Unternehmen auf dem Weg zur digitalen Transformation zu unterstützen, indem wir Lösungen für Prozessautomatisierung, Informationssicherheit und Mobilität anbieten. Sind Sie bereit, Ihr Unternehmen zu einem besseren Arbeitsplatz zu machen?“

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS A BETTER PLACE TO WORK

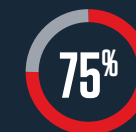
Canon

See the bigger picture

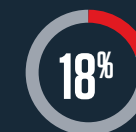
Nearly one-third of firms say that document digitisation & workflow automation are fully integrated across their business operations.



88% of companies in CEE think digital transformation will improve operational efficiency.



75% of companies in CEE see digital transformation as a way to develop better and more agile business model.



Only 18% of companies in CEE think they already have the skills and talent for digital transformation.

Visit www.canon-cee.com

Source: Digital Transformation in CEE, DT-Global Business Consulting GmbH, 2019



Mr. Ahmet Mesut ERSOY

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Chairman of the Management Board and CEO
DenizBank AG*

“Since its foundation in 1996, DenizBank AG functions as a bridge builder in the international financial services sector, supporting companies with its solid experience and know-how. The Austrian financial institute focuses particularly on undertakings that are economically strongly linked to the European Union. Vienna Economic Forum provides the ideal platform for new and creative cooperation concepts on a regional as well as on an international level.

Known for its pro-active and comprehensive customer services, DenizBank AG offers its partners a wide range of products in Corporate & Commercial Banking. Beside its support for importers and exporters in the field of trade financing, DenizBank AG also provides classical banking products and project financing for its customers. Thanks to the close collaboration with its parent company DenizBank A.Ş., which was awarded multiple times for its advanced developments in information technology by US-American Bank Administrative Institute (BAI) and was named the most innovative financial institute by Financial Management Association (EFMA), DenizBank AG is able to offer cutting-edge technological solutions throughout all customer segments.”

„Seit ihrer Gründung 1996 fungiert die DenizBank AG als Brückenbauer im internationalen Finanzdienstleistungssektor und unterstützt Wirtschaftstreibende mit ihrer Erfahrung und ihrem Know-How. Besonderen Fokus legt das österreichische Finanzinstitut dabei auf Unternehmen, die wirtschaftlich eng mit der Europäischen Union verbunden sind. Das Vienna Economic Forum bietet die ideale Plattform für neue und kreative Kooperationskonzepte – sowohl auf regionaler als auch auf internationaler Ebene.

Bekannt für proaktive und umfangreiche Kundenbetreuung bietet die DenizBank AG ihren Partnern im Bereich Corporate & Commercial Banking ein breitgefächertes Produktportfolio an. Neben der Betreuung von Importeuren und Exporteuren im Rahmen von Handelsfinanzierungen werden Kunden auch durch klassische Bankdienstleistungen und Projektfinanzierungen unterstützt. Die enge Zusammenarbeit mit der Muttergesellschaft DenizBank A.Ş., die mehrfach auf internationaler Ebene für ihre hochmodernen Entwicklungen im IT-Sektor von dem US-amerikanischen Bank Administrative Institute (BAI) und der European Financial Management Association (EFMA) als innovativster Finanzdienstleister ausgezeichnet wurde, ermöglicht es der DenizBank AG, in allen Kundensegmenten technisch hochentwickelte Produkte und Services zu bieten.“



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Mag. Stefan SZYSZKOWITZ

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Spokesman of the Executive Board
EVN AG*

Photo © EVN Gebhart_de_Korkloek

“Since our market entry in South Eastern Europe slightly more than ten years ago, we have made a sustainable contribution to the long-term improvement of the local supply infrastructure – and also to economic development in Bulgaria and Macedonia – with our investments in the energy supply. Within the context of our environmental services business, we offer our planning and operating expertise to deliver specially designed solutions for the construction of drinking water supply and wastewater treatment plants in the member countries of the Vienna Economic Forum.”

„Seit unserem Markteintritt in Südosteuropa vor etwas mehr als zehn Jahren haben wir mit unseren Investitionen in die Energieversorgung einen nachhaltigen Beitrag zur langfristigen Verbesserung der örtlichen Versorgungsinfrastruktur und damit zur wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung in Bulgarien und Mazedonien geleistet. Im Rahmen unseres Umweltgeschäfts bieten wir zudem mit unserer Planungs- und Betriebsführungsexpertise maßgeschneiderte Lösungen für die Errichtung von Trinkwasserversorgungs- und Abwasserbehandlungsanlagen in den Partnerländern des Vienna Economic Forum.“

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der alles bietet ...**





Dr. Stephan PACHINGER

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Partner
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP*

Photo © Martina Dräger

“Central and Eastern Europe is a diverse market where investors frequently need lawyers with international perspective and experience. Freshfields operates at the forefront in the CEE region. We have advised clients on the largest transactions in CEE. This means we know the region very well and understand the regulatory, commercial and cultural environments. What sets us apart is our integrated approach combining the expertise of corporate, finance, tax and employment lawyers. Finally, our StrongerTogether network in the region enables us to select for each transaction the best lawyers in CEE.”

„Mittel- und Osteuropa ist ein vielfältiger Markt, auf dem Investoren häufig Anwälte mit internationaler Perspektive und Erfahrung brauchen. Freshfields ist einer der führenden Berater in der CEE-Region. Wir haben Mandaten bei den größten Transaktionen in CEE beraten. Das heißt, wir kennen die Region sehr gut und verstehen das regulatorische, kommerzielle und kulturelle Umfeld. Was uns von anderen unterscheidet, ist unser integrierter Ansatz, der die Expertise von Wirtschafts-, Finanz-, Steuer- und Arbeitsrechtlern kombiniert. Unser StrongerTogether Programm mit führenden lokalen Kanzleien ermöglicht es uns, die besten Anwälte für die jeweiligen Transaktionen in CEE auszuwählen.“

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DI Wolfgang VIEHAUSER, M.Sc.

*Cooperation Partner
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Management Board Member
Markets and Speaker of the Board
HYPO NOE Landesbank*

Photo © Philip Monhart



“HYPO NOE Landesbank is the largest and oldest-established of Austria’s state mortgage banks¹, and has been a dependable commercial bank, stable state bank and specialist mortgage lender for over 130 years. Using its strong position in Lower Austria and Vienna as a springboard, the Bank operates primarily in Austria and Germany, but also has a presence in selected markets elsewhere in the European Union.

In line with its business model as a mortgage bank, the HYPO NOE Group offers public sector, real estate and corporate customers one-stop shopping for a comprehensive range of financial services. The product portfolio focuses on funding for hard and social infrastructure, non-profit and commercial housing construction and other large property development projects. Retail customers benefit from the expert personal service provided by the branch network in the Group’s Lower Austria/Vienna home market, with its focus on housing finance.”

„Die HYPO NOE Landesbank ist die größte und älteste Landes-Hypothekenbank Österreichs² – als solche ist sie seit über 130 Jahren verlässliche Geschäftsbank, stabile Landesbank und spezialisierte Hypothekenbank. Ausgehend von einer starken Marktposition in der Hauptstadtregion Niederösterreich und Wien, ist sie vorwiegend in Österreich und Deutschland, selektiv in ausgewählten Märkten der Europäischen Union tätig.

Dem Geschäftsmodell einer Hypothekenbank folgend, bietet der HYPO NOE Konzern der öffentlichen Hand, Immobilien- und Unternehmenskunden umfassende Finanzdienstleistungen aus einer Hand. Das Produktportfolio fokussiert auf die Finanzierung klassischer und sozialer Infrastruktur, gemeinnützigen und gewerblichen Wohnbau und großvolumige Immobilienprojekte. Über das bestehende Filialnetzwerk im Heimmarkt Niederösterreich und Wien profitieren Privatkunden von persönlicher Beratungskompetenz mit Schwerpunkt in der Wohnbaufinanzierung.“

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An information by HYPO NOE Landesbank für Niederösterreich und Wien AG,
Hypogasse 1, 3100 St. Pölten. 02/2020





Amb. Victor JACKOVICH

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*President
Jackovich International
USA*

“I am honoured to continue serving as a Member of the Board of the Vienna Economic Forum and to participate actively in the Forum's activities in Austria and throughout the Southeast European region. My many years of active engagement in diplomacy and commercial activity, primarily in regions of direct interest to the Vienna Economic Forum have confirmed my belief in the strength and capabilities of the peoples of Southeast Europe and surrounding countries. The overall objective should be the full integration of all of Europe, including Southeast Europe, into Euro-Atlantic associations, including the European Union (EU). Today, we are all faced with new and unique challenges. But these challenges should not deter progress in forging strong regional, Euro-Atlantic and global relations. To the contrary, all the more reason why the work of the Vienna Economic Forum and like-minded organizations take on added tremendous significance. The keys to progress toward this objective of integration remain the same as they have always been: good governance, democracy, transparent markets, open societies and regional and global cooperation. Having celebrated its 15th anniversary, the Vienna Economic Forum can count on me for continued support in all of these key activities through the coming period.”

„Für mich ist es eine große Ehre, weiterhin Mitglied des Vorstands des Vienna Economic Forum zu sein und tatkräftig an den Aktivitäten des Forums in Österreich und im gesamten südost-europäischen Raum mitzuwirken. Mein langjähriges Engagement in der Diplomatie und den kommerziellen Aktivitäten, vor allem in den Regionen, die für das Vienna Economic Forum von direktem Interesse sind, hat meinen Glauben an die Stärke und die Fähigkeiten der Völker Südosteuropas und der umliegenden Länder bekräftigt. Das übergeordnete bzw. gesamte Ziel sollte die vollständige Integration ganz Europas, einschließlich Südosteuropas, in euro-atlantische Verbänden einschließlich der Europäischen Union (EU) sein. Heute stehen wir vor neuen und einzigartigen Herausforderungen. Diese Herausforderungen sollten jedoch den Fortschritt bei der Gestaltung starker regionaler, euroatlantischer und globaler Beziehungen nicht verhindern. Umso mehr, weil die Arbeit des Vienna Economic Forum und gleichgesinnten Institutionen eine enorme Bedeutung erlangt. Der Schlüssel zum Erreichen dieses Integrationsziels bleibt immer noch derselbe: gute Regierungsführung, Demokratie, transparente Märkte, offene Gesellschaften und regionale und globale Zusammenarbeit. Das Vienna Economic Forum, das inzwischen sein 15-jähriges Bestehen gefeiert hat, kann sich darauf verlassen, dass ich es bei all diesen wichtigen Aktivitäten auch in der kommenden Zeit unterstützen werde.“

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Dr. Gabriel LANSKY

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Partner
LANSKY, GANZGER + partner*

“LGP and VEF share the same vision of deepening the ties between the CEE/SEE countries and building bridges between businesses and political institutions. The conferences organised by VEF have become an important place to exchange ideas on regional and international topics, as well as to connect on a personal level with high-ranking decision makers.

