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Българско председателство на
Съвета на Европейския съюз

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM SOFIA TALKS 2018 POLITICS MEETS ECONOMY

Under the Auspices
of the Bulgarian Presidency
of the Council of the European Union

Official Side Event of the
EU-Western Balkans Summit

18 May 2018
National Palace of Culture –
Congress Centre Sofia (NDK)
Hall 6, Bulgaria Square 1,
1263 Sofia, Bulgaria



Working Languages: Bulgarian and English
Simultaneous Translation will be provided

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 17 MAY 2018

LOCATION

Hotel Marinela, Blvd “James Bourchier” 100,
1407 g. k. Lozenets, Sofia

6:00–8:00 p.m. **INFORMAL EVENING MEETING**
(by personal invitation)

WESTERN BALKANS – REGION WITH FUTURE

The evening will be moderated by
DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER
Member of the Board of **Verbund AG**
President of Vienna Economic Forum

Informal Talks with high representatives from
the Economy and the Politics from the region

Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ
President of **Serbian Economists Association**
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Symeon TSOMOKOS
Founder and Chairman of **Delphi Economic Forum**
Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum

Ms. Danela ARSOVSKA
President of **Macedonian Chambers of Commerce**
Mr. Gordana MILINIĆ
Director of **Foreign Investment Promotion Agency**
of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Speaker of Honour
H.E. Mr. Emil KARANIKOLOV
Minister of Economy of **Bulgaria**

Followed by
WELCOME COCKTAIL
hosted by the Board of
Vienna Economic Forum
and **Österreichische Post AG**
(by personal invitation)



FRIDAY, 18 MAY 2018

LOCATION

The National Palace of Culture –
Congress Centre Sofia (NDK), Hall 6

8:45–9:45 a.m. **REGISTRATION**

9:45–9:55 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO** (by invitation)

10:00–10:30 a.m. **OPENING OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM –
SOFIA TALKS 2018**

Moderation

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

Opening Statement

H.E. Ms. Lilyana PAVLOVA
Minister of the **Bulgarian Presidency of the**
Council of the European Union 2018

Greetings

H.E. Ms. Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA
Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and
Minister of Foreign Affairs of **Bulgaria**

Impulse Statement

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

10:30 a.m.–
12:30 p.m. **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION –
Politics Meets Economy**

**REGIONAL COOPERATION AS A PART
OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.
THE WESTERN BALKANS:
REALITY AND EXPECTATION –
WHO TAKES THE RESPONSIBILITY?**

Powered by



Moderation of the Discussion

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

Introduction to the Discussion

H.E. Mr. Boyko BORISSOV
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

**Participants from the Side of the Politics:
Regional Leaders from the Western Balkans**

H.E. Mr. Edi RAMA
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Mr. Denis ZVIZDIĆ
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Mr. Ramush HARADINAJ
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Mr. Zoran ZAEV
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Mr. Duško MARKOVIĆ
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Ms. Ana BRNABIĆ

Participants from the Side of the Economy

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

DI Peter UMUNDUM
Member of the Board of **Österreichische Post AG**
Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Alejandro PLATER
CEO/CTO, **A1 Telekom Austria Group**
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Ognian DONEV
Chairman of the Board of Directors &
Executive Director, **Sopharma PLC, Bulgaria**
Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum

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

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

Mr. Rocco Luigi BUBBICO, PhD
European Investment Bank (EIB)
Luxembourg

CONCLUDING REMARKS
by the Moderator

CLOSING REMARKS
by the Secretary General of
Vienna Economic Forum

12:30–2:00 p.m. **Prolonged informal discussion**
for all participants
in the framework of a
GET-TOGETHER LUNCH BUFFET
hosted by the Board of
Vienna Economic Forum
and **Sopharma PLC**



2:00 p.m. **END OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM –
SOFIA TALKS 2018**