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CONSULTATIVE STATUS
WITH THE ECONOMIC AND
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AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM MEETINGS 2015

DEAR MEMBERS OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM!



The year 2015 is behind us and we want to inform you about our common Vienna Economic Forum activities throughout the year. Here it is – our traditional annual booklet that tries to represent within some pages in words and pictures the whole year – a year full of dynamic, rapid changes in the business world and the political environment, mass migrations and major challenges Europe and worldwide.

This year, Vienna Economic Forum continued to be **the platform** for creating the best opportunities for our members for their own economic activities and to contribute thus to more prosperity in the whole region. Our events are increasingly meeting places for realizations of public and private interests, and we are pleased to contribute with our support to various projects in the region to its further growth as a part of a **united Europe**.

The member countries of the Vienna Economic Forum – the six countries of the **Western Balkans** – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia are strongly moved into the focus of the European Union and it is an important development that the Prime Ministers of these countries meet together – on the beginning at the First Western Balkans conference in Berlin in August 2014 then, in the Second Western Balkans conference in August 2015 in Vienna.

To support the important common European goal, we have therefore organized together with the Albanian government on **27 May 2015** the **Vienna Economic Forum – Tirana Talks 2015** and all 6 Prime Ministers met together around one table for the first time in a capital of a country in the region – in **Tirana**. This is not ordinary, and thus the **Vienna Economic Forum – Tirana Talks 2015** were described as a historical event by all regional media reports. Our aim is to organize our Vienna Economic Talks in this format on a rotating basis, particularly by supporting joint border infrastructure projects, which were designated in 2nd Westbalkan Conference in Vienna as a priority.

We, of the Vienna Economic Forum, are strongly convinced that the EU should support the economic development of all VEF-Members distinctively and thus promote the integration of the Western Balkan countries as soon as possible. The region is part of Europe and deserves to be considered as such. The interest in the region is also reflected in the activities of various countries from other regions of the world. China is very active in the region and shows with its “16 plus 1”-Initiative strategic thinking and rapid response. When we see the Western Balkans from this geopolitical perspective, the unity of Europe should also develop in this direction.

During our meetings in 2015 we experienced again and permanently the **importance of cooperation** and its significance for achieving positive and concrete results on regional and sub regional level, even more and especially in such turbulent times.

On **18 June 2015** we held **Vienna Economic Talks – Investments and Regional Cooperation** which we organized together with our strategic partner the **Tsomokos Group International** in the Studio 44 of Austrian Lotteries in Vienna.

The **14th Traditional Garden Party “Culinary and musical journey through the partner countries of Vienna Economic Forum”** on **19 June 2015** was once again a lovely event and once again showed how much people from the region have in common and how important the good economic development and the peaceful relations are between neighbouring countries from the Region of Vienna Economic Forum.

At the 12th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Dialogue 2015 on **23 November 2015** we had the pleasure to welcome participants from 39 countries at Palais Niederösterreich in Vienna, 64 % of which came from abroad. High ranking participants and decision makers discussed under the mottoes “Investments as a motor for Competitiveness and Growth” about the topics “How can Europe Grow?”, “Can Banks stimulate growth?”, “Investments as a motor. How to create Jobs – regional, sub-regional and Europe-wide?”, “Is a common regional Investment Strategy Possible?”, “The European way to a more pragmatic aspect. Visions and investor response world-wide”.

In the annual ceremony for the **Vienna Economic Forum Awards “Country Partner of the Year 2015”** was awarded **Albania** and as **“Cooperation Partner of the Year 2015”** the Casinos Austria AG and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Karl Stoss were nominated.

Dear Members,

We want to thank you – VEF-members, but also all partners and friends of Vienna Economic Forum, for yours continuous support and active participation at all conference, forums and international Talks, which Vienna Economic Forum organised or co-organised in Vienna and abroad.

We are convinced that **Europe** needs the **Vienna Economic Forum region** and that many young, ambitious, to a large extent very well-educated and hard-working people who still have fresh, untapped energies would be an immense asset for Europe.

If Europe and the EU wants to play a global role, then it must also state that the countries from the region clearly belong geographically to Europe, and those who are not yet EU members, should become part of the European Union, and to insert these different parts into the mosaic that is the European Union.

We will further actively work for this goal and we can ensure you, that Vienna Economic Forum will continue the good cooperation for further economic development in and between the member countries, in all directions of the region, in Europe and worldwide.

We are looking forward to meet all of you at the **13th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2016**, on **21 November 2016** in Vienna!

Dr. Erhard Busek
President

Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva
Secretary General

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 Kirtcheva
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

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photo Dr. Rohmsteiner © Peter Rigaud



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Vienna Economic Forum is proud to announce that the committees of Vienna Economic Forum which are open for new members, are:

- Committee of Mayors of the Region
- Culture Committee

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM – TIRANA TALKS 2015

27–28 May 2015, Tirana

The **six countries of the Western Balkans** – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have become into focus of the European Union and it is an important advance that the Prime Ministers of these countries meet together. To support the common European goal, the Vienna Economic Forum organized together with the Albanian government on the initiative of H.E. Prime Minister Edi Rama, the **Vienna Economic Forum – Tirana Talks 2015**.