As an international law firm with a strong focus on the region, we are proud of being part in VEF's success story.”

„LANSKY, GANZGER + partner Rechtsanwälte und das Vienna Economic Forum eint eine Vision. Wir verstehen uns als Brückenbauer zwischen den Ländern Mittelost- und Südosteuropas, ihrer Wirtschaft und ihrer politischen Institutionen. Die Konferenzen des Vienna Economic Forum sind zu einer wichtigen Plattform für den Ideenaustausch geworden, was Regionales aber auch überregionale Themen betrifft. Hier diskutieren hochrangige Entscheidungsträger.

Als international orientierte Wirtschaftsanwälte mit starkem Fokus auf die Märkte Mittelost- und Südosteuropas sind wir stolz, Teil dieser Erfolgsgeschichte zu sein.“

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SKOPJE



Mag. Harald NEUMANN

Vice-President
of Vienna Economic Forum

Advisor
Novomatic AG

Photo © Michael Königshofer

“The Vienna Economic Forum builds a strong network and supports economic interests exactly in those regions, where NOVOMATIC has a strong presence. Due to our early commitment, we have been able to establish an excellent position in these markets. The NOVOMATIC Group generates around one quarter of its annual revenues in the member countries of the Vienna Economic Forum. For NOVOMATIC, technological advancement, economic growth and positive change to regulatory frameworks are key drivers of the business as they open new markets and business opportunities. A strong network such as the Vienna Economic Forum contributes to the further expansion of our leading position.”

„Das Vienna Economic Forum bildet ein starkes Netzwerk und fördert Investitionsmöglichkeiten in Regionen, in denen auch NOVOMATIC stark präsent ist. Aufgrund unseres Markteintritts vor rund 30 Jahren (1989) und der hervorragenden Positionierung in diesen Ländern, unterstützen wir die Arbeit des Vienna Economic Forums. Die NOVOMATIC-Gruppe erwirtschaftet rund ein Viertel ihres Umsatzes in den Mitgliedsstaaten des Vienna Economic Forum. Wesentliche Treiber unseres Erfolges dabei sind der technologische Wandel, wirtschaftliches Wachstum und positive Veränderungen regulatorischer Rahmenbedingungen, die laufend neue Märkte und Geschäftsmodelle eröffnen. Das starke Netzwerk des Vienna Economic Forum trägt dazu bei, unsere führende Position weiter auszubauen.“



Seit 40 Jahren bringen zusammen mehr als 30.000 Mitarbeiter weltweit Innovation auf den Punkt und kreieren in 25 Technologiezentren modernste Gaming-Technologien. **GEMEINSAM SIND WIR NOVOMATIC.**





DI Peter UMUNDUM

President
of Vienna Economic Forum

Member of the
Executive Board
Österreichische Post AG

“Austrian Post’s international strategy fits very well with the VEF’s focus as Austrian Post has had successful investments in CEE and Turkey for many years. We support added value and economic development in this region with our strong local subsidiaries. Over the years, the VEF has established itself as a suitable platform to realise and support joint projects. The presence of Austrian Post in many of VEF’s partner countries enables productive exchange and utilizes synergies.”

„Die internationale Strategie der Österreichischen Post passt sehr gut zum Fokus des VEF, denn erfolgreiche Investments tätigt die Post schon sehr lange in CEE und der Türkei. In dieser Region unterstützen wir mit unseren starken Töchtern vor Ort die Wertschöpfung und dadurch die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung. Das VEF hat sich in der Vergangenheit als eine geeignete Plattform bewährt, um gemeinsame Projekte erfolgreich umzusetzen und zu unterstützen. Durch die Präsenz der Österreichische Post in vielen Partnerländern des VEF kann ein fruchtbarer Austausch entstehen und so Synergien genutzt werden.“

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Mr. Ahmet Burak DAĞLIOĞLU

Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum

President,
Presidency of the Republic of Turkey
Investment Office

“Geographic proximity to the zones of opportunity is more crucial than ever in a changing economic and political environment. In this regard, South Europe plays a crucial role, as it has been and is a center of trade and transport in the world. Turkey, stretching out into the region, has been and is a natural bridge between the east and the west. As such, Turkey’s strategic location provides access to multiple markets within a 4-hour flight radius — markets that comprise around half of total global trade. Moreover, Turkey is geographically located in close proximity to more than 70% of the world’s proven oil and gas reserves, which makes it a linchpin in energy transportation and a bridge for Europe’s integration with the rest of the world. Having an almost 50 percent share in its exports and a 59 percent share in FDI influx, the EU is the largest trade and FDI partner of Turkey. Being held in the epicenter of Europe, I hope the Vienna Economic Forum gatherings take us a step further and enable us to contribute to the economic relations between Turkey and the countries in the region.”

„Die geografische Nähe zu den Zonen der Chancen ist in einem sich wandelnden wirtschaftlichen und politischen Umfeld entscheidender denn je. In dieser Hinsicht spielt Südeuropa eine entscheidende Rolle, da es ein Handels- und Transportzentrum in der Welt war und ist. Die Türkei, die sich in die Region erstreckt, war und ist eine natürliche Brücke zwischen Ost und West. Somit ermöglicht die strategische Lage der Türkei den Zugang zu mehreren Märkten innerhalb eines 4-stündigen Flugradius – und es sind die Märkte, die etwa die Hälfte des gesamten Welthandels ausmachen. Darüber hinaus liegt die Türkei in unmittelbarer Nähe zu mehr als 70% der nachgewiesenen Öl- und Gasreserven der Welt, was sie zu einem Dreh- und Angelpunkt im Energietransport und zu einer Brücke für die Integration Europas mit dem Rest der Welt macht. Mit einem Anteil von fast 50 Prozent an den Exporten und einem Anteil von 59 Prozent an Zufluss ausländischer Direktinvestitionen ist die EU der größte Handelspartner der Türkei. Ich hoffe, dass die Veranstaltungen des Vienna Economic Forum, die im Epizentrum Europas stattfinden, uns einen Schritt weiterbringen und es uns ermöglichen, einen Beitrag zu den Wirtschaftsbeziehungen zwischen der Türkei und den Ländern der Region zu leisten.“

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current prices
2018

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Mag. Peter LENNKH

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Member of the Management Board,
Corporate Banking
Raiffeisen Bank International AG*

“RBI regards Austria, where it is a leading corporate and investment bank, as well as Central and Eastern Europe as its home market – as does the Vienna Economic Forum. We are present in 13 markets of the region with subsidiary banks. In addition, we serve our more than 16 million customers through numerous other financial service providers, for example in leasing, asset management or M&A. The VEF makes an important contribution to supporting both our own international activities and the business development of our customers and has done so for many years. Accordingly, the countries on which the VEF focuses also benefit from its activities in the long term and sustainably.”

„Die RBI betrachtet Österreich, wo sie als eine führende Kommerz- und Investmentbank tätig ist, sowie Zentral- und Osteuropa als ihren Heimmarkt – genauso wie das Vienna Economic Forum. Wir sind in 13 Märkten der Region mit Tochterbanken präsent, darüber hinaus betreuen wir unsere mehr als 16 Millionen Kunden über zahlreiche andere Finanzdienstleistungsunternehmen beispielsweise in den Bereichen Leasing, Vermögensverwaltung oder M&A. Das VEF leistet einen wichtigen Beitrag zur Unterstützung sowohl unserer eigenen internationalen Aktivitäten als auch der Geschäftsentwicklung unserer Kunden, und das seit vielen Jahren. Dementsprechend profitierten auch die Länder, auf die das VEF seinen Fokus legt, langfristig und nachhaltig von dessen Tätigkeit.“

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Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*President
Serbian Association of Economists
Serbia*

„Serbian Economists Association (SES) strongly cooperates with the related organizations and institutions in the country, EU member states and Western Balkan countries (such as Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Croatian Economists Association, Bled School of Management, Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce, Vienna Economic Forum etc). Through organization of joint conferences and meetings and different projects support, SES aims to contribute to the improvement in the economic system, regulation and economic policy, promotion and enhancement of regional economic connectivity, regional investment incentives, and competitiveness increase.

In the last period, Serbia's accession to the EU is being put in the context of the Western Balkans cooperation. Regional cooperation is an essential element of stabilization and association – the process guiding Serbia and the Western Balkan countries towards EU membership and a key factor for establishing political stability, security and economic prosperity.”

„Serbian Association of Economists (SAE) pflegt eine enge Zusammenarbeit mit den einschlägigen Organisationen und Institutionen des Landes, der EU-Mitgliedstaaten und der westlichen Balkanländern (wie der Wirtschaftskammer Serbiens, der kroatischen Vereinigung der Wirtschaftswissenschaftler, der Handelskammer von Bled, der Handelskammer Montenegros, Vienna Economic Forum etc.). Durch Organisation gemeinsamer Konferenzen und Treffen sowie durch Unterstützung verschiedener Projekte, trägt SAE zur Verbesserung des Wirtschaftssystems, der Regulierung und Wirtschaftspolitik, zur Förderung und Verbesserung der regionalen Wirtschaftskonnektivität, zu regionalen Investitionsanreizen und zur Steigerung der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit bei.

