

INTERNATIONAL  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANISATION



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

Go South East

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TRANSPARENCY REGISTER  
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION

# VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



## REVIEW 2017

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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

### BESCHEID

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](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo) • Contact: [www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo/contact](http://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

## DEAR MEMBERS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

In the spirit of our tradition, we want to look back to the year 2017 with this brochure and we are pleased to announce that it was another good year of the 14-year success story of Vienna Economic Forum. A year that, thanks to your support, has continued to bring trust and recognition to all of us – regionally as well as Europe- and even worldwide.



The success story of the Vienna Economic Forum continued in May 2017 with the **Vienna Economic Talks – Belgrade Meeting 2017**, which took place in cooperation with the **Serbian Association of Economists** in the **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia**. We were privileged to organize our Belgrade Meeting 2017 under the **patronage of the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker** and the event received great positive response, not only in Serbia but also across all of the Balkans.

On 16 June 2017, Vienna Economic Forum together with the Ambassadors of the Member Countries hosted the **16th Traditional Garden Party** “Culinary and musical journey through the Partner Countries of Vienna Economic Forum” **IN A DIFFERENT WAY**, in the **market town of Gutenstein**, with guests from 20 different countries at the theatre-tent of the Raimundspiele Gutenstein. In addition to the presented national and regional culinary specialties, the national dances of various dance groups provided, once again, proof of all the many similarities connecting the people of the region from the Adriatic to the Black Sea.

**The 14th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2017** has brought together high-ranking participants from **38 countries** in the Novomatic Forum, in the heart of Vienna, for a lively and pragmatic discussion under the motto **“Economy meets Politics”**, to seek for concrete solutions for the support of the good development of the regional economy.

Under the same motto **“Economy meets Politics”**, we would like to continue to contribute to the cohesion of Europe in 2018 and build a bridge between **Vienna Economic Forum – Sofia Talks 2018**, which we organize **under the auspices of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2018**, and the **15th Jubilee Vienna Economic Forum**, which will take place on 19 November 2018 during the **Austrian presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2018**.

**We are proud that Vienna Economic Forum – Sofia Talks 2018** is recognized as the **Official Side Event of the EU-Western Balkans Summit 2018** and look forward to your active participation.

Dear Members, Partners and Friends of the Vienna Economic Forum,

We would like to sincerely thank you on behalf of the Board of the Vienna Economic Forum for your constant and trusting support. With your economic activities, your company, and you personally, are writing the story of the growing together of the **Vienna Economic Forum region – a European region!**, which needs good economic development more than ever. With your initiatives and creativity, you will inspire our joint project – Vienna Economic Forum, for further active cooperation in the entire region and beyond.

**Thank you!**

DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner  
President

Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva  
Secretary General

## BOARD OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

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photo Mag. Neumann © Novomatic AG

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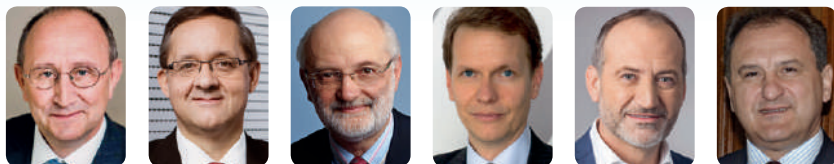
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Founding Member of Vienna Economic Forum

Board Member



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-  **Mr. Alejandro PLATER** *Board Member*  
Chief Executive Officer & Chief Operating Officer,  
A1 Telekom Austria Group
-  **Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ** *Board Member*  
President of the Serbian Association of Economists, Serbia



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Member of Vienna Economic Forum
-  **Mag. Marika LEVENA**, *Strategic Advisor, European Investment Bank (EIB)*  
Member of Vienna Economic Forum
-  **Dr. Friedhelm BOSCHERT**, *Founder, MINDFUL SOLUTIONS and*  
*Executive Advisor, Member of Vienna Economic Forum*

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-  **Mag. Gregor HÖPLER**, *Head of Management Secretariat*  
*Raiffeisen Bank International AG*
-  **Mag. Ekkehart STREMITZER**, *Managing Director*  
*AME International GmbH*

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- H.E. Mr. Tomislav LEKO, *Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- H.E. Dr. Ivan SIRAKOV, *Ambassador of Bulgaria*
- H.E. Dr. Vesna CVJETKOVIĆ, *Ambassador of Croatia*
- H.E. Mag. Sami UKELLI, *Ambassador of Kosovo*



- H.E. Ms. Loretta ZAKAREVIČIENĖ, *Ambassador of Lithuania*
- H.E. Dr. Vasilka POPOSKA-TRENEVSKA, *Ambassador of Macedonia*
- H.E. Mr. Victor OSIPOV, *Ambassador of Moldova*
- H.E. Mr. Željko PEROVIĆ, *Ambassador of Montenegro*



- H.E. Mr. Bogdan MAZURU, *Ambassador of Romania*
- H.E. Mag. Ksenija ŠKRILEC, *Ambassador of Slovenia*
- H.E. Mr. Mehmet Ferden ÇARIKÇI, *Ambassador of Turkey*
- H.E. Dr. Oleksandr SCHERBA, *Ambassador of Ukraine*

The Board of Vienna Economic Forum has the honour to announce that the following **newly elected Prime Ministers of the Vienna Economic Forum Member Countries** have joined the **Patrons Committee of Vienna Economic Forum**:

- H.E. Ramush HARADINAJ**, Prime Minister of **Kosovo**
- H.E. Zoran ZAEV**, Prime Minister of **Macedonia**
- H.E. Pavel FILIP**, Prime Minister of **Moldova**
- H.E. Duško MARKOVIĆ**, Prime Minister of **Montenegro**

We are very honoured to call **Dr. Heinz FISCHER**, former President of the Republic of Austria (2004–2016) a **Member of the Patrons Committee** of Vienna Economic Forum.

## HONORARY COMMITTEE OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

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**Dr. Franz WOHLFAHRT**, *Lawyer, Honorary Consul of Croatia with  
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**KR Hanno SORAVIA**, *CEO of CEE and SEE, Soravia Group  
Founding Member of Vienna Economic Forum*

**Dr. Johann SOLLGRUBER**, *European Commission Representation  
in Austria*

**KR Prof. Waltraud STEINBÖCK**, *long-time partner of  
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Parliament of Montenegro*

**Ms. Dragijana RADONJIĆ-PETROVIĆ**, *Partner, MD Solution  
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**Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ewald NOWOTNY**, *Governor  
Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

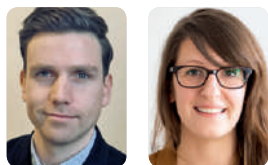
**DI Dr. Erwin PRÖLL**, *Former Governor of Lower Austria (1992–2017)*

**Dr. Karl STOSS**, *President of the Austrian Olympic Committee  
Founding Member of Vienna Economic Forum*

**Dr. Milan PARIVODIĆ**, *Principal Attorney at law  
Parivodic Advokati/Lawyers, Serbia*



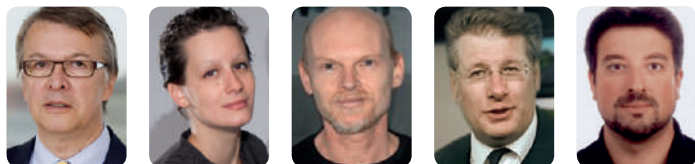
## VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM IS PROUD TO WORK WITH