All Prime Ministers of the region, H.E. Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina Denis Zvizdic, H.E. Prime Minister of Kosovo Isa Mustafa, H.E. Prime Minister of Macedonia Nikola Gruevski, H.E. Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Djukanovic and H.E. Prime Minister of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic, described it as an **important event** and signal for the whole region which makes an important contribution to the common way to the European Road and to the investment strategy in the Western Balkans as an important part of the VEF-region.

Vienna Economic Forum is proud that **all 6 Prime Ministers of the Western Balkan** countries have accepted the invitation to participate at the **Vienna Economic Forum – Tirana Talks 2015**.

The conference in Tirana has had an enormously large and exclusively positive response in all Balkan countries and was marked as a **historical conference** and has long been a central theme of all media in the region.

The **Vienna Economic Forum – Tirana Talks 2015** has shown that it is possible to work for the benefit of the whole region. Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic has very exactly brought the atmosphere to the point: “Let us, as then, Germany and France have made, all look forward together.”

The Members of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, **Dr. Günther Rabensteiner**, Board Member, Verbund AG and **Mag. Heinz Messinger**, Managing Director, AME GmbH, presented their expertise on investment opportunities in Albania and the region to the numerous high-level decision-makers and thus contributed greatly to the success of the conference.



PROGRAM

27 MAY 2015

7:15 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONY

Venue: Palace of Brigades

Welcoming

H.E. Arben Ahmetaj, Minister of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, and Entrepreneurship, Member of the Committee of Ministers of Economy of Vienna Economic Forum

Opening Remarks

Dr. Erhard Busek, President of Vienna Economic Forum

Keynote speaker

H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania

Panellists

H.E. Arben Ahmetaj, Minister of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, and Entrepreneurship, Member of the Committee of Ministers of Economy of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Massimo D'Alema, Former Prime Minister of Italy

Mr. Joschka Fischer, former Vice-Chancellor of Germany

Mr. Hubert Vedrine, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France

Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, Member of the Board of VERBUND AG, Member of the Board of VEF

Mr. Heinz Messinger, Managing Director, AME International GmbH, Member of the Board of VEF

28 MAY 2015

8:45 a.m.

REGISTRATION OF THE ATTENDEES

Venue: Palace of Brigades

9:15 a.m.

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT “FROM BERLIN TO VIENNA”: BRINGING BACK GEOPOLITICAL CERTAINTY TO THE WESTERN BALKANS.

Moderator

Mr. Joschka Fischer, Former Vice-Chancellor of Germany

Panellists

H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania

H.E. Aleksandar Vucic, Prime Minister of Serbia

H.E. Isa Mustafa, Prime Minister of Kosovo

H.E. Milo Djukanovic, Prime Minister of Montenegro

H.E. Denis Zvizdic, Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina

H.E. Nikola Gruevski, Prime Minister of Macedonia

10:45 a.m.

FAMILY PHOTO

11:00 a.m.

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 a.m.

WISE MEN SEGMENT “BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE EU AND THE REGION”: INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT FDI THROUGH CONNECTIVITY