Zur Zeit wird der Beitritt Serbiens zur EU in den Kontext der westlichen Balkan-Kooperation gestellt. Die regionale Zusammenarbeit ist ein wesentliches Element der Stabilisierung und der Assoziierung - ein Prozess, der Serbien und die Länder der westlichen Balkans auf dem Weg zur EU-Mitgliedschaft führt und ein Schlüsselfaktor für politische Stabilität, Sicherheit und wirtschaftlichen Wohlstand ist.“



Founded in 1947, the Serbian Association of Economists is a professional organization which gathers professional economists and aspires to promote the economics profession for the benefit of the society at large. Main activities of the Association are: organization of scientific conferences and seminars, education and training programs, publishing activity and collaboration with academic institutions, regulatory bodies and government agencies. These activities are oriented toward the development and popularization of economic science and profession, enhancement of the quality of corporate and public governance, improvement of the economic system, regulatory framework and economic policy, strengthening of the competitiveness of Serbian economy, and promotion of ethical behavior in economic decision-making.



The Kopaonik Business Forum, organized by the Serbian Association of Economists, is held in the first week of March at the Congress Center of the “Grand” hotel at Kopaonik. Over the last ten years, the Forum has been organized under the auspices of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia.

The Kopaonik Business Forum gathers renowned experts and eminent individuals from the local and regional economic and political circles. The goal of the Forum is to build a platform for exchange of thought and a constructive debate with strong argumentation, thereby perceiving key reform challenges from different perspectives: political and economic, micro and macroeconomic, from the perspective of real and financial sectors, domestic and foreign investors, private and public enterprises, theory and practice. Just as the World Economic Forum in Davos is a sort of a reality check on a global level, the Forum is a place where the results of our country's economic policy between two Forums are summarized. Over the last couple of years, the Forum has acquired a strong regional dimension.



Foundation of the Serbian Association of Economists for Supporting Students of Economics was established in 2016 with the aim of developing and promoting economics as a science and profession, affirming talented students of economics, improving the quality of education offered to students at faculties of economics and enhancing the quality of scientific research in the field of economics. The Foundation achieves the abovementioned targets by granting scholarships to talented students of faculties of economics, presenting awards to successful students of economics, by organising fundraising charity activities, independently or in cooperation with other similar organisations, through cooperation with state and privately owned business entities, cooperation with universities, schools, associations and other similar organisations whose primary interest is to promote economics.



Dr. Ognian DONEV

*Vice-President
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Chairman of the Board of Directors and
Executive Director Sopharma PLC
Bulgaria*

“Vienna Economic Forum to me is an enhancer of opportunities to exchange Ideas!
The Vienna Economic Talks 2018 in Sofia was the ground for creating new partnerships and for uniting the leaders of the Balkan Countries around the West European spirit.

This initiative stirred the process of sharing solutions and expertise, of collaboration on common challenges to the next level. I am grateful for the involvement of professionals and leaders on many levels and for the willingness to continue working together for a better tomorrow. Sharing is becoming more important and helps save resources by finding fast and flexible solutions for improving the wellbeing throughout Europe. In that sense Vienna Economic Forum is an invaluable network!”

*„Für mich ist das Vienna Economic Forum ein Verstärker zum Ideenaustausch!
Die Vienna Economic Talks 2018 in Sofia haben zu neuen Partnerschaften und zur Vereinigung der Führungskräfte der Balkanstaaten im Sinne des Westeuropäischen Geistes beigetragen.*

Diese Initiative hob den Prozess der gesamten Lösungen, Expertisen und der Zusammenarbeit auf ein neues Niveau. Ich bin dankbar für das Involvieren von Spezialisten und Führungskräften in unterschiedlichsten Bereichen und für den Willen, weiterhin zusammen für eine bessere Zukunft zu arbeiten. Das Miteinanderteilen wird immer wichtiger und hilft schnellere und flexiblere Lösungen mit weniger Ressourcen zu erzielen, die zu einem höheren Standard im gesamten Europa beitragen. In diesem Sinne ist Vienna Economic Forum ein unschätzbar wichtiges Netzwerk!“

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Dr. Georg BUCHER

*Cooperation Partner
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Member of the
Management Board of
Steiermärkische Bank und
Sparkassen AG*

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„Steiermärkische Bank und Sparkassen AG was established in 1825, almost 200 years ago, to make it possible for all groups in society to make their own individual provision. Today, we are not only the oldest but also the largest bank in Styria. Our foreign shareholdings are recording extremely successful development. With the acquisition of a majority stake in Ohridska Bank in North Macedonia, we are strengthening our involvement on the extended domestic market greatly and can thus be an even more stable economic partner in the region. We see a lot of potential in accompanying this country and this economic area into Europe. North Macedonia is very clearly part of Europe. And with our passion we are helping to sustain and improve the country's economic cycle. We are proud to be a member of the Vienna Economic Forum with immediate effect. The partnership will result in new possibilities for us to develop a strong network.“

„1825, vor fast 200 Jahren, wurde die Steiermärkische Bank und Sparkassen AG gegründet, um allen Bevölkerungsschichten finanzielle Eigenvorsorge zu ermöglichen. Heute sind wir nicht nur das älteste, sondern auch das größte Kreditinstitut der Steiermark. Unsere Auslandsbeteiligungen verzeichnen eine äußerst erfolgreiche Entwicklung. Durch den Erwerb der Anteilsmehrheit an der Ohridska Bank in Nordmazedonien, stärken wir unser Engagement am erweiterten Heimmarkt enorm und können somit eine noch stabilere Wirtschaftspartnerin in der Region sein. Wir sehen viel Potential darin, dieses Land und diesen Wirtschaftsraum nach Europa zu begleiten. Nordmazedonien ist ganz klar ein Teil Europas. Und wir sorgen dafür, dass wir Blut – und auch unser Herzblut – in den wirtschaftlichen Kreislauf des Landes bringen. Wir sind stolz ab sofort ein Teil des Vienna Economic Forum zu sein. Durch die Partnerschaft ergeben sich für uns neue Möglichkeiten um ein starkes Netzwerk aufzubauen.“

Regional partner. Global solutions.





Dr. Achim KASPAR

*Vice-President
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Member of the Executive
Board, COO, Verbund AG*

“VERBUND as a shaper of the future of energy

Ever since its founding as Österreichische Elektrizitätswirtschafts-AG in 1947, VERBUND has been co-shaping the future of energy: Even back then we set our sights on hydropower and, hence, renewable energy sources. Today, after more than seventy years, VERBUND is Austria's largest and climate-friendliest electricity producer. Close to 100% of our electricity are generated from hydropower, supplemented by wind and thermal power.

Our hydropower plants are highly efficient (pumped) storage power plants located in the Austrian Alps, and run-of-river plants situated on all major rivers in Austria and Bavaria. VERBUND operates also run-of-river power plants in Albania with a partner and wind-power plants in Romania. A careful handling of the given resources is of utmost importance.

VERBUND is active in all steps of the value creation ladder: From electricity generation to electricity transmission to trading and sales. We are permanently working at innovative and sustainable solutions for customers in the private and business sectors in order to be able to react to changes.”

„VERBUND als Gestalter der Energiezukunft

Seit 1947 – als Österreichische Elektrizitätswirtschafts-AG gegründet – gestaltet VERBUND die Energiezukunft mit: Bereits damals haben wir auf Wasserkraft und somit erneuerbare Energien gesetzt. Heute, mehr als 70 Jahre später, ist VERBUND der größte und klimafreundlichste Stromerzeuger Österreichs. An die 100 % unseres Stroms erzeugen wir aus Wasserkraft, ergänzt durch Wind- und Wärmekraft.

Unsere Wasserkraftwerke sind hocheffiziente (Pump-)Speicherkraftwerke in den österreichischen Alpen und Laufkraftwerke an allen größeren Flüssen in Österreich und Bayern. VERBUND betreibt aber auch Wasserkraftwerke in Albanien mit einem Partner bzw. Windkraftwerke in Rumänien. Dabei ist uns ein schonender Umgang mit den gegebenen Ressourcen sehr wichtig.

VERBUND ist auf allen Wertschöpfungsstufen tätig: Von der Stromerzeugung über den Transport von Strom bis zu Handel und Vertrieb. Wir arbeiten laufend an innovativen und nachhaltigen Lösungen für Privat- und Businesskunden um auf Veränderungen reagieren zu können.“

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As an investor in and operator of hydropower plants, you face many challenges such as creating profitable investments, ensuring sustained operations, complying with strict environmental standards and fulfilling regulatory requirements. With VERBUND, you have a competent partner at your side to offer you the customised solutions you need.

www.verbund.com/hydro-consulting



Prof. Dr. Günther OFNER

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Member of the
Executive Board
Flughafen Wien AG*

“The Vienna Economic Forum promotes economic cooperation among the regions along the Adria as far as the Black Sea and provides important impetus for joint projects to further develop this area. Vienna Airport is a significant gateway with more than two million passengers in this region each year. It links more than 27 million passengers annually to 71 countries in 205 destinations. The close collaboration and intensive exchange between the Vienna Economic Forum on the one hand with all its supporters and participants and Vienna Airport on the other hand creates a win-win situation for all partners.”

„Das Vienna Economic Forum fördert die wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit der Regionen entlang der Adria bis zum Schwarzen Meer und setzt wichtige Impulse für gemeinsame Projekte zur Weiterentwicklung dieses Gebiets. Der Flughafen Wien ist mit jährlich mehr als zwei Millionen Passagieren in diese Region ein bedeutendes Gateway und verbindet die insgesamt über 27 Millionen Passagiere im Jahr mit 71 Ländern in 205 Destinationen. Die enge Kooperation und der intensive Austausch zwischen dem Vienna Economic Forum mit all seinen Unterstützern und Beteiligten sowie dem Flughafen Wien schafft eine Win-win-Situation für alle Partner.“



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VIP TERMINAL



Dr. Ludwig NIESSEN

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Chief Operating &
Technology Officer
Wiener Börse AG*

“The Vienna Stock Exchange has 20 years of experience with state-of-the-art, fully digital stock exchange infrastructure. As a service provider, it also shares its know-how with stock exchange operators and trading participants in the Central and Eastern European region. We cooperate with over ten markets in the field of real-time data distribution, index calculation and the operation of trading systems. Vienna Economic Forum gives us the opportunity to strengthen our network within the region even further and to build new bridges,” says Ludwig Nießen, Chief Operating & Technology Officer, Wiener Börse AG.