**Mr. Henning HORSTMAYER, LL.M.**, *Project Manager*  
*Assistant to the Secretary General*



**Ms. Rebecca WALTER, MA**, *Project Manager, Assistant to the Board*



**Mag. Christian PULTAR**, *Managing Partner*  
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**Ms. Sheila EHM**, *brennheiß serviert: Grafikdesign & Fotografie*



**Mag. Peter KYSELA**, *Managing Partner, DATANET Solutions GmbH*  
*IT Consultant*



**Mag. Thomas EBNER**, *Senior News Editor, MonitorTV*  
*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



**Mr. Alejandro PLATER**

*Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Chief Executive Officer &  
Chief Operating Officer  
A1 Telekom Austria Group*

“As a leading telecommunications provider, the A1 Telekom Austria Group has around 24 million mobile and fixed-line customers in the CEE region. Beyond that, via its subsidiary A1 Digital, the Group is gaining ground even beyond its traditional geographical footprint. The Group’s vision ‘Empowering digital life’ expresses that the self-conception of the A1 Telekom Austria Group goes far beyond the provision of infrastructure, connectivity and bandwidth. It sees itself as a European pioneer and driver of digitalization with the expertise to create and maintain digital business models and solutions from concept to operation.”

*„Als führender Kommunikationsanbieter betreut die A1 Telekom Austria Group im CEE-Raum rund 24 Millionen Mobil- und Festnetzkunden. Darüber hinaus erschließt die Gruppe mit ihrer Tochtergesellschaft A1 Digital auch außerhalb ihres bisherigen geografischen Footprints neue Einzugsgebiete. Ihre Vision „Empowering digital life“ bringt zum Ausdruck, dass das Selbstverständnis der A1 Telekom Austria Group längst über das Bereitstellen von Infrastruktur, Konnektivität und Bandbreite hinausgeht. Sie versteht sich als europäischer Pionier und Treiber der Digitalisierung mit dem Know-how, digitale Geschäftsmodelle und Lösungen von der ersten Konzeptionierung bis zum Betrieb zu kreieren und zu pflegen.“*

manage.  
pursue goals.  
be efficient.  
think strategically.  
be on top of things.  
network.  
digitalise my business.

**I can communicate successfully.**

set trends.  
shape the future.  
be international.  
be innovative.  
act quickly.  
get a 24/7 service.  
remain unique.

**I can do anything.**

With a business partner who can do anything. Connectivity, Communication, IT Services, Security, Customer Service - offered by one single provider, for every company size and nationwide in Austria.

#BusinessChange





**Mag. Heinz MESSINGER**

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

*Managing Director  
AME International GmbH*

“Traditionally, Austria has strong bonds to the region of Vienna Economic Forum. AME International GmbH and myself are actively working on strengthening the Eastern European healthcare systems for more than 20 years, creating a sustainable benefit for their population. Our latest success in the region is implementing and establishing a nationwide health information exchange e-health platform for Albania, connecting each local hospital to one common system to ensure that patients data and medical history are available when necessary. We are looking forward to repeating this success in neighbouring countries.”

*„Österreich verbindet eine lange Tradition mit dem Wirkungsbereich des Vienna Economic Forum. AME International GmbH und ich selbst sind seit mehr als zwanzig Jahren in der Region aktiv und bemühen uns u.a. durch das Upgrading von Spitälern und weiteren Projekten im Gesundheitsbereich einen nachhaltig wirksamen Vorteil für die Bevölkerung dieser Länder zu kreieren. Unser jüngstes Projekt in der Region ist die Implementierung eines landesweiten virtuellen Gesundheitsinformationssystem in Albanien, die virtuelle Vernetzung aller Spitäler, um zu gewährleisten, dass Ärzte zu jeder Zeit Zugriff auf die medizinische Geschichte seiner Patienten haben. Wir würden uns freuen, diesen Erfolg in angrenzenden Ländern, wiederholen zu können.“*



Medical technology at its best

„We improve healthcare delivery by using Cutting Edge Technology“

AME International GmbH is a comprehensive partner in the field of health care with over 23 years of experience on an international level. As a total solution provider we unite know-how and competence in the field of health care technology projects and provide customer-tailored solutions for our clients. Our customers receive comprehensive concepts for the realization of their projects and are supported by our competencies at all stages of the project.

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- ▶ Medical Package Solutions
- ▶ Turn Key
- ▶ Consulting & Hospital Engineering



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**Mr. Emmanuel FOREST**

*Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*CEO  
BOUYGUES Europe SA  
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 Forums 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.





**Mag. Hermann ANDERL**

Vice-President  
of Vienna Economic Forum

Managing Director  
Canon CEE GmbH

“Canon, world-leader in imaging solutions, has published highlights from its Office Insights 2017 report, which reveals that Central and Eastern Europe has a growing intent to deploy Managed Print Service and cloud services for private as well as public sector – despite restrictive budgets and inherent concerns around security. The report found that even though there are signs of appreciation of the benefits of digital technology among Central & Eastern European businesses, the adoption process has only just begun. We are also seeing a lot of growing opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe for other areas of business such as graphic arts, pro photo and video.”

*„Canon, weltweit führender Imaging-Solutions Anbieter, hat die Schwerpunkte aus seinem Office Insights 2017 Bericht veröffentlicht. Daraus geht hervor, dass in Mittel- und Osteuropa vermehrt die Absicht Managed Print Service und Cloud Services für den privaten und öffentlichen Sektor einzusetzen besteht und dies trotz restriktiver Budgets und inhärenter Sicherheitsbedenken. Der Bericht belegt, dass der Adoptionsprozess gerade erst begonnen hat, obwohl die Vorteile der Digitaltechnologie bereits jetzt von mittel- und osteuropäischen Unternehmen geschätzt werden. Auch für andere Geschäftsfelder wie Grafik, Pro-Foto und Video sehen wir in Mittel- und Osteuropa eine Vielzahl von Wachstumschancen.“*



# THE EVOLUTION OF THE DIGITAL WORKPLACE

Canon Office Insights Report 2018

The workplace is rapidly changing. Flexible start times, working from home, mobile workers and hot desking and employees who interact daily across international boundaries, all contribute to a diverse and sometimes difficult to manage landscape. With big data on the rise, security and data management issues are evolving. At the same time, businesses are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of utilising information quickly and securely, no matter where their employees are based or what industry they work in.



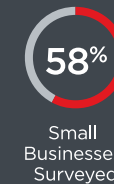
The research covers IT decision-makers, influencers in the purchase process and significant end users. Insights have been collected from technology decision-makers and end users located in Western, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, the Middle East and Africa. These findings are particularly valuable because it's the voice of businesses directly. They're telling us what's happening today and what they expect tomorrow.