Moderator

Mr. Ricardo Hausmann

PHOTO GALLERY



H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania



H.E. Denis Zvizdic, Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina



H.E. Milo Djukanovic, Prime Minister of Montenegro



H.E. Aleksandar Vucic, Prime Minister of Serbia



H.E. Isa Mustafa, Prime Minister of Kosovo



H.E. Nikola Gruevski, Prime Minister of Macedonia



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



*DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, Member of the Board
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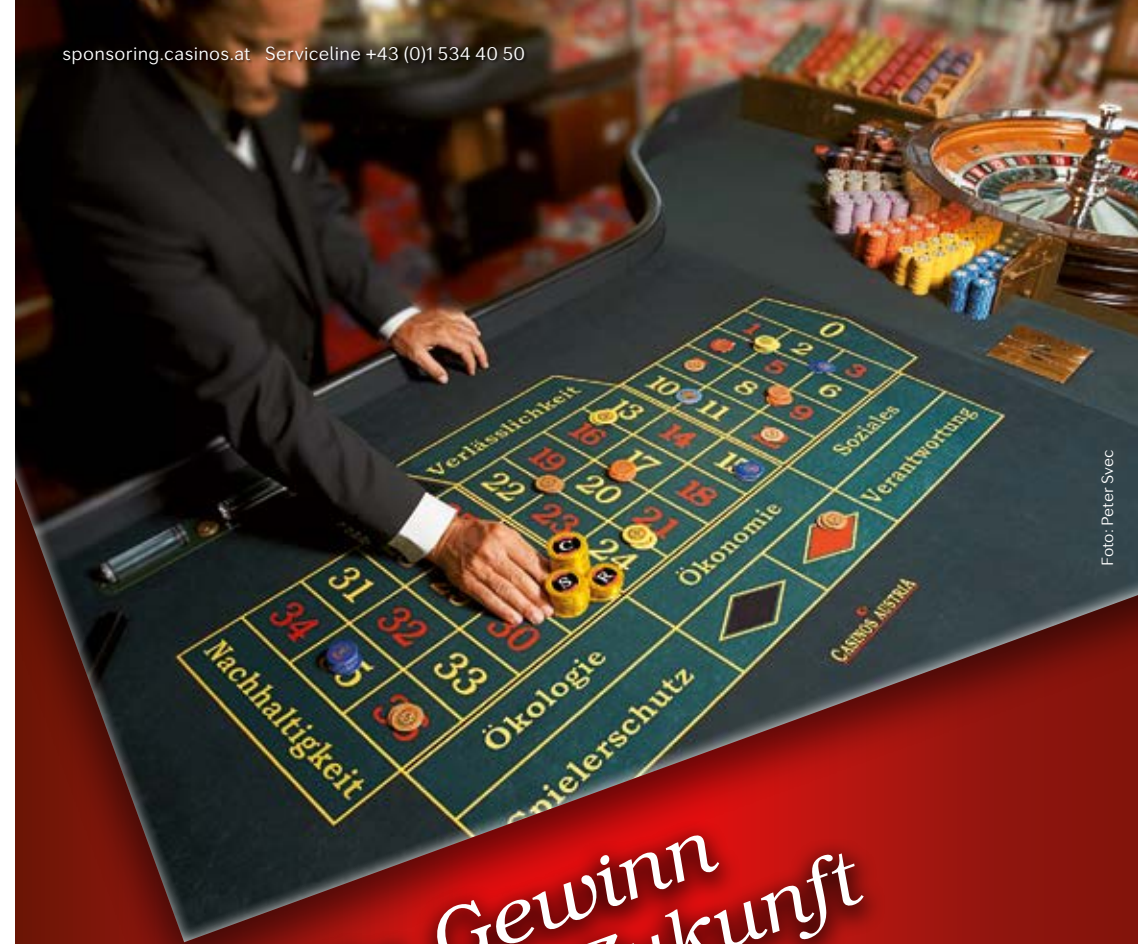


Foto: Peter Svec

Ein Gewinn für die Zukunft

Wir setzen auf CSR. Vom Spierschutz über den schonenden Umgang mit Ressourcen bis hin zur Unterstützung zahlreicher Organisationen und Projekte im Interesse der Allgemeinheit: Casinos Austria lebt Corporate Social Responsibility seit seiner Gründung vor mehr als 45 Jahren. Für Mensch und Umwelt. Aus Überzeugung.

Gut für Österreich.

CASINOS AUSTRIA
Das Erlebnis.

VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS – INVESTMENTS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

**18 June 2015,
Studio 44 of Austrian Lotteries, Vienna**

“The Vienna Economic Talks – Investments and Regional Cooperation” were organized on 18 June 2015 by Vienna Economic Forum together with its strategic partner the **Tsomokos Group International** in Studio 44 of Austrian Lotteries, Rennweg 44, 1030 Wien, with the friendly support of Casinos Austria, cooperation partner of VEF.

Topics were:

- Regional Cooperation is on demand! Investments needs and possibilities in the West Balkan Countries as a part of the whole region of Vienna Economic Forum
- Economy is the motor. Definition of the regional needs and priorities: Infrastructure, Transport, Energy, Telecommunications.
- Serbia on the European Road. Overview of the Serbian Economy and concrete projects. Experiences and Current Challenges for the Regional Investments.

Vienna Economic Forum was pleased to welcome high-level representatives and decision-makers in Vienna and was proud of the great interest in these Vienna Economic Talks.

Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva welcomed about **120 participants from 18 countries**. This shows us once again the great interest in the Vienna Economic Talks in the region of Vienna Economic Forum, as well as beyond.

The opening in the premises of the Austrian Lotteries was carried out by host **Dr. Karl Stoss**, CEO of Casinos Austria AG and Board Member of Vienna Economic Forum.

The aim of the event was to highlight the investment opportunities in the Western Balkans region as a part of the whole region of the Vienna Economic Forum as well as the economic integration of Serbia on its way to Europe and the economic cooperation with the other VEF-countries and to give additional support, as well as further input to the common regional economic development on the eve of the 2nd Western Balkans conference in August 2015 in Vienna.

Bilateral talks were held, numerous contacts established and experiences exchanged and thus this meeting formed further important basis for continued cooperation between the countries of the region.



The Vienna Economic Forum wishes to thank all its members for their active participation in the **“Vienna Economic Talks – Investments and Regional Cooperation”** and especially the following partners for their friendly support: Casinos Austria AG, TPA Horwath, Tsomokos Group, LeitnerLeitner and Canon.