„Die Wiener Börse hat 20 Jahre Erfahrung mit topmoderner, volldigitaler Börsen-Infrastruktur. Als Service-Provider teilt sie ihr Know-How auch mit Börsenbetreibern und Handelsteilnehmern in der Region Zentral- und Osteuropa. Die Wiener Börse kooperiert mit über zehn Märkten im Bereich der Echtzeit-Datenverteilung, Indexberechnung sowie dem Betrieb von Handelssystemen. Vienna Economic Forum öffnet uns die Möglichkeiten uns in der Region noch stärker zu vernetzen und neue Brücken zu schlagen,“ sagt Ludwig Nießen, Chief Operating & Technology Officer, Wiener Börse AG.

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Dr. Kurt Gollowitzer

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*CEO
Wien Holding GmbH*

Photo Dr. Gollowitzer © Constant-Evolution, Max Bruckner

“The companies and projects of Wien Holding are an important engine to strengthen Vienna’s position as a business location, to create jobs, to boost economic growth and to improve the quality of life. With its knowledge and expertise, Vienna Economic Forum is an important partner in this endeavor. It enables us to make optimal use of possible synergy effects for Vienna.”

„Die Unternehmen und Projekte der Wien Holding sind ein wichtiger Motor, um die Position Wiens als Wirtschaftsstandort zu festigen, Arbeitsplätze zu schaffen, das Wirtschaftswachstum anzukurbeln und die Lebensqualität zu erhöhen. Dafür nutzen wir auch das Wissen und die Expertise unserer Partner wie Vienna Economic Forum. So können wir mögliche Synergieeffekte optimal für Wien nutzen.“

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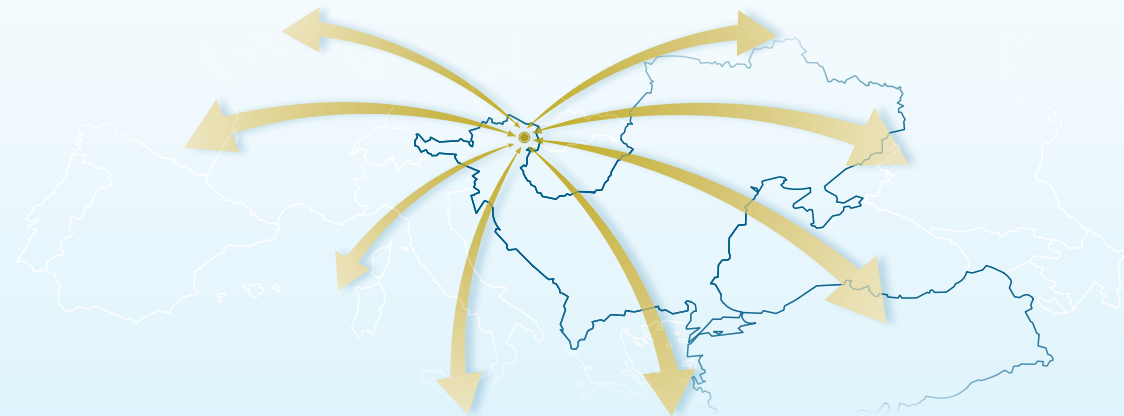
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VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM ECONOMY MEETS POLITICS 2019



ORDINARY BOARD MEETING OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

On 11 February 2019

The annual Ordinary Board Meeting of Vienna Economic Forum took place on 11 February 2019 in the premises of the A1 Telekom Austria Group.

The host **Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER**, CEO of the A1 Telekom Austria Group welcomed the attendees, spoke about the current and planned activities of the A1 Telekom Austria Group and explained the significant cooperation with the Vienna Economic Forum and the countries of the VEF region.

Secretary General Ambassador **Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** reported on the VEF activities in a very successful year for the Vienna Economic Forum, 2018 and informed the Members of the Board about the planned events in 2019.

Chaired by the VEF President **DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER**, the following resolutions were passed, to be proposed to the General Assembly, to make the following decisions:

To co-opt as new Board Members:

- **Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER**, CEO, A1 Telekom Austria Group
- **Dr. Kurt GOLLOWITZER**, CEO, Wien Holding GmbH
- **DI Wolfgang VIEHAUSER**, M.Sc., Board member of the Market Divisions and Spokesman of the Management Board, HYPO NOE Group Bank AG

New members of the Ambassadors Committee:

- **H.E. Dr. Kemal KOZARIC**, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **H.E. Mr. Ümit YARDIM**, Ambassador of Turkey

New members of the Honorary Committee:

- **Mr. Aki NUREDINI**, Cultural Doyen, active supporter of the Vienna Economic Forum and the VEF member countries
- **Dr. Franz KOSYNA**, Vienna Insurance Group, long-time active supporter of VEF activities

The Board unanimously elected the following as new members of Vienna Economic Forum:

- **Municipal Guarantee Fund – Sofia** as a Member – Legal entity from 2019
- **Bulgarkontrola S.A., Sofia** as a member – Legal entity from 2019
- **Ms. Irina YORDANOVA** as Member – Natural person from 2019

Following the meeting, in an informal atmosphere at a cocktail reception, the Members of the Board had the opportunity to discuss various possibilities and ideas for further cooperation in the Vienna Economic Forum region.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

On 18 March 2018

The **annual Ordinary General Assembly** of Vienna Economic Forum took place on 18 March 2019.

DI Dr. Georg PÖLZL, CEO, Österreichische Post AG and VEF Honorary Member welcomed the attendees in the beautiful premises of the new headquarters of the Austrian Post. The **host DI Peter UMUNDUM**, Member of the Board, Österreichische Post AG, and **Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum** in his opening speech he spoke about the current and planned activities of Österreichische Post AG and explained the significant cooperation with Vienna Economic Forum and the Countries of the VEF region. In a detailed report, **Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum informed about the activities of Vienna Economic Forum in 2018 and the planned events in 2019.

Chaired by the President, **DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER**, the following new members have been confirmed by the General Assembly:

New board members co-opted:

- **Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER**, CEO, A1 Telekom Austria Group
- **Dr. Kurt GOLLOWITZER**, CEO, Wien Holding GmbH
- **DI Wolfgang VIEHAUSER**, M.Sc., Chief Operating Officer and Spokesman of the Management Board, HYPO NOE Gruppe Bank AG
- **Dr. Stephan PACHINGER**, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

New Members of Vienna Economic Forum:

- **Municipal Guarantee Fund – Sofia** as a Member – legal entity from 2019
- **Bulgarkontrola S.A., Sofia** as a Member – legal entity from 2019
- **bit media e-solutions GmbH, member of eee group** as a Member – legal entity from 2019
- **Jcoplastic S.p.A., Italy** as a Member – legal entity from 2019
- **Ms. Irina YORDANOVA** as a Member – natural person from 2019

New members in the Ambassadors Committee:

- **H.E. Dr. Kemal KOZARIC**, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **H.E. Mr. Ümit YARDIM**, Ambassador of Turkey
- **H.E. Mr. Nenad KOLEV**, Ambassador of North Macedonia

New members in the Honorary Committee

- **Mr. Aki NUREDINI**, very reputable and close friend especially of the Balkan Countries, as well as a long-time supporter of Vienna Economic Forum – Activities
- **Dr. Franz KOSYNA**, VEF companion for many years, Vice Chairman and Deputy General Manager, Kooperativa, Vienna Insurance Group



Family Photo

Following this year's general meeting, Österreichische Post AG, together with the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, invited to a Cocktail Reception.

The team of Vienna Economic Forum would like to thank all Members and Partners for their excellent support of the numerous activities of VEF in Austria and abroad in the year 2018 and for their constant trust! The success story of this development motivates us further to conquer new horizons!







Family Photo of Vienna Economic Talks – New Perspectives for the Republic of North Macedonia

VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS

NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

20 May 2019
Lassallestraße 9, 1020 Vienna
Headquarters of A1 Telekom Austria Group

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Austria
Group

The Vienna Economic Talks – New Perspectives for the Republic of North Macedonia took place at the **headquarters of the A1 Telekom Austria Group** on **20 May 2019** and Vienna Economic Forum is proud to have organized this special conference with participants from 28 countries.

The conference aimed to focus on more **intensive economic development** of the Republic of North Macedonia and thus the whole region, as well as to bring the members of Vienna Economic Forum – renowned Austrian, European and international companies, with representatives of the official delegation of the Republic of North Macedonia closer.

In the **interactive discussions** under the **VEF moto “Business meets politics”**, high-ranking and decision-making representatives of the economy tackled the question of how increased economic cooperation could positively influence new regional perspectives. The focus of all considerations was the economic development not only of the country, but also of the whole region.

The high-ranking delegation of the Republic of North Macedonia was led by **H.E. Prime Minister ZORAN ZAEV, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum** and included **H.E. Dr. Kocho ANGJUSHEV, Vice Prime Minister, responsible for economic affairs, H.E. Dr. Dragan TEVDOVSKI, Minister of Finance** and **H.E. Dr. Arber ADEMI, Minister of Education and Science**.

The entire conference was moderated by **VEF member of the Board and President of Jackovich International LLC, USA, Ambassador Victor JACKOVICH** and **Dr. Sonja SAGMEISTER, author and journalist, ZIB 2, ORF**.

In her opening speech, **Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, expressed her great pleasure in being able to welcome all participants and guests of this first international conference for the Republic of North Macedonia abroad. After three historically important steps: the last parliamentary elections and the government election; the solving of the name issue with neighboring Greece; and the recent presidential elections; for the first time in almost three decades, came a day that the Republic of North Macedonia is seen in a new light worldwide!

The host and Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER, CEO of the A1 Telekom Austria Group, was delighted to welcome all participants and guests to this important conference in the A1 headquarters. He talked about the current and further planned activities of the A1 Telekom Austria Group and explained the significant cooperation with the Republic of North Macedonia and the countries of the VEF region.