**Martin Wootton**  
Breaking Blue




See the bigger picture

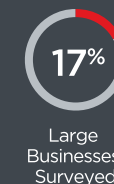
**2,550** SURVEYS CONDUCTED  
**9+** BUSINESS UNITS  
**4** BUSINESS FUNCTIONS



**39%**   
of respondents are  
decision-makers



**24%**   
of respondents  
are end users



**37%**   
of respondents  
are influencers

For more information on how businesses are operating in the digital environment, contact your Canon representative or download the 2018 Office Insights Report from [www.canon-europe.com/officeinsights2018](http://www.canon-europe.com/officeinsights2018)



**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 know-how. Within this framework, the Vienna Economic Forum provides the ideal platform for new and creative cooperation concepts on a regional as well as on an international level. We focus particularly on undertakings that are economically strongly linked to the European Union. We are known for our pro-active and comprehensive customer services and offer our corporate partners a wide range of banking products. Beside our support for importers and exporters in the field of trade financing, we also provide classical banking products and project financing for our customers. Thanks to the close collaboration with our parent company DenizBank A.Ş., which was awarded multiple times for its developments in information technology in the banking industry and was named the most innovative bank of the year at BAI Banking Innovation Awards in 2014 and 2016, we are able to offer technologically highly advanced solutions throughout all customer segments.”

*„Seit ihrer Gründung 1996 fungiert die DenizBank AG erfolgreich als Brückenbauer im internationalen Finanzdienstleistungssektor und unterstützt Wirtschaftstreibenden mit ihrem Know-How. Das Vienna Economic Forum bietet dabei den idealen Gesprächsraum für neue und kreative Kooperationskonzepte sowohl auf regionaler als auch auf internationaler Ebene. Besonderen Fokus legen wir dabei auf Unternehmen, die wirtschaftlich eng mit der Europäischen Union verbunden sind. Bekannt für unsere proaktive und umfangreiche Kundenbetreuung bieten wir unseren Partnern im Bereich Corporate & Commercial Banking ein breitgefächertes Produktportfolio an. Neben der Betreuung von Importeuren und Exporteuren im Rahmen von Handelsfinanzierungen unterstützen wir unsere Kunden auch durch klassische Bankdienstleistungen und Projektfinanzierungen. Die enge Zusammenarbeit mit der DenizBank A.Ş., die mehrfach für ihre technischen Entwicklungen im Bankensektor und im Rahmen der BAI Banking Innovation Awards 2014 und 2016 als innovativste Bank des Jahres ausgezeichnet wurde, ermöglicht es uns, in allen Kundensegmenten technisch hochentwickelte Lösungswege zu bieten.“*



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**Mag. Stefan SZYSZKOWITZ**

*Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Spokesman of the Executive Board  
EVN AG*

“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.”

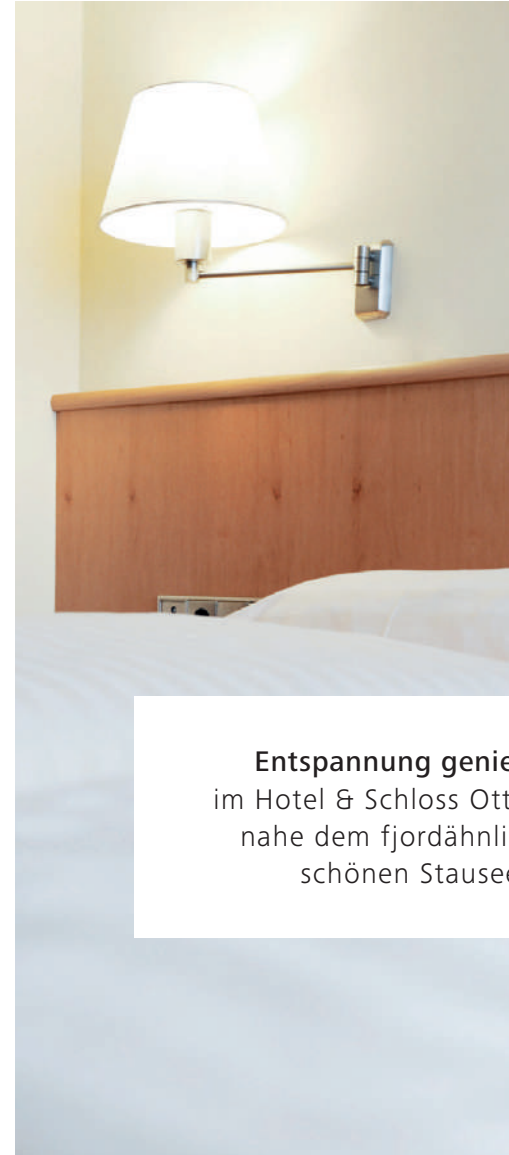
*„Seit unserem Markteintritt in Südosteuropa vor etwas mehr als zehn Jahren haben wir mit unseren Investitionen in die Energieversorgung einen nachhaltigen Beitrag zur langfristigen Verbesserung der örtlichen Versorgungsinfrastruktur und damit zur wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung in Bulgarien und Mazedonien 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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**Dr. Willibald PLESSER**

*Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Partner  
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“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 in the region network 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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**Ms. Polina CHRISTOVA**

*Member of the Board  
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*Executive Director  
Head of Group Financial  
Institutions and  
Business Support  
HYPO NOE Gruppe Bank AG*

“The tremendous potential of the economic and social development in the Danube region and the persistently positive development of the economy promote the positive perceptions and, furthermore, the willingness of local players to invest. Next to the public infrastructure projects, the HYPO NOE is focusing on solutions for regional leading companies as well as on real estate financing and management. For 130 years already, a particular center of attention are the regionality, sustainability, customer proximity, strong customer relations and expertise in the region. In this way, the HYPO NOE provides a valuable support in promoting the development of the Danube region.”

*„Das enorme ökonomische und gesellschaftliche Entwicklungspotenzial des Donauraums und die anhaltend erfreuliche Konjunktorentwicklung fördern die positiv wahrnehmbare Stimmungslage und die Investitionsfreudigkeit der lokalen Akteure. Mit ihrem Fokus, der neben öffentlichen Infrastrukturprojekten, auch Lösungen für regionale Leitbetriebe sowie Immobilienfinanzierungen als auch dessen Management umfasst, stehen für die HYPO NOE seit bereits 130 Jahren Regionalität, Nachhaltigkeit, Kundennähe, starke Kundenbeziehung und die Funktion als Know-How-Träger in der Region im Mittelpunkt. Die HYPO NOE leistet dadurch einen wertvollen Beitrag und fördert die regionale Entwicklung im Donauraum.“*



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**Mr. Arda ERMUT**

Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum

President  
Investment Support and Promotion Agency  
Turkey

“As the President of the official investment promotion agency of Turkey and as the board member of the Vienna Economic Forum, I strongly attach vital importance to the VEF region. We collaborate with business associations and government institutions to realize B2B meetings with potential investors, organize their visits to Turkey, and help them with their entire investment process. In addition, we often attend investment related meetings and seminars all around the region. Turkey is a dynamic and growing G20 economy that uniquely links the East with the West. We are supporting the growth of international investors through a business-friendly environment and we provide access to large domestic and international markets. In this regard, investors can always count on our support while planning to invest in Turkey.”