PROGRAM

18 JUNE 2015

LOCATION

**Studio 44 of the Austrian Lotteries,
Rennweg 44, 1030 Vienna, Austria**

8:30–9:15 a.m. **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**

9:15–9:25 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO (by invitation)**

9:30–11:00 a.m. **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

**REGIONAL COOPERATION IS ON DEMAND!
INVESTMENT NEEDS AND POSSIBILITIES IN THE WEST BALKAN COUNTRIES
AS A PART OF THE WHOLE REGION OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM.**

Moderation

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

Welcome Address

Dr. Karl STOSS, *General Director, Casinos Austria AG,
General Director, Österreichische Lotterien GmbH,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Video Message

H.E. Dr. Johannes HAHN, *European Commissioner
for Neighbourhood Policy and EU Enlargement*

Main Statement

Ms. Bernadette GIERLINGER, *Vice Minister of Science,
Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria*

Statements

H.E. Mr. Furkan CAKO, *Minister for Foreign Investments at the Government
of the Republic of Macedonia*

Mr. Liuben PETROV, *Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Mr. Gazmend TURDIU, *Deputy Secretary General,
Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*

Mr. Gregor Hueber, *Head of Business Development, CEE, Österreichische Post AG*

Mr. Ahmet Mesut ERSOY, *CEO, DenizBank AG,
Member of Vienna Economic Forum*

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

11:00–11:30 a.m. **NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK**

PROGRAM

18 JUNE 2015

11:30 a.m.–
1:00 p.m.**SECOND PLENARY SESSION****ECONOMY IS THE MOTOR.
DEFINITION OF REGIONAL PRIORITIES.****Moderation**

Mr. Aleksandar MEDJEDOVIC, Executive Board Member,
Turkish-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Berlin/Germany;
Board Member, Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK),
Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum

Video Message

Mag. Othmar KARAS, Member of the European Parliament

Panelists

H.E. Ms. Hykmete N. BAJRAMI, Minister of Trade and Industry of **Kosovo**

Mr. Igor JOVOVIC, Ambassador in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and European Integration of **Montenegro**

Dr. Wolf-Ruthart BORN, Senior Advisor, Investment Support
and Promotion Agency of **Turkey** (ISPAT),
Cooperation Partner of Vienna Economic Forum

Mag. Birgit REITER-BRAUNWIESER, Director, Central and Eastern Europe,
ABA-Invest Austria, Member of Vienna Economic Forum Committee of
Presidents of Investment Agencies of the Region

Mr. Stamen JANEV, President, Invest **Bulgaria** Agency,
Member of Vienna Economic Forum Committee of
Presidents of Investment Agencies of the Region

Ms. Jelica GRUJIC, Director, Foreign Investment Promotion Agency
of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (FIPA), Member of Vienna Economic Forum
Committee of Presidents of Investment Agencies of the Region

Mr. Kliment SEKEROVSKI, Deputy CEO, Invest in **Macedonia**,
Member of Vienna Economic Forum Committee of Presidents of
Investment Agencies of the Region

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

1:00–2:00 p.m.

NETWORKING LUNCH – BUFFET

hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
and TPA Horwath

2:00–4:00 p.m.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**SERBIA ON THE EUROPEAN ROAD.
OVERVIEW OF THE SERBIAN ECONOMY AND CONCRETE PROJECTS.
EXPERIENCES AND CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR THE REGIONAL
INVESTMENTS.****Moderation**

Mr. Symeon TSOMOKOS, CEO and Founder, Tsomokos Group International,
Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum

Introductory Statement

Dr. Johann SOLLGRUBER, European Commission Representation in Vienna,
Member of the Honorary Committee of Vienna Economic Forum

Main Statements

Dr. Milan PARIVODIC, CEO, FORINVEST,
Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum,
Former Minister of Economic Relations of the Republic of **Serbia**

Mr. Branislav BUGARSKI, Secretary for Interregional Cooperation,
Local Self-Government of Vojvodina, Republic of **Serbia**

Panelists

Mr. Milutin FOLIC, Chief Architect at the Municipality of Belgrade, **Serbia**

Mag. Thomas HANEDER, Partner, **TPA Horwath**,
Member of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Simon VESTNER, CEO, Vestner Aufzüge GmbH, **Germany**,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Amb. Dr. Wolfgang PETRITSCH, President, Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation,
Of Counsel at **LANSKY, GANZGER + partner**,
Cooperation Partner of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Zeljko BOBAR, Managing Director at KoCoS Technology Central Eastern Europe
GmbH, Member of the Club of Serbian Businessmen in **Austria**

Ms. Marijana AGIC-MOLNAR, Managing Director, Adriatic Region Management,
GfK, **Serbia**

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

3:45 p.m.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Followed by **FAREWELL RECEPTION** for all participants

4:30 p.m.

**END OF “VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS –
INVESTMENTS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION”**

PHOTO GALLERY



Dr. Karl Stoss, General Director of Casinos Austria AG and Member of the Board of VEF, opens the VET-Conference "Investments and Regional Cooperation"



H.E. Furkan Cako, Minister for Foreign Investments of Macedonia



H.E. Furkan Cako, Minister for Foreign Investments of Macedonia with Dr. Karl Stoss, General Director of Casinos Austria AG and Member of the Board of VEF and Secretary General Amb. Dr. Kirtcheva



Gregor Hueber, Head of Business Development, CEE, Österreichische Post AG



A. Mesut Ersoy, CEO, DenizBank AG, Member of Vienna Economic Forum



lively discussion ...