The President of Vienna Economic Forum, DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER thanked **Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER** and the whole A1 Telekom Austria Group for the hospitality and talked about the active participation of the Vienna Economic Forum in the VEF countries, about the constant support of the local, regional and European economy by organizing such conferences, during which business and politics meet directly to discuss the investment environment of the country.

Keynote Speaker, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy, H.E. Dr. Johannes HAHN stated that the political stability of the Republic of North Macedonia is the best in the region. Further signs of this were the successful presidential elections. In this direction, Commissioner HAHN encouraged the companies from Austria, to invest in North Macedonia, so that, as he said, this would mean higher profits for the country and job creation. Commissioner HAHN mentioned the progress made by North Macedonia in all areas and expressed the hope that the country would have a fixed date for starting negotiations with the European Union and therefore that the first chapters could be opened by the end of this year.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia, H.E. Mr. Zoran ZAEV, thanked all participants and especially Vienna Economic Forum, for the idea and the excellent realization of this first conference abroad under the new name “Republic of North Macedonia”. He expressed his appreciation that this year Vienna Economic Forum focuses on investment opportunities in the Republic of North Macedonia and explicitly emphasized that Austria is a strong ally in the Euro-Atlantic integration. **H.E. Mr. ZAEV** emphasized that Austria has been the largest investor in North Macedonia for the past 10 years. He also talked about the Prespa agreement, the successful presidential elections in the country, as well as ongoing reforms of the judiciary, the security system, public administration and the fight against corruption, which remains a top priority for the work of the government. He pointed out that 2019 will be the year of the economy, as a continuation of the economic progress of the previous year and he added that North Macedonia will continue to serve as a role model for the entire region, that the country remains reliable and stable, a land that cares and provides investors with the right conditions for the development of business ideas.

H.E. Dr. Kocho ANGJUSHEV, Vice Prime Minister, responsible for economic affairs, H.E. Dr. Dragan TEVDOVSKI, Minister of Finance and **H.E. Dr. Arber ADEMI, Minister of Education and Science** gave presentations on investment and economic development opportunities in the country, as well as on reforms in the education.

The VEF Board was represented by **Mag. Stefan SZYSKOWITZ, Spokesman of the Board of Management, EVN AG, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum** and **Mag. Heinz MESSINGER, Managing Director of AME International GmbH, member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum**. VEF had the honor to further share the expert opinion of **Mr. Andrew McDOWELL, Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Dr. Linda VAN GELDER, Regional Director of the Western Balkans, World Bank, Dr. Anita RICHTER, Program Manager for the Western Balkans, OECD** and **Mr. Symeon TSOMOKOS, Founder and Chairman of the Delphi Economic Forum, Greece, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum**, as well as other members of the VEF and senior representatives of the Austrian and international economy.

As part of the **Vienna Economic Talks – New Perspectives for the Republic of North Macedonia**, the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia and his delegation were invited to discuss concrete economic projects and to enable and accelerate their implementation in bilateral talks with high-ranking representatives of Austrian, regional and European companies – Members of Vienna Economic Forum.

On the pre-eve of the Conference, the **Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum, KR Aki NUREDINI**, together with the VEF Board, invited to a welcome cocktail in his **Bar Sole**. The unique atmosphere and hospitality of the host, very well-known and popular in Vienna and in the countries of the VEF region, has added significantly to the good mood and future-oriented discussions. The Vienna Economic Forum thanks **KR Aki NUREDINI** for that.

The evening before, **Prime Minister ZAEV** met with the former **Federal President of the Republic of Austria (2004–2016) Dr. Heinz FISCHER, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum**. Dr. Heinz FISCHER emphasized that Europe should reward the Republic of North Macedonia for its courage to face these difficult challenges.

Vienna Economic Forum especially thanks the CEO of A1 Telekom Austria Group and VEF board member, **Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER**, for the generous support to organize the “**Vienna Economic Talks – New Perspectives for the Republic of North Macedonia**” in the **Headquarters of A1 in Vienna**.

Vienna Economic Forum sincerely thanks all cooperation partners and especially Vienna Insurance Group (VIG), Delphi Forum, MonitorTV and SOCIETY Magazine for the active support!

PROGRAM

MONDAY, 20 MAY 2019

9:00–9:45 a.m. **REGISTRATION and Welcome Coffee**

9:40–9:45 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO** (by invitation)

9:45–11:45 a.m. **INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION**

NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Moderation

Amb. Victor JACKOVICH

President of Jackovich International LLC, USA

Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Sonja SAGMEISTER

Author and Journalist, ZIB 2, ORF

Welcome and Opening

Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, *Secretary General*

Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER

CEO, A1 Telekom Austria Group AG

Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER

President of Vienna Economic Forum

Representative of Verbund AG

OVERVIEWS OF THE NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Keynotes

H.E. Dr. Johannes HAHN

European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and

Enlargement Negotiations

H.E. Mr. Zoran ZAEV

Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia

Short Statements from the side of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia

H.E. Dr. Kocho ANGJUSHEV

Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Economic Affairs and

coordination with the Economic Sectors

H.E. Dr. Bujar OSMANI

Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs

H.E. Dr. Dragan TEVDOVSKI, *Minister of Finance*

H.E. Dr. Arber ADEMI

Minister of Education and Science

Participants in the interactive discussion**Mag. Stefan SZYSZKOWITZ***Spokesman of the Executive Board, EVN AG**Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum***Mag. Heinz MESSINGER**, AME International GmbH*Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum***Mr. Andrew MCDOWELL**, Vice President*European Investment Bank (EIB), Luxembourg***Dr. Linda VAN GELDER**, Regional Director*for the Western Balkans World Bank***Mr. Gorazd REŽONJA**, Policy Analyst, South East Europe, Global Relations,*Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris***Mr. Symeon TSOMOKOS**, Founder and Chairman of*the Delphi Economic Forum, Greece**Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum***Q AND A**

with the Audience (led by the Moderators)

11:45 a.m.–
12:30 p.m. **NETWORKING TIME** for all participants
BILATERAL TALKS between **ECONOMY** and
POLITICS (for VEF-Members only)

12:30–2:00 p.m. **Prolonged informal discussion**
for all participants in the framework of a
LUNCH BUFFET

2:00 p.m. **END OF VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS –**
NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

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Delegation of the Prime Minister of Republic of North Macedonia H.E. Zoran Zaev, together with the organizer Mag. Thomas Arnoldner, CEO of AI Telekom Austria Group AG, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, President of Vienna Economic Forum, Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum



DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, President of Vienna Economic Forum, Mag. Thomas Arnoldner, CEO of AI Telekom Austria Group AG, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, H.E. Dr. Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Budget and Administration, Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum

Mag. Thomas Arnoldner,
CEO of A1 Telekom Austria Group AG,
Dr. Johannes Hahn,
European Commissioner for Budget
and Administration



Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary
General of Vienna Economic Forum



Mag. Thomas Arnoldner,
CEO of A1 Telekom Austria Group AG

STATEMENTS ...



*Dr. Sonja Sagmeister-Brandner,
Autor and Journalist, ZIB 2, ORF*



*(left) H.E. Zoran Zaev,
(right) Dr. Erhard Busek,
Former Vice-Chancellor of Austria,
Honorary President of
Vienna Economic Forum*



*Amb. Victor Jackovich, President,
Jackovich International, USA,
Member of the Board of
Vienna Economic Forum*



*Dr. Johannes Hahn,
European Commissioner for Budget
and Administration*



*DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner,
President of Vienna Economic Forum*



H.E. Zoran Zaev

... AND QUESTIONS



INTERESTED AUDITORIUM ...



... DISCUSSIONS ...



... OPINIONS ...



Mag. Heinz Messinger,
Managing Director,
AME International GmbH,
Member of the Board of
Vienna Economic Forum



... AND ANSWERS



WELCOME COCKTAIL AT BAR SOLE ...



... NETWORKING IN A FRIENDLY ATMPOSPHERE



18TH TRADITIONAL GARDEN PARTY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

“Culinary and Musical Journey through the Member Countries of Vienna Economic Forum.”

On 14 June 2019, Vienna Economic Forum together with the Ambassadors of the Member countries of Vienna Economic Forum invited to the 18th Traditional Garden Party “**Culinary and musical journey through the partner countries of Vienna Economic Forum**”, which took place in the garden of the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna.

The many guests from all Member countries, many European countries and the world were treated by the Embassies with country-specific and traditional culinary delicacies. The diverse artistic programme, with performances by Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Turkey, was very much enjoyed by the guests – the folk dances of the region encouraged many to dance.

In addition to the Ambassadors of the Member states, **Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTCHEVA** and the President of Vienna Economic Forum **DI Günther RABENSTEINER**, together with other VEF Board members welcomed the participants.

The nice atmosphere, the culinary delicacies, the musical delight and the unique atmosphere have once again proven how much the people of the region from the Adriatic Sea to the Black Sea are connected.



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INVITATION

Together with

H.E. Mr. Roland BIMO, H.E. Dr. Kemal KOZARIĆ,
H.E. Dr. Ivan SIRAKOV, H.E. Dr. Vesna CVJETKOVIĆ, H.E. Mag. Sami UKELLI,
H.E. Mr. Victor OSIPOV, H.E. Mr. Željko PEROVIĆ, H.E. Mag. Nenad KOLEV,
H.E. Mag. Ksenija ŠKRILEC, H.E. Mr. Ümit YARDIM,
H.E. Dr. Oleksandr SCHERBA

and

on behalf of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA

has the honour
to invite you to the

18th Traditional Garden Party
“Culinary and musical journey through the partner countries
of Vienna Economic Forum”

on Friday, 14 June 2019, from 6 to 9:30 pm
at the hall and garden of Diplomatic Academy Vienna,
Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Vienna

PHOTO GALLERY

Photos © SOCIETY/Salas-Torrero



Family Photo

THE AMBASSADORS AND
THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM
HOSTED THE LOVELY TRADITIONAL SUMMER EVENT –
THE VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM GARDEN PARTY



IN AN EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE ...