*„Als Präsident der offiziellen Investitionsförderungsagentur der Türkei und als Vorstandsmitglied des Vienna Economic Forum, lege ich große Bedeutung in die VEF Region. Wir arbeiten mit Wirtschaftsverbänden und Regierungsinstitutionen zusammen, um B2B-Treffen mit potenziellen Investoren zu organisieren, ihre Besuche in der Türkei zu organisieren und ihnen bei ihrem gesamten Investitionsprozess zu helfen. Darüber hinaus nehmen wir häufig an investitionsbezogenen Sitzungen und Seminaren in der gesamten Region teil. Die Türkei ist eine dynamische und wachsende G20-Wirtschaft, die den Osten in einzigartiger Weise mit dem Westen verbindet. Wir unterstützen das Wachstum internationaler Investoren durch ein unternehmerfreundliches Umfeld und bieten Zugang zu großen nationalen und internationalen Märkten. In dieser Hinsicht können Anleger immer auf unsere Unterstützung zählen, wenn sie planen, in der Türkei zu investieren.“*

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current prices

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### Amb. Victor JACKOVICH

*Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*President, Jackovich International, U.S.A.*

“Following many years of active engagement in diplomacy on behalf of the U.S. government, primarily in regions of direct interest to the Vienna Economic Forum, my business and commerce activities continue throughout these regions. My belief is that the tremendous potential of Southeast Europe and neighboring regions must continue to be developed, and the current and looming challenges must not deter tangible progress and sustainable prosperity. The continued integration of Southeast Europe into Euro-Atlantic institutions, notably the European Union, presents unique circumstances that can be addressed and resolved. Full integration would undoubtedly result in a significant milestone reflective of the prowess of Europe. History vividly illustrates the inextricable link between good governance and good politics and the success of a transparent and durable business environment. Vigorous economic growth and development can be powerful mechanisms in mitigating political differences. For these reasons and others, facilitating strong Euro-Atlantic economic links is a priority in my work. This is the essence, I believe, of the Vienna Economic Forum and its mission in the region.”

*„Nach vielen Jahren aktiven Mitwirkens in der Diplomatie im Auftrag der US-Regierung, vor allem in Regionen, die für das Vienna Economic Forum von unmittelbarem Interesse sind, setze ich meine Geschäftsaktivitäten in diesen Regionen fort. Ich bin der Überzeugung, dass das enorme Potenzial Südosteuropas und benachbarter Regionen weiter entwickelt werden muss und dass die gegenwärtigen und drohenden Herausforderungen den greifbaren Fortschritt und nachhaltigen Wohlstand nicht beeinträchtigen dürfen. Eine sich fortsetzende Integration von Südosteuropa in euro-atlantische Institutionen, insbesondere in die Europäische Union, bietet einzigartige Umstände, die angegangen und gelöst werden können. Eine vollständige Integration würde zweifellos zu einem bedeutenden Meilenstein führen, der die Leistungsfähigkeit Europas widerspiegelt. Die Geschichte veranschaulicht eingehend den untrennbaren Zusammenhang zwischen guter Regierungsführung und guter Politik und dem Erfolg eines transparenten und dauerhaften Geschäftsumfelds. Kräftiges wirtschaftliches Wachstum und Entwicklung können mächtige Mechanismen zur Milderung politischer Differenzen sein. Aus diesen und anderen Gründen ist die Förderung starker europäisch-atlantischer Wirtschaftsbeziehungen eine Priorität meiner Arbeit. Das ist meines Erachtens der Kern des Vienna Economic Forum und seiner Mission in der Region.“*

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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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**Mag. Harald NEUMANN**

*Vice-President  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*CEO  
Novomatic AG*

photo © Christoph Thamböffer

“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 die Realisierung wirtschaftlicher Interessen in jenen Regionen, wo auch NOVOMATIC stark präsent ist. Aufgrund unseres frühen Markteintritts haben wir uns in diesen Ländern hervorragend positioniert. Die NOVOMATIC-Gruppe erwirtschaftet rund ein Viertel ihres Umsatzes in den Mitgliedsstaaten des Vienna Economic Forum. Dabei sind technologischer Wandel, wirtschaftliches Wachstum und positive Veränderungen regulatorischer Rahmenbedingungen wesentliche Treiber unseres Erfolgs, die laufend neue Märkte und Geschäftsmodelle eröffnen. Ein starkes Netzwerk wie das Vienna Economic Forum trägt dazu bei, unsere führende Position weiter auszubauen.“*



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**DI Peter UMUNDUM**

*Vice-President  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Member of the Board  
Österreichische Post AG*

“The focus of the VEF and the international strategy of Austrian Post are perfectly complementing each other, since the Austrian Post has been investing successfully in CEE and Turkey for many years. With our strong subsidiaries in this region, we support added value and development of the local economy. The VEF has shown in recent years that it is an appropriate platform to implement joint projects and provide support successfully. With our engagement in many partner countries of the VEF, the Austrian Post can also contribute its experience in the joint dialogue ideally.”

*„Der Fokus des VEF und die internationale Strategie der Österreichischen Post ergänzen sich optimal, denn die Post investiert schon sehr lange und erfolgreich in CEE und der Türkei. Mit unseren starken Töchtern in der Region fördern wir die Wertschöpfung und somit die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung vor Ort. In den letzten Jahren hat das VEF gezeigt, dass es eine geeignete Plattform ist, um gemeinsame Projekte erfolgreich umzusetzen und zu unterstützen. Durch das Engagement der Österreichischen Post in vielen Partnerländern des VEF können wir auch unsere Erfahrungen optimal in den gemeinsamen Dialog einbringen.“*

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**Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ**

*Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*President  
Serbian Association of Economists  
Serbia*

“Serbian Association of Economists (SAE) nurtures strong cooperation with relevant organizations and institutions in the country, EU Member States and Western Balkan countries (such as the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Croatian Association of Economists, Bled School of Management, Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce, Vienna Economic Forum etc.). Through organization of joint conferences and meetings and different projects support, SAE aims to contribute to the improvement of the economic system, regulation and economic policy, promotion and enhancement of regional economic connectivity, regional investment incentives, and competitiveness increase.

In the recent period, Serbia’s accession to the EU is being placed in the context of the Western Balkan cooperation. Regional co-operation is an essential element of stabilization and association – a process guiding Serbia and the Western Balkan countries toward 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 Balkanländer (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. Zurzeit 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 des westlichen Balkans auf dem Weg zur EU-Mitgliedschaft führt und ein Schlüsselfaktor für politische Stabilität, Sicherheit und wirtschaftlichen Wohlstand ist.“*



**F**ounded 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.

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**Ing. Wolfgang HESOUN**

*Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*General Director  
SIEMENS AG Österreich*

“Siemens is a successful leading company in Austria and the 18 CEE countries, for which we bear responsibility out of our office in Vienna. If we handle orders with our approximately 20,700 employees and 16 plants in the CEE region, the local economy benefits because we regularly bring in partners, suppliers, logistics companies, as well as research expertise and know-how from outside our company. Technical excellence, high reliability and regional diversity are some of our strengths that drive electrification, automation and digitization to the benefit of our customers and their competitiveness. With creative inventiveness, we implement sustainable projects and create added value for society.”