Mr. Liuben Petrov, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria



Mag. Thomas Haneder, Partner, TPA Horwath, Member of Vienna Economic Forum



Mr. Branislav Bugarski, Secretary for Interregional Cooperation, Local Self-Government of Vojvodina, Republic of Serbia



Dr. Johann Sollgruber, European Commission Representation in Vienna



the interested auditorium in the Studio 44



Dr. Milan Parivodic, CEO, FORINVEST, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum, Former Minister of Economic Relations of the Republic of Serbia



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THE VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT

14TH TRADITIONAL GARDEN PARTY

“Culinary and musical journey through the countries of the Region”

19 June 2015, in the Garden of the Diplomatic Academy, Vienna



On 19 June 2015 the Board of Vienna Economic Forum together with the Ambassadors of the Member Countries invited to the 14th traditional Garden Party **“Culinary and musical journey through the countries of the Region”** which all the Member Countries of Vienna Economic Forum actively coorganized.

The embassies spared no effort to indulge the guests with country specific culinary specialties. The artistic performance has been, as in the years before, the highlight of the evening and the guest enjoyed the performance of the various artists.

Next to dances from Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and Bulgaria, also the book “Culinaria balcanica” by Prof. Thede Kahl was presented.

A big thank you goes to all the ambassadors of VEF-countries that have a highly responsible mission in this specific time: not only to present their own country, but rather to act in regional and European dimension, to think of a common European future, for the prosperity and welfare of the region.

The Ambassadors of the member states met with the numerous board members, members, partners and friends of Vienna Economic Forum. At the friendly gathering, the culinary delights and musical pleasures celebrated around 400 participants. The unique atmosphere was another proof of how much in common the people of the region from the Adriatic to the Black Sea have.



At the traditional Family Photo participated:

- H.E. Roland Bimo
- H.E. Mag. Elena Shekerletova
- H.E. Gordan Bakota
- H.E. Dr. Vasilika Poposka Trenevskaa
- H.E. Andrej Popov
- H.E. Silvia Davidoiu
- H.E. Dr. Andrej Rahten
- H.E. Dr. Oleksandr Scherba
- H.E. Mag. Sami Ukelli
- H.E. Ivan Milic

Present were also the Members of the Board of VEF, the founding members, partners and supporting Members of Vienna Economic Forum.

- **Mag. Stefan Szyszkowitz**, Member of the Board, EVN AG and First Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Mag. Hermann Anderl**, Managing Director, Canon CEE GmbH, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Mag. Heinz Messinger**, Managing Director, AME International GmbH and CFO of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dr. Willibald Plessner**, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dr. Karl Stoss**, General Director, Casinos Austria AG, General Director, Österreichische Lotterien GmbH, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Mr. Emmanuel Forest**, CEO, Bouygues Europe SA, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dr. Milan Parivodic**, CEO, ForInvest, Owner, Parivodic Lawyers, Serbia, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dkfm. Simon Vestner**, CEO, Vestner Aufzüge GmbH, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dr. Herbert Stepic**, Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum
- **KommR Margarete Kriz-Zwittkovits**, Honorary President of Österreichischen Gewerbevereins
- **Prof. Evgenyi Chevkenov**, President of the VEF Culture Committee with his students.

Vienna Economic Forum is proud to cooperate with such distinguished personalities and we expect all friends of the region to the **15th Vienna Economic Forum Garden Party on 17 June 2016** again in the Garden of the Diplomatic Academy.

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PHOTO GALLERY



Mag. Stefan Szyszkowitz, Member of the Board of EVN AG, First Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum with Ambassador of Bulgaria Mag. Elena Sherkerletova and Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva



Prof. Evgenyi Chevkenov, President of the VEF Culture Committee with his students



Bulgarian dance group



H.E. Apostolic Nuncio Dr. Peter Stephan Zurbriggen



Thomas Ebner, Monitor TV, Media Partner of VEF



*so much in common between
the people from the region ...*



get together ...



kids from the region ...



*Mag. Hermann Anderl, Managing Director, Canon CEE,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



masterly dancers ...

good atmosphere ...





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12TH VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM – VIENNA DIALOGUE 2015

23 November 2015, Palais Niederösterreich, Vienna

On 23 November 2015 **Dr. Erhard Busek**, President of Vienna Economic Forum and Ambassador **Dr. Elena Kirtcheva**, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum had the pleasure to welcome participants from 39 countries at Palais Niederösterreich in Vienna to the **12th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Dialogue 2015**.

Under the slogan “Investments as a motor for Competitiveness and Growth” the high-ranking participants discussed the topics:

- “How can Europe Grow? Can Banks stimulate growth? Investments as a motor. How to create Jobs – regional, sub-regional and Europe-wide? Is a common regional Investment Strategy Possible?”
- “Investment as a motor for Competitiveness and growth. The European way to a more pragmatic aspect. Visions and investor response world-wide.”

The high ranking participants were addressed on behalf of the **Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria** by the **State Secretary** of the Federal Chancellery **Ms. Sonja Stessl** who highlighted the importance of the economic development of the region. The Member of the European Parliament **Mr. Othmar Karas** underlined in his opening speech that digitalisation and industry 4.0 is a real chance.

The **Vice-President of the European Commission H.E. Kristalina Georgieva**, praised the VEF for cooperation in this special times and highlighted that the Vienna Economic Forum is a very important platform for 14 states to identify opportunities for investment in the whole region.

The **First Opening Session** “How can Europe Grow? Can Banks stimulate growth? Investments as a motor. How to create Jobs- regional, sub-regional and Europe-wide? Is a common regional Investment Strategy Possible?” was moderated by Dr. Herbert Stepic, Senior Advisor, Raiffeisen Bank International AG, Honorary Member of the Vienna Economic Forum. The high-level participants from the politics and the bank sector discussed about the importance of investment in the region.