... AND IN GOOD FRIENDSHIP



GOOD ATMOSPHERE ...



... VARIOUS DELICACIES ...





... AND CULTURAL PROGRAM ...



... OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM MEMBER COUNTRIES



16TH VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



**We are writing the story of the growing together of the
Vienna Economic Forum region – a European region!**



16TH VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM – VIENNA FUTURE DIALOGUE 2019:

“From Planned Economy to Market Economy – 30 Years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain”

The President of Vienna Economic Forum, **DI Günther RABENSTEINER** and the Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, Ambassador **Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** have had the honour and the pleasure to welcome the participants, high-ranking decision makers from the areas of economy and politics from 34 countries of the region, Europe and world-wide to the 16th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2019, which under the motto “From Planned Economy to Market Economy – 30 Years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain” took place in Novomatic Forum in Vienna, on 18 November 2019.

The opening of the conference was moderated by **Dr. Sonja SAGMEISTER-BRANDNER**, Author and Journalist, ZIB 2, ORF.

The Secretary General, Ambassador **Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** in her opening speech spoke about the symbolism of the 30th anniversary of the so-called “turn”, which brought the fall of the “Iron Curtain” and opened new horizons for East-West economic relations. It is exactly the experience drawn from the personal knowledge of Planned economy that contributes to the understanding and appreciation of the objectives that Vienna Economic Forum set for itself in 2004 and ongoing: “in the heart of Europe, from Vienna, we strive for the economic development of the countries from South-Eastern Europe, most of which also know what planned economy is. It is our goal to assist in their economic development and to regard all as an economic region as a whole”, the Secretary General said. Furthermore, she elaborated on yet another side of the “reunification” in the last 30 years, namely the phenomenon of “power” women arising from the Balkan, the VEF region, as well as world-wide, a “phenomenon” of which we all should be proud of and nourish in the years to come.

In his welcoming address, the host, **Mag. Harald NEUMANN**, CEO, Novomatic AG, Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum and Honorary Consul of Romania with Consular District of Lower Austria stated that economic cooperation is key for the success of the South Eastern European region.

The President of Vienna Economic Forum, **DI Günther RABENSTEINER** thanked all present at the 16th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2019: “From Planned Economy to Market Economy – 30 Years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain”. He stated that a political bridge is easy to destroy. A strong economic network, on the other hand, is not easy to tear down. VEF will stand to build an economic bridge that will last.



Family Photo of the 16th Vienna Economic Forum

In her video message, which is specially prepared and dedicated to the 16th Vienna Economic Forum, the Managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), **Kristalina GEORGIEVA** stated that 30 Years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain, the SEE region has come a long way. This journey will continue and will deliver a better living for the people.

In his Impulse Statement, the President of the Republic of Austria (2004-2016) and Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, **Dr. Heinz FISCHER** reminded that social change usually starts slowly, but then ultimately it reaches high velocity and power. The problems of today have changed, but they have not diminished. In the past 30 years, the number of democracies has been increasing; the principles of market economy have gained ground; the new democracy (Eastern Block) today are wealthier and have been seeing progress. Homogeneity has been lost. EU has become a little cumbersome, the trust in the EU has been diminished. Furthermore, the danger of radical nationalism is concerning. **Dr. FISCHER** further stated that different opinions within the EU have not been overcome, therefore there is lots to discuss. This event is but one contribution. History does not know an end.

In her Main Statement, the European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, **H.E. Ms. Mariya GABRIEL** pointed out that Europe is lagging behind in digital innovation. The world of Tomorrow will belong to those who can master the digital world. Furthermore, a focus should be put on the education in digital skills. Last but not least, our vulnerabilities must be addressed. Adapting market economy in a digital context is key, according to **H.E. EU Commissioner GABRIEL**. Artificial Intelligence is the game changer. Sovereignty and strategic plutonomy, together with greater control of digital supply change is very important. “We have achieved a lot, now I am waiting for our future work. EU digitalization is finally on top of the agenda.”

During the following working session “From Planned Economy to Market Economy – 30 Years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain”, moderated by **DI Peter UMUNDUM**, Member of the Board of Österreichische Post AG and Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum, the new Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), **Dr. Lilyana PAVLOVA** in her Main Statement pointed out that the EIB is focused on combining efforts to become a climate bank. Though we have come a long way in the last 30 years, the Western Balkans countries have a long way to go in order to be able to boost their indicators for innovation and development. By the year 2030, the goal is to work on energy lending policy and climate policy.

The Members of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, **Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER**, CEO of A1 Telekom Austria Group, **Dr. Emmanuel FOREST**, CEO, BOUYGUES Europe SA, Paris, **Dr. Stephan PACHINGER**, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhauser Deringer LLP, **Dr. Gabriel LANSKY**, Partner, LANSKY, GANZGER + partner, **Mr. Arda ERMUT**, President, Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office, participated with their valuable contributions and personal experiences in the lively discussion on the topic of “From Planned Economy to Market Economy – 30 Years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain”.

During the first part of the traditional Annual Award Ceremony of the 16th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2019, A1 Telekom Austria Group was unanimously nominated and honoured with the Vienna Economic Forum Award – “Cooperation Partner of the Year 2019”. The award was accepted by the CEO, **Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER**.

The award “Country Partner of the Year 2019” was awarded to the member country Republic of North Macedonia for the long-standing, excellent collaboration. The award was received by **H.E. Mr. Naser NUREDINI**, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia, on behalf of the Government and the Prime Minister **H.E. Mr. Zoran ZAEV**, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, who addressed the participants and the audience with a distinguished video message.

The Session “Economy as a Driving Force: One Region – One Economy” was moderated by the VEF Board Member and President of Jackovich International LLC, USA, **Ambassador Victor JACKOVICH**.

In his impulse statement, **H.E. Mr. Naser NUREDINI**, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia stated that “We as a region need to work together to solve our common environmental issues and develop our economies”.

In the exciting discussion that followed, **Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIC**, President, Serbian Association of Economists and Board member of Vienna Economic Forum, **Ms. Tatjana SHTERJOVA**, Director, Directorate of Branch Associations and Regional Chambers, Economic Chamber of the Republic of North Macedonia, **Mr. Goran MILINIC**, Director, Agency for the Promotion of Foreign Investment (FIPA) of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided with a special input followed by a very intensive Q and A Session. During the lunch that followed, the participants and guests had the opportunity to intensively exchange ideas in an informal and friendly atmosphere, as well as to further make and maintain contacts.

Vienna Economic Forum would like to thank all members, partners and friends for the enduring and constant support which further drives us to reach for bigger goals and constantly expand our horizons!

Special thanks goes to:

A1 Telekom Austria Group, AME International GmbH, Bouygues Europe SA, CANON CEE GmbH, DenizBank AG, Ecolog International FZE, EVN AG, Vienna International Airport, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, HYPO NOE Landesbank, Jackovich International LLC, LANSKY, GANZGER + partner, Novomatic AG, Austrian Post Ltd, Penkov, Markov & Partners, International Law Firm, Raiffeisen Bank International, Serbian Association of Economists, Siemens AG Austria, Sopharma PLC, The Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office, Verbund AG, Wiener Börse AG, Wien Holding GmbH.

Additionally, Vienna Economic Forum would like to extend a special gratitude to Verbund AG, Novomatic AG, Penkov, Markov & Partners, International Law Firm, Sopharma PLC, Ecolog International.

Last but not least, Vienna Economic Forum extends a sincere recognition and appreciation to MonitorTV and SOCIETY Magazine for the active support!

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2019

LOCATION

Hotel Imperial
Kärntner Ring 16, 1015 Vienna

6:00–8:00 p.m. **WELCOME COCKTAIL (by personal invitation)**

hosted by the Board of
Vienna Economic Forum
and Verbund AG

Opening Words by

Mr. Vlastimir GOLUBOVIĆ, *President of the Chamber
of Economy of Montenegro*

MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2019

LOCATION

Novomatic Forum
Friedrichstraße 7, 1010 Vienna

8:30–9:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION**9:20–9:30 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO (by invitation)**9:30–10:15 a.m. **OPENING of 16th Vienna Economic Forum –
VIENNA FUTURE DIALOGUE 2019**

Moderation

Dr. Sonja SAGMEISTER-BRANDNER
Author and Journalist, ZIB 2, ORF

Opening

Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, *Member of the Board Secretary General of Vienna
Economic Forum*

Mag. Harald NEUMANN, *CEO, NOVOMATIC AG*

Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum

Honorary Consul of Romania with consular district Lower Austria

DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER

President of Vienna Economic Forum

Representative of Verbund AG

Video Message

Ms. Kristalina GEORGIEVA, *Managing Director of the
International Monetary Fund (IMF)*

Impulse Statement

Dr. Heinz FISCHER, *Federal President (2004–2016) of the Republic of Austria*
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

Main Statement

H.E. Ms. Mariya GABRIEL, *European Commissioner for
Digital Economy and Society*

10:20–11:30 a.m. **WORKING SESSION**

**FROM PLANNED ECONOMY TO MARKET ECONOMY –
30 YEARS AFTER THE FALL OF THE IRON CURTAIN**

Moderation

DI Peter UMUNDUM

Member of the Board of Österreichische Post AG

Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum

Main Statement

Dr. Liljana PAVLOVA, *Vice President of European*

*Investment Bank (EIB), Former Minister of the Bulgarian Presidency of the
Council of the European Union 2018*

Participants in the Discussion

Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER, *CEO, A1 Telekom Austria Group*

Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Emmanuel FOREST, *CEO, BOUYGUES Paris France*

Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Stephan PACHINGER, *Partner, Freshfields*

Bruckhauser Deringer LLP, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Gabriel LANSKY, *Partner, LANSKY, GANZGER + partner*

Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Arda ERMUT, *President, Investment Office of the*

*Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic
Forum*

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

11:30–11:40 a.m. **ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY
of Vienna Economic Forum**