*„Siemens ist ein erfolgreicher Leitbetrieb in Österreich und den 18 CEE-Ländern, für die wir aus Wien heraus Verantwortung tragen. Wickeln wir mit unseren rund 20.700 Mitarbeitern und 16 Werken der CEE-Region Aufträge ab, profitiert die lokale Wirtschaft, weil wir regelmäßig Partner, Zulieferer, Logistikbetriebe, und auch Forschungsexpertise und Know-how von außerhalb unseres Unternehmens dazu holen. Technische Exzellenz, hohe Verlässlichkeit sowie die regionale Vielfalt sind einige unserer Stärken, mit der wir Elektrifizierung, Automatisierung und Digitalisierung zum Vorteil unserer Kunden und deren Wettbewerbsfähigkeit vorantreiben. Mit kreativem Erfindergeist setzen wir nachhaltige Projekte um und schaffen einen Mehrwert für die Gesellschaft.“*

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**Dr. Ognian DONEV**

*Vice-President  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

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

“We are honored and happy that Vienna Economic Forum – Sofia Talks 2018 will be held in Bulgaria. We hope to set the tone for a future of initiatives implementing the expertise and experience of the Forum in the region for the benefit of the Bulgarian business and population. We hope to create the backbone of a successful partnership and we express our readiness to support any future projects of the Vienna Economic Forum in our country. Our mission at Sopharma is to improve the quality of life of people, but we realize we can be part of the materialization of this mission only through the efficient exchange of good practices. I believe that the Vienna Economic Forum provides an excellent opportunity for all of us to achieve this. I am positive that this year’s event is an expression of the will to go forward with improving the business and social climate in the region.”

*„Wir freuen uns, dass Vienna Economic Forum – Sofia Talks 2018 in Bulgarien stattfindet. Wir hoffen, den Ton für eine Zukunft von Initiativen anzugeben, die das Know-how und die Erfahrung des Forums in der Region zum Wohle der bulgarischen Wirtschaft und Bevölkerung umsetzen. Wir hoffen, das Rückgrat einer erfolgreichen Partnerschaft zu schaffen und sind erklären uns bereit, alle zukünftigen Projekte des Vienna Economic Forum in unserem Land zu unterstützen. Unsere Mission bei Sopharma ist es, die Lebensqualität der Menschen zu verbessern, aber wir erkennen, dass wir nur durch den effizienten Austausch guter Praktiken Teil der Verwirklichung dieser Mission sein können. Ich glaube, dass Vienna Economic Forum eine hervorragende Gelegenheit für uns alle bietet, dies zu erreichen. Ich bin überzeugt, dass die diesjährige Veranstaltung Ausdruck des Willens ist, das wirtschaftliche und soziale Klima in der Region zu verbessern.“*

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**DI Dr. Günther  
RABENSTEINER**

*President  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Member of the Board  
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“In 2017 the Vienna Economic Forum organized numerous activities in Austria and in the Balkan region to further strengthen the regional cooperation of our countries. 2018 will give even more possibilities for us to act as a platform for the European integration, as Austria will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in July. Let’s bring in our joint expertise to establish and ensure the regional and economic cooperation in the broad European context based also on cross border projects.”

*„Im Jahr 2017 organisierte Vienna Economic Forum zahlreiche Aktivitäten in Österreich und auf dem Balkan, um die regionale Zusammenarbeit unserer Länder weiter zu stärken. 2018 wird uns noch mehr Möglichkeiten geben, als Plattform für die europäische Integration zu fungieren, da Österreich im Juli die Präsidentschaft des Rates der Europäischen Union übernehmen wird. Lassen Sie uns unsere gemeinsame Expertise einbringen, um die regionale und wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit im breiten europäischen Kontext auch auf der Grundlage von grenzüberschreitenden Projekten zu etablieren und sicherzustellen.“*

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**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 regional economic cooperation, from the Adria to the Black Sea, and provides crucial impetus for joint projects and the further development of this region. Vienna Airport serves as an important business gateway, handling more than two million passengers flying to this region. The airport is also a high-performance link to the international economy, handling a total of 24.4 million passengers travelling to 195 destinations in 70 countries. Therefore, all partners can only profit from the close co-operation and intensive exchange of views and dialogue between the Vienna Economic Forum and all its supporters and individuals involved on the one hand and Vienna Airport on the other hand.”

*„Das Vienna Economic Forum fördert die regionale wirtschaftliche Kooperation von der Adria bis zum Schwarzen Meer und setzt wichtige Impulse für gemeinsame Projekte und die weitere Entwicklung dieser Region. Der Flughafen Wien ist mit jährlich über zwei Millionen Passagieren in diese Region ein wichtiges wirtschaftliches Gateway und mit insgesamt 24,4 Mio. Passagieren und 195 Destinationen in 70 Ländern eine leistungsfähige Anbindung an die internationale Wirtschaft. Von einer engen Zusammenarbeit und einem intensiven Austausch und Dialog zwischen dem Vienna Economic Forum mit all seinen Unterstützern und beteiligten Personen und dem Flughafen Wien und einem engen Austausch können daher nur alle Partner profitieren.“*

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**Dr. Ludwig NIESSEN**

*Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*Member of the Board and  
COO/CTO  
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“As operator of stock exchange infrastructure within Central and Eastern Europe, the Vienna Stock Exchange is highly appreciated worldwide for its unique know-how. The Vienna Stock Exchange cooperates with over ten markets in the area of real-time data dissemination, index calculation and operation of trading infrastructure. Our success in the establishment of this network is rooted in our ability to build bridges. We are looking forward to exchanging ideas and know-how within the Vienna Economic Forum.”

*“Als langjähriger Betreiber von Börsen-Infrastruktur in Zentral- und Osteuropa wird die Wiener Börse weltweit für ihr Know How geschätzt. Die Wiener Börse kooperiert mit über zehn Märkten im Bereich der Echtzeit-Datenverteilung, Indexberechnung sowie dem Betrieb von Handelssystemen. Unser Erfolg im Aufbau des ausgedehnten Netzwerkes liegt in der Fähigkeit begründet, Brücken zu schlagen. Den Austausch mit führenden Köpfen in der Region möchten wir auch in diesem hochkarätigen Forum weiter pflegen.“*

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**KR Peter HANKE**

*Member of the Board  
of Vienna Economic Forum*

*CEO  
Wien Holding GmbH*

“As a company of the City of Vienna, it is important to establish new contacts in order to use synergies. Thus we can give new impetus to further strengthen Vienna’s position as a successful business location. With the Vienna Economic Forum we have found a strong partner to support us in this endeavor. The cross-border network of the association facilitates networking in the region from the Adriatic to the Black Sea and thus promotes cooperation between the member countries.”

*„Als Unternehmen der Stadt ist es wichtig, neue Kontakte zu knüpfen um Synergieeffekte bestmöglich zu nutzen. So können wir als Wien Holding neue Impulse geben, um Wiens Position als erfolgreicher Wirtschaftsstandort noch weiter zu stärken. Mit dem Vienna Economic Forum haben wir einen starken Partner gefunden, der uns dabei unterstützt. Die grenzüberschreitende Arbeit des Vereins erleichtert die Vernetzung in der Region von der Adria bis zum Schwarzen Meer und fördert so die Kooperation zwischen den einzelnen Mitgliedsländern.“*



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**Dr. h.c. Karl BLECHA**

*Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum*

*Former Federal Minister  
of Interior of the Republic  
of Austria*

*President  
Pensioners Association  
of Austria  
Austrian Senior  
Citizens Council*

“We, the Austrian Pensioners Association, of which I am the President, have supported the use of the Internet **in the wide region of the Vienna Economic Forum** through the provision of numerous training courses by the over 60-year-old Austrians. This took place through well-frequented weekend events in numerous local organizations of our association.”