The Main Statement was given by **Ms. Bernadette Gierlinger**, Vice Minister, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of Austria. The representatives of banks – **Ms. Flavia Palanza**, Director of Central and Southeastern Europe at the European Investment Bank (EIB), **Dr. Holger Muent**, Director for Western Balkans of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), **Mr. Chen Fei**, Chairman of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Europe SA, exchanges experiences, the delegates from investors side and Members of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum **Dr. Ognian Donev**, CEO, Sopharma AD, and **DI Peter Umundum**, Board member of Österreichische Post AG explained the view from the investors side.

Mr. Nikolay Tsenkov, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, National Company Industrial Zones of Bulgaria, Member of Vienna Economic Forum, and **Dr. Dragan Kostic**, CEO, Free Zone Pirot, Serbia, gave insightful knowledge of these specific areas.



The very lively **Roundtable discussion** “Investment as a motor for Competitiveness and growth. The European way in a more pragmatic aspect. Visions and investor response world-wide” was moderated by **Mr. Aleksandar Medjedovic**, Executive Board Member, Turkish-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Board Member, Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK), Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum and highlighted investments to promote competitiveness and growth.

The discussants: **DI Dr. Rabensteiner**, Member of the Board of VERBUND AG, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, **Mr. Mag. Stefan Szyszkowitz**, Executive Director, EVN AG, First Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum, **Mr. Arda Ermut**, President of the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT) and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, **Dr. Bertram Burtscher**, Partner Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Cooperation Partner 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, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, **Dr. Milan Parivodic**, CEO, FORINVEST, discussed openly and pragmatically with their own experience about business oriented solutions for the regional cooperation and its further good development in such turbulent times.

In the annual ceremony for the **Vienna Economic Forum Awards Albania** was awarded as “**Country Partner of the Year 2015**” and as “**Cooperation Partner of the Year 2015**” the **Casinos Austria AG** and Chief Executive Officer **Dr. Karl Stoss** were nominated.

The Vienna Economic Forum wishes to thank all members and partners of Vienna Economic Forum for the active participation and constant support. A special thank you goes to: the **Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy**, the **European Commission Representation in Vienna**, the **Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT)**, **Canon CEE GmbH**, **DenizBank AG**, **Sopharma AD** and the **Vienna Insurance Group**.

A special thanks goes out to VEF Main Media Partner **Monitor TV** and **Mr. Thomas Ebner**.



PROGRAM

23 NOVEMBER 2015

LOCATION

**Palais Niederösterreich,
Herrengasse 13, 1010 Vienna**

8:30–9:15 a.m. **REGISTRATION and COFFEE**

9:15 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO (by invitation)**

9:30–10:00 a.m. **OPENING of 12th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Dialogue 2015**

Moderation

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

Welcome Addresses

H.E. Werner FAYMANN, *Federal Chancellor of Austria,
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum*
Mag. Othmar KARAS, *Member of the European Parliament*

Official Opening

Dr. Erhard BUSEK, *President of Vienna Economic Forum,
Former Vice Chancellor of Austria*

10:00–12:00 a.m. **FIRST OPENING SESSION**

**HOW CAN EUROPE GROW? CAN BANKS STIMULATE GROWTH?
INVESTMENTS AS A MOTOR. HOW TO CREATE JOBS – REGIONAL,
SUB-REGIONAL AND EUROPE-WIDE?
IS A COMMON REGIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY POSSIBLE?**

Moderation

Dr. Herbert STEPIC, *Senior Advisor, Raiffeisen Bank International AG,
Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum*

Main Statement

Ms. Bernadette GIERLINGER, *Vice Minister, Federal Ministry of Science,
Research and Economy of Austria*

Participants in the Discussion

H.E. Mr. Arben AHMETAJ, *Minister of Economy of Albania*
Mr. Holger MUENT, *Director for Western Balkans,
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*
H.E. Mr. Furkan CAKO, *Minister for Foreign Investments of Macedonia*
Mr. Fei CHEN, *Chairman, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)
Europe S.A., Luxembourg*
H.E. Ms. Hykmete BAJRAMI, *Minister of Trade and Industry of Kosovo*
Dr. Ognian DONEV, *CEO, Sopharma AD, Bulgaria,
Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum*

DI Peter UMUNDUM, Member of the Board of Oesterreichische Post AG, **Austria**,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Ms. Flavia PALANZA, Director of Central and South Eastern Europe,
European Investment Bank (EIB)

Mr. Nikolay TSENKOV, Member of the Board of Directors,
National Company Industrial Zones, **Bulgaria**, Member of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Dragan KOSTIC, CEO, Free Zone Pirot, **Serbia**

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

12:00–1:00 p.m. **Get together LUNCH BUFFET**

hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and
the Representation of the European Commission in Vienna

1:00–3:00 p.m. **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

**INVESTMENT AS A MOTOR FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH.
THE EUROPEAN WAY IN A MORE PRAGMATIC ASPECT.
VISIONS AND INVESTORS RESPONSE WORLD-WIDE.**