**A1 Telekom Austria Group –
Cooperation Partner of the Year 2019**

Award accepted by

Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER, *CEO*

11:40 a.m.–

12:15 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK

hosted by the Board of

Vienna Economic Forum

and Penkov, Markov & Partners

International Law Firm

12:20–12:30 p.m. **ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY
of Vienna Economic Forum**

**Republic Of North Macedonia –
Cooperation Country of the Year 2019**

Award accepted by

H.E. Mr. Naser NUREDINI

*Minister of Environment and Physical Planning
of the Republic of North Macedonia*

12:30–1:30 p.m. **VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS –
ECONOMY AS A DRIVING FORCE**

ONE REGION – ONE ECONOMY

Moderation

Amb. Victor JACKOVICH
President of Jackovich International, USA
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Video Messages

H.E. Mr. Edi RAMA, Prime Minister of Albania
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

**H.E. Mr. Zoran ZAEV, Prime Minister
of the Republic of North Macedonia**
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

Impulse Statement

H.E. Mr. Naser NUREDINI
*Minister of Environment and Physical Planning
of the Republic of North Macedonia*

Participants in the Discussion

Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIC, *President of the Serbian Association
of Economists, Serbia, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Mr. Branko AZESKI, *President of the Chamber of
Economy of the Republic of North Macedonia*

Mr. Gordan MILINIC, *Director of Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA) of
Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Mr. Miloš JOVANOVIĆ, *CEO, Montenegrin Investment Promotion Agency,
Montenegro*

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

1:30–2:30 p.m. **INFORMAL DISCUSSION**
for all participants in the framework of a
LUNCH
hosted by the Board of
Vienna Economic Forum
and Sopharma AD

2:30 p.m. **END OF 16th Vienna Economic Forum –
VIENNA FUTURE DIALOGUE 2019**

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PHOTO GALLERY



*Video Message of
Ms. Kristalina Georgieva,
Managing Director of the
International Monetary Fund (IMF)*





DI Peter Umundum, Member of the Board of Österreichische Post AG, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum, Dr. Lilyana Pavlova, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Mr. Arda Ermut, President, Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



H.E. Mr. Naser Nuredini, Minister Of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia



Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, DI Peter Umundum, Member of the Board of Österreichische Post AG, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum, Dr. Gabriel Lansky, Partner, LANSKY, GANZGER + partner, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Mr. Emmanuel Forest, CEO, BOUYGUES EUROPE SA, Brussels, Belgium, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Dr. Lilyana Pavlova, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Mag. Thomas Arnoldner, CEO of AI Telekom Austria Group AG, Mr. Arda Ermut, President, Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Dr. Stephan Pachinger, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Amb. Victor Jackovich, President, Jackovich International, USA, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Video Message of H.E. Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia



Regional cooperation in focus



High representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, USA, Serbia, North Macedonia



Dr. Lilyana Pavlova, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, President of Vienna Economic Forum, Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum



Dr. Sonja Sagmeister-Brandner, Author and Journalist, ZIB 2, ORF, DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, President of Vienna Economic Forum, Dr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President (2004–2016) of the Republic of Austria, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, H.E. Ms. Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, Mag. Harald Neumann, CEO, Novomatic AG, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum





Amb. Victor Jackovich, President, Jackovich International, USA, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Dr. Lilyana Pavlova, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, Ms. Alessandra Foresti, JCOPLASTIC S.p.A., Italia, Member of Vienna Economic Forum, DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, President of Vienna Economic Forum



Amb. Victor Jackovich, President, Jackovich International, USA, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, H.E. Dr. Kemal Kozarić, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Nenad Kolev, Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia, Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, H.E. Mr. Roland Bimo, Ambassador of Albania



Regional cooperation in practise



*Ms. Dragijana Radonjić-Petrović,
Partner, MD Solution, Vice President of
the Serbian Association of Economists,
Serbia and Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva,
Secretary General of Vienna Economic
Forum*

*H.E. Mag. Ksenija Škrilec,
Ambassador of Slovenia and
Prof. Dr. Vasilka Poposka-Trenevska*



*DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, President of Vienna Economic Forum and Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva,
Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum with the Delegation from North Macedonia*



*The Vienna Economic Forum Students
Team – a bridge to the future*

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM AWARD COUNTRY PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2019



VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM AWARD COOPERATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2019



RECEPTION AT HOTEL IMPERIAL ...



*President of Vienna Economic Forum,
DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner,
H.E. Mr. Naser Nuredini,
Minister Of Environment and
Physical Planning of the Republic of
North Macedonia, General Secretary
Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva,
Dr. Achim Kaspar, Member of the
Board of Verbund AG, Member of the
Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

... EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE ON THE EVE OF THE
16TH VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

*Opening Words by
Mr. Vlastimir Golubovic and
Dr. Akkan Suver*



*Singing of a Memorandum
of Understanding with
Strategic Partners of
Vienna Economic Forum
from Macedonia2025*





TOP-CLASS AMBASSADOR BREAKFAST IN HOTEL BRISTOL

Closing event of the 16th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2019: “From Planned Economy to Market Economy – 30 years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain”

Prof. KR Mag. Gertrud TAUCHHAMMER, publisher of the SOCIETY magazine and **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, Ambassador a. D. and General Secretary Vienna Economic Forum hosted an ambassador's breakfast for the 16th Vienna Economic Forum Vienna Future Dialogue at Hotel Bristol.

Under the title “Market Economy – 30 years after the Fall of the Iron Curtain”, **H.E. Victor JACKOVICH**, former US ambassador to Sarajevo and Ljubljana and board member of the VEF, **H.E. Victor OSIPOV**, Ambassador of Moldova and member of the VEF Ambassador Committee, **Ivo IVANOVSKI**, Director M & A, International Affairs and Regulation of the AI Telekom Austria Group, cooperation partner of the Vienna Economic Forum, **H.E. Dmitrii LIUBINSKII**, Ambassador of the Russian Federation, **H.E. Jolanta Róża KOZŁOWSKA**, Ambassador of Poland, **H.E. Peter MIŠÍK**, Ambassador of Slovakia, **DI Günther RABENSTEINER**, President of the Vienna Economic Forum, **Mag. Harald NEUMANN**, CEO Novomatic, Vice-President of the VEF and Honorary Consul of Romania with consular district of Lower Austria, **Dr. Stephan PACHINGER**, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, board member of the VEF and **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, Secretary General of the VEF, presents her keynote Speeches.

Mag. Gertrud TAUCHHAMMER and **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** welcomed the guests and the speakers and underlined the excellent cooperation of SOCIETY and the Vienna Economic Forum. The event was moderated by **Dr. Sonja SAGMEISTER** of the ORF editors, Current Service, who asked the participants for their personal reminder of 9 November 1989.

“The information came in Bulgaria only a day later. Millions of people were on the streets the day after”, recalled **Mrs. KIRTICHEVA**. “Later on I got the first free elections and I will never forget that”, **KIRTICHEVA** continues. The Polish Ambassador, **H.E. Jolanta Róża KOZŁOWSKA** expressed herself emotionally: “I especially remember this big round table, where the two warring sides – the Communists and the opposition – sat opposite each other and engaged in dialogue about the future of a country. That was an experience.”



*Family Photo of the Ambassador Breakfast in Hotel Bristol together
with the members of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

After a brief final discussion, the guests, including the Ambassador of Afghanistan, **H.E. Khojesta Fana EBRAHIMKHEL**, Ambassador of Finland, **H.E. Pirkko Mirjami HÄMÄLÄINEN**, the Ambassador of Iraq, **H.E. Baker Fattah HUSSEN**, Ambassador of Palestine, **S.E. Salahaldin ABDULHAFI**, Ambassador Yemen, **S.E. Haytham Abdulmomen Hassan SHOJA'AADIN**, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, **H.E. Kemal KOZARIC**, **Dmitry SOKOLOV**, Director of the Russian Cultural Institute, **Igor BELOV**, Board Member of the United Nations Correspondents Association, **Annabella Busawule JOHNSON**, ABJ, **Andela Celebic VUKADINOVIC**, Embassy Counselor of the Embassy of Montenegro, **Henryk CZUBEK**, Advisor to the Permanent Representative of Poland to the UN and others International Organizations, **Konstantin CHIZHIK**, First Counselor of Belarus, **Rita DAVIDSON**, Auris Immo Solutions GmbH, **Elena GARANINA** of Immotrading, **Emilija GRANKOVA** of B1 Fashion, **Konstantin HABSBUURG-LORRAINE** and **Camilla HABSBUURG-LORRAINE**, **Georg KRAUCHENBERG** of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe, **Harald LASSMANN**, Managing Director of Russia Fachspedition, **Martin NESIRKY**, Director of the United Nations Office, **Heinz SCHINNER**, Vermögensstreuhand- & Versicherungsberatungs GmbH, **Kurt TIROCH**, Austro-British Society, **Reinhart WANECK** of the Association of Senior Hospital Physicians Austria and **Ron WILLIS**, President of the Club for Trade Delegates, shared their thoughts and impressions on the topic and the very interesting contributions of the keynote speakers with a rich breakfast that then let the day end comfortably.

Vienna Economic Forum is pleased about further active cooperation with SOCIETY Magazine!

PHOTO GALLERY

Photos © SOCIETY/Pobaschnig



*Dr. Sonja Sagmeister-Brandner,
Autor and Journalist, ZIB 2, ORF*



Podium and interested audience



Dr. Stephan Pachinger, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Mag. Harald Neumann, CEO, Novomatic AG, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum, DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, President of Vienna Economic Forum, Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, H.E. Mr. Victor Osipov, Ambassador of Moldova



Amb. Victor Jackovich, President, Jackovich International, USA, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



*H.E. Mr. Peter Misik, Ambassador of the
Slovak Republic*

*Mag. Harald Neumann, CEO,
Novomatic AG, Vice-President of
Vienna Economic Forum*



*Dr.h.c Ivo Ivanovski, MSc
AI Telekom Austria Group*



*Dr. Stephan Pachinger,
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Member of
the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

*H.E. Mag. Jolanta Róża Kozłowska,
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland*



*H.E. Mr. Dmitri Ljubinski, Ambassador of
the Russian Federation*

THE EXCELLENT BREAKFAST WAS HOSTED BY
KR MAG. GERTRUD TAUCHHAMMER



GOOD ATMOSPHERE ...