„Wir vom Pensionistenverband Österreichs, dessen Präsident ich bin, haben **in der weiten Region des Vienna Economic Forums** durch zahlreiche Schulungen die Nutzung des Internets durch die über 60-jährigen Österreicherinnen und Österreicher gefördert, unterstützt und angeboten. Dies geschah durch stark frequentierte Wochenendveranstaltungen in zahlreichen Ortsorganisationen unseres Verbandes.“

## NEW HORIZONS FOR VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM





## NEW HORIZONS FOR VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

### General Assembly of Vienna Economic Forum on 28 April 2017

The **Annual General Assembly** of Vienna Economic Forum took place at Novomatic Forum on 28 April 2017. As **President of Vienna Economic Forum** was elected **DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER**, Member of the Board of Verbund AG. The long-time President **Dr. Erhard Busek**, former Vice Chancellor of Austria, was elected as **Honorary President of Vienna Economic Forum**.

The numerous members of many VEF-Countries were informed of the activities of Vienna Economic Forum in 2016 and the planned events for 2017 by **Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**.

Following changes of the board and various organs of Vienna Economic Forum were unanimously decided:

#### Elected as **new Members of the Board:**

**Dr. Karl BLECHA**, former Federal Minister of Interior of the Republic of Austria and Member of the Honorary Committee of Vienna Economic Forum, **Dr. Klaus LIEBSCHER**, former Governor of Oesterreichische Nationalbank and Member of the Honorary Committee of Vienna Economic Forum, **Amb. Victor JACKOVICH**, President of Jackovich International LLC, USA, **Ms. Polina CHRISTOVA**, Executive Director, Head of Group Financial Institutions and Business Support, HYPO NOE Gruppe Bank AG, **Mr. Ahmet Mesut ERSOY**, Member of the Board of DenizBank AG, **Prof. Dr. Günther OFNER**, Member of the Board of Flughafen Wien AG, **Dr. Ludwig NIESSEN**, Member of the Board of Wiener Börse AG.

As new Vice-Presidents of Vienna Economic Forum were elected **Mag. Harald NEUMANN**, CEO, Novomatic AG and **Mag. Hermann ANDERL**, Managing Director CANON CEE GmbH. **Dr. Ognian DONEV**, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Sopharma PLC as Vice-President, **Mag. Heinz MESSINGER**, Managing Director, AME International GmbH as Financial Referent and **Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, as Secretary General and Member of the Board will continue to form the Chair of Vienna Economic Forum.

Vienna Economic Forum is very proud to have **former President of the Republic of Austria Dr. Heinz Fischer (2004–2016)** as **Patron of Vienna Economic Forum**; new in the **Patrons Committee** is **H.E. Mr. Andrej PLENKOVIĆ**, Prime Minister of Croatia.

As Member of the **Ambassadors Committee**, H.E. Dr. Ivan SIRAKOV, Ambassador of Bulgaria joined.

As new **Members of the Honorary Committee** were admitted:

**Mr. Hanno SORAVIA**, CEO of CEE and SEE, Soravia Group, Founding Member of Vienna Economic Forum, **KR Prof. Waltraud STEINBÖCK**, long-time media partner of Vienna Economic Forum, Honorary Konsul of the Philippines, **Mr. Bojidar DANEV**, Executive President of Bulgarian Industrial Association, **Prof. Dr. Vujica LAZOVIĆ**, Former Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System of Montenegro, **Ms. Dragijana RADONJIĆ-PETROVIĆ**, Vice-President of Serbian Association of Economists, **Prof. Dr. Ewald NOWOTNY**, Governor of Oesterreichische Nationalbank.

As **auditors** of Vienna Economic Forum **Mag. Gregor Höpler**, Head of Management Secretariat, Raiffeisen Bank International AG and **Mag. Ekkehart Stremitzer**, Managing Director, AME International GmbH were re-elected.

As members of **Court of Arbitration** of Vienna Economic Forum were elected **KR Otto MUSILEK**, MEC Management Energy Consulting, **Mag. Marika LEVENA**, Strategic Advisor, European Investment Bank and **Dr. Friedhelm BOSCHERT**, Founder, MINDFUL SOLUTIONS and Executive Advisor, longtime Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum. All of them are Members of Vienna Economic Forum.

The team of Vienna Economic Forum thanks all Members and Partners for their support for the excellent development of numerous activities of the Forum in Austria and abroad and for the continuous trust! The successful history of this development motivates us to conquer new horizons!





[www.ses.org.rs](http://www.ses.org.rs)

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Family Photo of Vienna Economic Talks - Belgrade Meeting 2017

## VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS BELGRADE MEETING 2017

**Under Patronage of Jean-Claude Juncker  
President of the European Commission**

21-22 May 2017  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia  
Resavska 13-15, Belgrade

With friendly support of:



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[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

On 21 and 22 May 2017, Vienna Economic Forum, together with **Serbian Association of Economists** and under the **Patronage of Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission**, organized **Vienna Economic Talks – Belgrade Meeting 2017** in the **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia**. The event brought together high-level representatives and visionaries from the region's economy, politics and diplomacy, from Europe and from other continents.

On the evening of 21 May, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, **Mr. Marko Čadež**, welcomed the participants and speakers of **Vienna Economic Talks – Belgrade Meeting 2017**. Following the opening speech of **Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ**, President of the Serbian Association of Economists, Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTČEVA** solemnly presented **Mr. Marko ČADEŽ** the **Vienna Economic Forum Badge of Honour**.

The ensuing **first evening session**, under the title **“The Responsibility to be Regionally Connected”**, was moderated by **Amb. Victor JACKOVICH**, President of Jackovich International LLC (USA) and board member of Vienna Economic Forum.

The pragmatically oriented presentations by **Dr. Gabriel LANSKY**, Partner at LANSKY, GANZGER + partner, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum; **Frau Dubravka NÈGRE**, Head of the Western Balkan Regional Office of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Belgrade; **Dr. Ludwig NIESSEN**, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum; **Amb. Gazmend TURDIU**, Deputy Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in Sarajevo; and **Prof. Dragan DJURIĆIN**, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade and Member of the Presidency of the Serbian Association of Economists, were followed by a lively discussion.

The **first plenary session** on 22 May 2017, chaired by **Prof. Dr. Miroljub LABUS** from the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade and member of the **Serbian Association of Economists**, was dedicated to the **“Regional Cooperation on a European Path”**. Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTČEVA** opened the session with a solemn speech.