Moderation

Mr. Aleksandar MEDJEDOVIC, Executive Board Member, Turkish-German Chamber of
Commerce and Industry, Berlin/Germany; Board Member, Foreign Economic Relations
Board of Turkey (DEIK), Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum

Main Statement

H.E. Kristalina GEORGIEVA, Vice-President of the European Commission,
European Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources

Participants in the Discussion

H.E. Niko PELESHI, Deputy Prime Minister of **Albania**

DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER, Member of the Board, VERBUND AG, **Austria**,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Meglena KUNEVA, Deputy Prime Minister for European Policies Coordination
and Institutional Affairs of **Bulgaria**

Mr. Stefan SZYSZKOWITZ, Member of the Board EVN AG, **Austria**,
First Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Arda ERMUT, President, Investment Support and Promotion Agency of **Turkey**
(ISPAT), President, **World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)**,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Bertram BURTSCHER, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, **Austria**,
Cooperation Partner of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Vladimir PESHEVSKI, Deputy Prime Minister of **Macedonia**

Dr. Peter HAROLD, CEO, HYPO NOE Group Bank AG, **Austria**,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Gabriel LANSKY, Partner, LANKSY, GANZGER + partner, **Austria**,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Emmanuel FOREST, CEO, BOUYGUES EUROPE, **Belgium**,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Milan PARIVODIC, CEO, ForInvest, **Serbia**,
Partner of Vienna Economic Forum

3:00–3:30 p.m. **Q AND A SESSION**

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

CONCLUSIONS

followed by

ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

PARTNER COUNTRY OF THE YEAR 2015

COOPERATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2015

FAREWELL RECEPTION

for all participants of the 12th Vienna Economic Forum,
hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and Sopharma

4:00–6:00 p.m. **POSSIBILITIES FOR BILATERAL MEETINGS
for VEF Members**

6:00 p.m. **END OF 12TH VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM – VIENNA DIALOGUE 2015**

PHOTO GALLERY

*Family photo**interested auditorium**Opening by President
Dr. Erhard Busek**Ms. Bernadette Gierlinger, Vice Minister,
Federal Ministry of Science, Research
and Economy of Austria
and the first panel**growing interest in a turbulent time**Mag. Othmar Karas, Member of the European Parliament**State Secretary Mag. Sonja Stessl*



*DI Peter Umundum, Member of the Board
Oesterreichische Post AG, Member of the
Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



Family photo of the 1st panel



*Dr. Bertram Burtcher, Freshfields Bruckhaus
Deringer LLP, Arda Ermut, President of
ISPAT, Member of the Board of VEF and
Mag. Stefan Szyszkowitz, Member
of the Board of EVN AG and
First Vice President of VEF*



*The moderator Mr. Aleksandar Medjedovic with
Amb. Dr. Kirtcheva and Mr. Fei Chen, Chairman,
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)
Europe S.A., Luxembourg*



vivid discussion on the panel



*Dr. Jörg Wohjahn, Head of the Representation
of the European Commission in Vienna*



discussions



the Secretary General invites



exchange of experiences



musical framework at the opening



Investment realisation



attentive talks on topics



DI Franz Wessig, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of Austria and H.E. Mr. Andrei Popov, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova, Member of the Ambassadors Committee of Vienna Economic Forum



Family photo 2nd panel



Mr. Arda Ermut, President, Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT), President, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



interested auditorium



Members of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



many talks and exchange of ideas



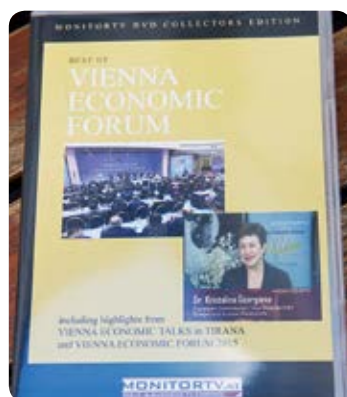
musical conclusions



*H.E. Kristalina Georgieva,
Vice-President of the European Commission,
European Commissioner for Budget
and Human Resources with
Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva*



*listening to H.E. Kristalina Georgieva,
Vice-President of the European Commission,
European Commissioner for Budget
and Human Resources with Secretary*



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Collaboration with strategic Partners of Vienna Economic Forum

A constant aspiration of **Vienna Economic Forum** activities is the aim to continue to **popularize internationally** its ideas, events and visions, to contribute to the expansion of investment opportunities and contacts, and in this way to contribute to a better positioning of its members in the **economic development** of the region.

For this reason in 2015 **Vienna Economic Forum** continues to develop its international contacts and to collaborate with strategic partners from the whole region and abroad. As recognition for these activities and effective expansion Vienna Economic Forum was invited to numerous important, popular and influential international congresses and conferences.

On 7–9 April 2015 the VEF President **Dr. Erhard Busek** and VEF Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** took part at **18th Eurasian Economic Summit of Marmara Group Foundation in Istanbul**. The **Vienna Economic Forum** and the esteemed **Marmara Group Foundation** are long-term strategic partners and have an excellent cooperation. The Marmara Group Foundation was founded in 1985 as a peace and dialogue initiative and contributes greatly to the regional cooperation with their annual Eurasian Economic Summit.