... AND DISCUSSIONS







Mag. Harald Neumann, Advisor, Novomatic AG, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum and KR Mag. Gertrud Tauchhammer

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM DAILY BUSINESS 2019



Working meeting with Mr. Ahmet Mesut Ersoy, Chairman of the Management Board and CEO of DenizBank AG, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Secretary General, **Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** and **Mr. Ahmet Mesut ERSOY**, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Chairman of the Management Board and CEO of DenizBank AG, discussed the good success of the long standing cooperation with great satisfaction, during an intensive working meeting in the Vienna Economic Forum on January 17, 2019.

A future cooperation and a new stage in the deepening of the collaboration between Deniz Bank AG and Vienna Economic Forum has been planned.



Working meeting with Prof. Antoni Slavinski, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the New Bulgarian University, Mr. Ivo Ivanovski, Head of International Regulatory and European Affairs, A1 Telekom Austria Group and Dr. Stefan Schneeberger, Executive Assistant to the CEO, A1 Telekom Austria Group

The Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, **Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** and **Prof. Antoni**

SLAVINSKI, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the New Bulgarian University, on January 22, 2019, met **Mr. Ivo IVANOVSKI**, Head of International Regulatory and European Affairs, A1 Telekom Austria Group and **Dr. Stefan SCHNEEBERGER**, Executive Assistant to the CEO, A1 Telekom Austria Group.



The main topic of the discussion at the A1 Telekom Austria Group headquarters in Vienna was the further development and the pragmatic realization of the Vienna Economic Forum idea for the foundation of a **“Digital ICT School”**.

The willingness of the three universities: New Bulgarian University (NBU) Sofia, IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, and Titu Maiorescu University, Romania, to realize this idea, was affirmed during the “15. Jubilee Vienna Economic Forum” on November 19, 2018 in Vienna, by signing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.



Working meeting with H.E. Mr. Sherzod Asadov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan

The **Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** and **Mag. Heinz MESSINGER**, Managing Director, AME International GmbH, Member of the Management Board and Financial Referent of Vienna Economic Forum during a working meeting on 25 January 2019 with **H.E. Mr Sherzod ASADOV, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan**, met to discuss the possibilities of future cooperation.

Festive evening in Novomatic Forum on the occasion of the assumption of the EU Presidency by Romania in the first half of the year 2019

On the occasion of Romania's taking over the EU Presidency in the first half of 2019, **H.E. Mr. Bogdan MAZURU, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania in Austria and member of the VEF Ambassadors Committee**, invited to a festive evening. The event took place in the **Novomatic Forum**, with host **Mag. Harald NEUMANN, CEO of Novomatic AG, Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum and Honorary Consul of Romania with Consular district of Lower Austria**.

Active participation of Vienna Economic Forum in the 22nd Eurasian Economic Summit in Istanbul

Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, Secretary General and Member of the Board of the Vienna Economic Forum and Dr. Erhard BUSEK, Honorary President of Vienna Economic Forum and former Vice-Chancellor of Austria (1991-1995), actively participated in the 22nd Eurasian Economic Summit on 6 and 7 February 2019 in Istanbul.



Upon the invitation of **Dr. Akkan SUVER, President of Marmara Group's Strategic and Social Research Foundation**, Ambassador **Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** in her speech **"Responsibility for the Future"**, emphasized the shared responsibility of the representatives of non-governmental organizations.

Vienna Economic Forum and the Marmara Strategic Group and Social Research Foundation are long-term strategic partners and are dedicated with various activities to better economic and political cooperation in the Balkans, Europe and Eurasia.



Courtesy visit of the new Ambassador of Turkey H.E. Mr. Ümit Yardim to VEF

The new Ambassador of Turkey, **H.E. Ümit YARDIM**, on **19 February 2019** paid a courtesy visit to Vienna Economic Forum. In an intensive discussion with **Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, possibilities and parameters of an even more intensive cooperation with the Embassy and with the VEF founding country Turkey were discussed.

H.E. Ambassador Ümit YARDIM joins the VEF Ambassadors Committee in the place of his predecessor and has received the Vienna Economic Forum decoration with pleasure.



Vienna Economic Forum congratulates Dr. Akkan Suver, President of the Marmara Group Foundation for receiving the Outstanding Service Medal

The International Foundation for Sustainable Peace and Development, based in Sofia, a Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum, honored the longtime Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum, Honorary Consul General of Montenegro in Istanbul and the President of the Marmara Group Foundation, **Dr. Akkan SUVER**, with the Outstanding Service Medal.

At a festive medal awarding ceremony, attended by Turkish Deputy Minister **Yavuz Selim KIRAN**, **Dr. Akkan SUVER** thanked **Prof. Dr. Dimitar KOSTOV**. The medal is awarded to **Dr. Akkan SUVER** for the outstanding contribution to peace, stability and dialogue in the Balkans.



Lecture by Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, in front of the members of the Rotary Club “Wien-Graben”

As part of the regular lectures of the Rotary Club “Wien-Graben”, the **Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** was invited as a speaker.

The lecture on the topic: **“Regional Economy and Politics in the Balkans – Challenges for Europe?”** took place on 16 March 2019 at the renowned Hotel “Imperial” in the heart of the city of Vienna. **The Secretary-General spoke about the positive economic development of the Balkan countries, which are all VEF member countries.** In particular, the importance of the entire Balkan region for the crucial role of United Europe as a global player was emphasized. The event was held in a very friendly and pleasant atmosphere.



Dr. Akkan Suver, President of the Marmara Group Foundation received “The Medal of Merit” from H.E. Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, President of the Republic of North Macedonia

Dr. Akkan SUVER, President of the Marmara Group Foundation, a long-time strategic partner of Vienna Economic Forum and Honorary Consul General of Montenegro in Istanbul, received “The Medal of Merit” due to his peace studies and the relationship established in the area of civil society between Macedonia and Turkey.

Vienna Economic Forum congratulates **Dr. Akkan SUVER** and Marmara Foundation and wishes all the best for the future!



Journalists from Moldova visit Vienna Economic Forum

On 26 March 2019, journalists from Moldova visited Vienna Economic Forum. The meeting with **Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** was organized by **Ambassador Andrei POPOV**, who, as a former Ambassador of Moldova in Austria himself, has been active in the Vienna Economic Forum.

The topic of the discussion was the activities of VEF in all VEF member countries and the real possibility to promote joint regional cooperation by supporting economic development in each country.

Vienna Economic Forum organized **Vienna Economic Talks – Chisinau Meeting** for the first time on 24-25 June 2010 and for the second time held **Vienna Economic Talks – Chisinau Meeting 2014**, on 10-11 June 2014, in cooperation with the European Commission. The results of these activities include numerous effective participations of VEF members in various sectors of the Moldovan economy – health, pharmaceuticals, energy, transport, banking. The many questions from the journalists and the intensive discussion once again showed the great potential of further cooperation with Moldova, especially in the economic sector.



H.E. Mag. Nenad Kolev, Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia for an inaugural visit to Vienna Economic Forum

During an inaugural visit on 27 March 2019, H.E. Mag. Nenad KOLEV, Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia, and Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, discussed further intensive cooperation in view of the upcoming **Vienna Economic Talks – New Perspectives for the Republic of North Macedonia** on 20 May 2019 in Vienna.

Vienna Economic Forum is pleased to welcome **H.E. Ambassador Mag. Nenad KOLEV**, as a new member of the **Ambassadors Committee of Vienna Economic Forum**.

Vienna Economic Forum – Working lunch with the President of the “Invest in Turkey” Agency with the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Ümit Yardim

The President of the “Invest in Turkey” Agency Mr. Arda ERMUT, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, has taken the initiative for a working lunch organized by the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Austria, H.E. Mr. Ümit YARDIM and Vienna Economic Forum on 28 March 2019.

In a constructive and pleasant working atmosphere, the VEF President DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER, VEF Vice President and Member of the Management Board of Österreichische Post, DI Peter UMUNDUM, Dr. Ing. Willibald PLESSER, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, VEF Board Member, Mr. Antonio FORESTI and Ms. Alessandra FORESTI, CEO, JCOPLASTIC SpA, Industria Contenitori Platici, Italy, Member of the Vienna Economic Forum and other Austrian investors discussed the further development of economic relations between agents the Austrian and Turkish economy.



Communion (Iftar) on the occasion of the month of fasting Ramadan

At the invitation of Mr. Ahmet Mesut ERSOY, Chairman of the Management Board, CEO, DenizBank AG and Member of the Board of the Vienna Economic Forum, Secretary General of the Vienna Economic Forum, Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA participated in the traditional Lord's Supper (Iftar) on May 10, 2019, on the occasion of the month of fasting Ramadan.

In their Welcome Words, the host **Mr. Ahmet Mesut ERSOY** and H.E. Mr. Ümit JARDIM, Ambassador of Turkey spoke about the importance of the festive dinner for the human values friendship, coherence, solidarity. The national music of a small orchestra has contributed to the friendly and pleasant atmosphere.



Working visit of Mr. Kaan Savul, Chief Marketing Officer, nd Group B.V. and Ambassador Skender Xhakaliu, Business Development Europe, Ecolog Germany GmbH

At a constructive meeting held on June 13 2019, Mr. Kaan SAVUL, Chief Marketing Officer, nd Group B.V., Ambassador Skender XHAKALIU, Business Development Europe, Ecolog Germany GmbH and Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, discussed the possibilities of intensified cooperation through concrete projects.



Intensive discussions about the future in the premises of Vienna Economic Forum

The Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum **Hermann ANDERL**, the new **Managing Director of CANON AUSTRIA** and his **successor as Managing Director of CANON CEE (Central Eastern Europe) Wilbert VERHEIJEN** met on 13 December 2019 in the premises of Vienna Economic Forum with the **Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** to discuss future collaboration over the next few years.

Ideas and possibilities for further development of the excellent cooperation were discussed in a very friendly atmosphere and the planned VEF activities in 2020 were coordinated.

**Vienna Economic Forum
is looking forward to yet another successful year 2020!**

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