The current economic and political development within and outside Europe deepens further our belief that it is necessary again and again to work for the goals of Vienna Economic Forum and for its aim to support the further strengthen regional cooperation especially in the economic sector, to act as **European Platform in Vienna** for and together with all our partners from the whole region.

Marmara Group Foundation is the VEF-longstanding and important partner in Turkey, and it was a special moment to accept the **Awards “Medal of Honour of Marmara Group Foundation”** at a festive ceremony in the **presence of many presidents and prime ministers of the whole region**.

Another very important Conference took place on **27–28 April 2015** again in Istanbul: Organised by the **World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)** and his President Mr. **Ilker Ayci**, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum in 2015. The **G20 WAIPA Conference on Foreign Direct Investments in Istanbul** was a gathering of the Presidents of Investment Agencies and high ranking decision makers from around the world.

WAIPA is the international organization, which is increasingly becoming an influential platform for bringing Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) on the focus of regional and international agenda.

Turkey as G-20 country and now where WAIPA is headquartered, is also founding Member country of Vienna Economic Forum and this enables a better cooperation for the benefit of the whole region.



photo © Marmara Group Foundation

Award ceremony at the 18th Eurasian Economic Summit of Marmara Group Foundation in April 2015 in Istanbul

The cooperation of organizations like the **Vienna Economic Forum** and the **World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)** is the right way to produce more and useful synergy, especially in the **present days, when we deal with challenges and changes**.

The overarching goal of the conference was to define the areas for greater cooperation to facilitate cross-border investment for sustainable development. In her **key note** speech **VEF-Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** underlines the role of Vienna Economic Forum and the positive experiences in the encouraging Foreign Direct Investment in the region and the making investment climate in Vienna Economic member Countries more attractive, to share ideas about the perspectives of the development and the challenges of the regional and the global market for the foreign investors.

The Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey **H.E. Ali Babacan** and the other high ranking participants from the OECD, UNIDO, UNCTAD discussed the shifting geo-economic and political context within which IPAs now operate.

The Presidents of the Investment Agency from various continents welcomed the members of the newly formed **Vienna Economic Forum Committee of Presidents of Investment Agencies** from the Region and further active cooperation was planned.

On 2 December 2015 the **second annual meeting** of the Advisory Board of the **Eurasian Council on Foreign Affairs (EFCA)** took place in the Imperial Hotel in Vienna. Vienna Economic Forum had a special invitation to participate, together with representatives of the European Commission, UNIDO, UNODA, the Austrian Ministry of Finance, ambassadors and representatives of different countries in Vienna. The Invitation came from **H.E. Erlan Idrissov**, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the first honorary president of **ECFA** and **Dr. Benita Ferrero-Waldner**, former Austrian Foreign Minister and EU-Commissioner and Chairman of the Advisory Board of **Eurasian Council on Foreign Affairs (EFCA)**.

At the numerous talks it was underlined that **Vienna Economic Forum** is open for an active cooperation in the region and preparatory actions steps are already worked on.

Vienna Economic Forum is proud, that **The City of Vienna**, the **Vienna Chamber of Commerce** and the **Vienna Convention Bureau** awarded again the Vienna Economic Forum for the active involvement and organization of the **12th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Dialogue 2015** on 23 November 2015 and found that the **Vienna Economic Forum** has **contributed** thus to the **successful congress year 2015** for the City of Vienna. The recognition as **“Successful congress organizers in Vienna in 2015”** inspires us to continue the good efforts and further development.

MARMARA CONFERENCE, APRIL 2015



The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Vienna Economic Forum and Marmara Group Foundation



President Dr. Busek receives the Medal of Honour



the podium at the opening of the 18th Eurasian Economic Summit of Marmara Group Foundation

G20 WAIPA CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS



President Dr. Erhard Busek and Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva were awarded by the Marmara Group Foundation



for their continues support to the work of the Eurasian Economic Summits organized by the Marmara Group Foundation for the last 10 years and their unwavering efforts for peace, prosperity and stability of the region



Family photo of the high represantives from the world with H.E. Ali Babacan, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs of Turkey



Mr. Ilker Ayci, former President of the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT) and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Chairman of the Board and the Executive Comittee of Turkish Airlines



Key note speech of Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva at the opening of the G20 WAIPA Conference on Foreign Direct Investments in Istanbul



Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva talked with H.E. Ali Babacan, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs of Turkey about Vienna Economic Forum



WAIPA auditorium with interested participants



Mr. Ilker Ayçi opens the conference

URKUNDE

Die Stadt Wien, die Wirtschaftskammer Wien und das Vienna Convention Bureau sprechen ihre Anerkennung und ihren Dank aus für die erfolgreiche Veranstaltung

11th VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM-
VIENNA SUMMIT 2014

24. NOVEMBER 2014

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VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM AWARDS

PARTNER COUNTRY OF THE YEAR 2015



H.E. Roland Bimo, Ambassador of Albania
accepts the award on behalf of
H.E. Prime Minister Edi Rama,
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

COOPERATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2015



Martin Himmelbauer, Head of Corporate
Communications, accepts the award on
behalf of Dr. Karl Stoss, General
Director, Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum



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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

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