**Mr. Oskar BENEDIKT**, Acting Head of the **European Union Delegation in Serbia**; **Dr. Ognian DONEV**, CEO, **Sopharma PLC, Bulgaria** and Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum; **Mr. Daniel BERG**, Director for Serbia of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); **Ms. Nataša Mikuš ŽIGMAN**, Secretary of State for Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts of **Croatia**; **Mr. Emmanuel FOREST**, CEO, **Bouygues Europe SA, Belgium**, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum; and **Mr. Gordan MILINIĆ**, Director of the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of **Bosnia and Herzegovina (FIPA)**, gave lively discussions about the various possibilities to promote regional cooperation.

In appreciation for his great and excellent support for the successful organization of **Vienna Economic Talks – Belgrade Meeting 2017**, **Mr. Oskar BENEDIKT** received the VEF Badge of Honour from Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTČEVA** at the first plenary session.

In the **second plenary session**, with the moderation of **Dr. Milan PARIVODIĆ**, Parivodić Advocacy Lawyers, **Serbia**, and Board Member of Vienna Economic Forum, and under the statement of **Mr. Milun TRIVUNAC**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Republic of **Serbia**, the speakers discussed the **“Regional Investment Opportunities”** in Serbia and sought after pragmatic solutions. This discussion counted with the participation of **Mr. Zoran DRAKULIĆ**, President of the **Serbian Business Club Privrednik**; **Mr. Aleksandar MEDJEDOVIĆ**, Chairman of the Turkish-Serbian Business Council (**DEIK**) and Member of Vienna Economic Forum; **Mr. Kemal KAFADAR**, Senior Advisor at the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (**ISPAT**), Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum; and **Mr. Marco HERNANDEZ**, Program Leader for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions, **Vienna Office for the World Bank**.

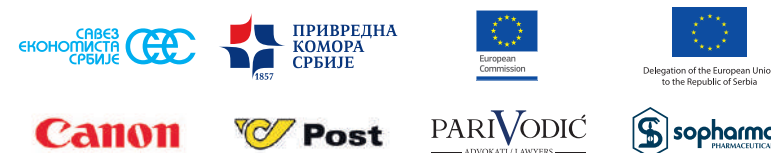
Overall, these discussions lively noted and stressed critical issues that are unavoidable for the region in order to facilitate a significant and major boost to the further development of regional economic cooperation.

The fact that **Vienna Economic Talks – Belgrade Meeting 2017** was organized under the **Patronage of Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission**, speaks for Serbia's great role in the EU integration process and the economic cooperation of the whole region. Vienna Economic Forum is very grateful both for the **moral support of the patronage** and for the powerful support of the **European Union delegation in Serbia** in the realization of **Vienna Economic Talks – Belgrade Meeting 2017**.

Vienna Economic Forum is also very proud that **Vienna Economic Talks – Belgrade Meeting 2017** was organized together with the **Serbian Association of Economists** with the great support of the **Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**.

Vienna Economic Forum would like to thank all the cooperation partners:  
**Bouygues Europe SA; Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP;**  
**Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey;**  
**Jackovich International LLC; LANSKY, GANZGER + partner; Wiener Börse AG**  
 and especially **CANON CEE GmbH; Österreichische Post AG;**  
**Parivodic Advokati/Lawyers and Sopharma PLC**

#### Special thanks to:



#### Media Partners:



## PROGRAM

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Official Carrier: Austrian OS773 – Vienna–Belgrade –  
21 May – 1:05 p.m.–2:10 p.m. CODE: VET17

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## SUNDAY, 21 MAY 2017

**LOCATION**

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia,  
Resavska 13–15, Belgrade 11000

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5:00–5:45 p.m. **REGISTRATION** all participants

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5:45 p.m. **FAMILY PHOTO** (upon invitation)

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6:00–7:30 p.m. **FIRST EVENING SESSION**

**“THE RESPONSIBILITY TO BE REGIONALLY CONNECTED”****Moderation**

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

**Welcome Address**

**Mr. Marko ČADEŽ**, *President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia*

**Introductory Statement**

**H.E. Dr. Zorana MIHAJLOVIĆ**, *Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Serbia*

**Participants at the Discussion**

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

**Mrs. Dubravka NĚGRE**, *Head of Western Balkan Regional Office of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Belgrade*

**Dr. Ludwig NIESSEN**, *Member of the Board, Wiener Börse, Austria,*  
*Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

**Amb. Gazmend TURDIU**, *Deputy Secretary General of Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Sarajevo*

**Prof. Dr. Dragan DJURIĆIN**, *Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade,*  
*Member of the Presidency of Serbian Association of Economists*

**Mr. Ali KILIÇ**, *Mayor of Maltepe, Istanbul, Turkey*

**Q AND A SESSION**

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

**WELCOME RECEPTION**

for all participants of Vienna Economic Talks – Belgrade Meeting 2017  
hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

**LOCATION**

Hotel Metropol, Nikola Tesla Conference Room,  
Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra 69, Belgrade 11000

**Possibilities for Bilateral Meetings, organized for Vienna Economic Forum Members and Members of Serbian Association of Economists.**

## MONDAY, 22 MAY 2017

**LOCATION**

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia,  
Resavska 13–15, Belgrade 11000

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8:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**

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8:00–8:45 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO** (upon invitation)

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8:45 a.m. **FIRST OPENING SESSION**

9:00–11:00 a.m. **“REGIONAL COOPERATION ON A EUROPEAN PATH”**

**Moderation**

**Prof. Dr. Miroљub LABUS**, *Law Faculty, University of Belgrade, Serbia,*  
*Member of the Presidency of Serbian Association of Economists*

**Greeting Words**

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

**Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ**, *President of Serbian Association of Economists*

**Participants at the Discussion**

**Mr. Oskar BENEDIKT**, *Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia*

**Dr. Ognian DONEV**, *CEO Sopharma PLC, Bulgaria,*  
*Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum*

**Mr. Daniel BERG**, *Director for Serbia, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*

**Ms. Nataša MIKUŠ ŽIGMAN**, *State Secretary of Ministry of Economy,*  
*Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Croatia*

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

**Mr. Gordan MILINIĆ**, *Director, Foreign Investment Promotion Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

**Q AND A SESSION**

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

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

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hosted by Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

11:30 a.m.–  
1:30 p.m.

**SECOND PLENARY SESSION****“EXPLORE REGIONAL INVESTMENT CHANCES – NOW!”****Moderation**

**Dr. Milan PARIVODIĆ**, *Parivodić Advokati, Serbia,*  
*Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

**Impulse Statement**

**H.E. Mr. Goran KNEŽEVIĆ**, *Minister of Economy of Government of Serbia*

**Participants at the Discussion**

**Dr. Willibald PLESSER**, *Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Austria,*  
*Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

**Mr. Zoran DRAKULIĆ**, *President, Serbian Business Club Privrednik, Serbia*

**Mr. Aleksandar MEDJEDOVIĆ**, *Chairman, Turkish-Serbian Business*  
*Council – Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK),*  
*Member of Vienna Economic Forum*

**Mr. Kemal KAFADAR**, *Senior Advisor, Investment Support and Promotion*  
*Agency of Turkey (ISPAT), Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

**Mr. Marco HERNANDEZ**, *Programme Leader, Equitable Growth, Finance and*  
*Institutions, Vienna Office of World Bank*

**Q AND A SESSION**

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

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1:30–2:30 p.m. **NETWORKING LUNCH**  
hosted by the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia

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2:30 p.m. **END of Vienna Economic Talks –**  
**Belgrade Meeting 2017**

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*Official Carrier: Austrian OS736 – Belgrade–Vienna –*  
*22 May – 6:20 p.m.–7:40 p.m. CODE: VET17*

PHOTO GALLERY



Members of the Boards of the co-organisers  
Serbian Association of Economists and  
Vienna Economic Forum



Amb. Victor Jackovich  
moderated the 1. Panel



High ranking audience



Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva  
shares views on the regional economy



Greeting words by the President of Serbian Association of Economists Mr. Aleksandar Vlahović



The VEF Board Members Mr. Emmanuel Forest and Dr. Ognian Donev discussed "Regional cooperation on a European path"



Cooperation is on demand



Welcome address by the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia Mr. Marko Cadež



Amb. Gazmend Turdiu, Dr. Gabriel Lansky and Amb. Victor Jackovich



Serbian Economy in focus



Interview with the acting head of the EU-Delegation in Belgrade Mr. Oskar Benedikt



## 16<sup>TH</sup> TRADITIONAL GARDEN PARTY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

### “Culinary and Musical Journey through the Member Countries of Vienna Economic Forum” at the theatre-tent of the Raimundspiele Gutenstein.

On 16 June 2017, Vienna Economic Forum, together with the Ambassadors of the member countries of Vienna Economic Forum, and the mayor of the market town Gutenstein, Mr. Michael Kreuzer, invited to the **16th Traditional Garden Party “Culinary and Musical Journey through the Member Countries of Vienna Economic Forum”** at the theatre-tent of the Raimundspiele Gutenstein.

In the opening speech and ceremony, Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, the mayor of the market town Gutenstein, **Mr. Michael KREUZER**, and **Family Hoyos** represented by **Ernst HOYOS** addressed and welcomed the numerous guests from over **20 different countries**, not only Vienna Economic Forum member countries but also from beyond.

The embassies of the member countries of Vienna Economic Forum and the hosting market town Gutenstein did not spare any efforts to treat the guests with country-specific and traditional culinary delicacies.

The diverse, artistic programme was moderated by **Prof. Stefan KAMILAROV** and accompanied with the welcome address by the chief of protocol of the Office of the President of the Republic of Austria and Gutenstein Citizen by choice, **Ms. Gudrun HARDIMAN-POLLROSS**.

The guests enjoyed performances by Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, and Ukraine as well as by the Culture Committee of Vienna Economic Forum – the folk dances of the region animated the guests to join the dancing on stage.

The unique, scenic atmosphere in the charmingly located market town Gutenstein was a proof of the many ties and bonds in common, which connect the people of the region from the Adriatic to the Black Sea. Once again, the **16th Traditional Garden Party** was much influenced by an understanding among nations.



*The hosts of the market town Gutenstein together with the Ambassadors of VEF Member Countries*

photos 16th Traditional Gardenparty © Joachim Kern



PHOTO GALLERY



*The theatre-tent of the Raimundspiele Gutenstein*



*Opening of the 16th Traditional Vienna Economic Forum Gardenparty by Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva*



*Graf Ernst Hoyos welcomed the guests*



*Mr. Michael Kreuzer, Mayor of Gutenstein*

GOOD ATMOSPHERE ...



*The unique scenery of Gutenstein*

... VARIOUS DELICACIES ...



*National specialties*



... AND CULTURAL PROGRAM ...



National music ...



... OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM MEMBER COUNTRIES



... and dances





*Good mood ...*



*... in a wonderful atmosphere*

*Welcome address  
by the Chief of Protocol  
of the Office of the President  
of the Republic of Austria,  
Ms. Gudrun Hardiman-Pollross*



## 14<sup>TH</sup> VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

### Vienna Future Dialogue 2017

For the 14th time, on 6 November 2017, Vienna Economic Forum – The European economic platform based in Vienna, brought together, under the motto “**Economy meets Politics**”, high-ranking representatives and visionaries of the economy, politics and diplomacy from the Vienna Economic Forum-region, from Europe and neighbouring region at **Novomatic Forum** in Vienna.

At the official opening, the CEO of Novomatic AG and Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum, **Mag. Harald NEUMANN**, and the Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, together with **DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER**, President of Vienna Economic Forum, and **Dr. Heinz FISCHER**, Federal President of Austria (2004–2016) and Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, greeted and welcomed high-ranking participants from **38 countries**. In his opening speech, **H.E. Zoran ZAEV, Prime Minister of Macedonia**, reiterated the important role of Vienna Economic Forum for the challenges that lay ahead for the countries of the region, such as the EU integration process and the promotion of instruments that strengthen the interaction between business and politics for the benefits of citizen and companies.

This year, the **14th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2017** was dedicated to the motto “**Economy meets Politics**” emphasizing the necessity of collaboration between economy and politics and discussed the emerging dynamics and impact of the ongoing digitalization and the role of regional cooperation as part of the European integration.

In their opening statements, President of Vienna Economic Forum, **DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER** and Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** emphasized the necessity of this pro-European economic platform based in Vienna to further establish and ensure the regional and economic cooperation and thanked all of the partners for 14 years of successful cooperation.

**The First Plenary Session**, moderated by **Dr. Ognian DONEV**, Chairman of the Board of Directors & Executive Director of **Sopharma PLC** and Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum, focussed on the topic “**We live in a digital time! Visions and investors’ response**”.



Pragmatically oriented depictions, experiences and visions on how investments can be a motor to competitiveness and growth and what impact the global digitalisation can have on them were shared with insightful contributions by:

#### Main Statement

- **Mr. Alexander RIEDL**, Deputy Head of Unit, Digital Economy and Skills, DG CONNECT, European Commission

#### Participants

- **Mr. Arda ERMUT**, President, Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT), President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **H.E. Dr. Kocho ANGIUSHEV**, Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of the Economic Affairs of Macedonia
- **H.E. Valdrin LLUKA**, Minister of Economic Development of Kosovo
- **Mr. Emmanuel FOREST**, CEO, BOUYGUES Europe SA, Belgium, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dr. Dorothee RITZ**, General Manager, Microsoft Austria
- **Mr. Gordan MILINIĆ**, Director, Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Dr. Stephan PACHINGER**, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Austria, Member of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dr. Florin VODIŢĂ**, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Romania

The Round Table Discussion in the afternoon was moderated by **Amb. Victor JACKOVICH**, President of Jackovich International LLC, U.S.A., and Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, and was dedicated to the theme “Regional cooperation as a part of the European integration”. The high-level representatives from the economy and government side discussed the necessity of collaboration between economy and politics under the motto “Economy meets Politics”. Concrete ideas, visions, projects and proposals for problem solutions regarding different fields and from different perspectives were presented and lively discussed by

#### Main Statement

- **Wilhelm MOLTERER**, Managing Director, European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), based in Luxembourg, Former Vice-Chancellor of Austria

#### Participants

- **H.E. Zoran ZAEV**, Prime Minister of Macedonia, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Mag. Heinz MESSINGER**, Managing Director, AME International GmbH, Austria, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **H.E. Dragica SEKULIĆ**, Minister of Economy of Montenegro
- **Dr. Gabriel LANSKY**, Partner, LANSKY, GANZGER + partner, Austria, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dr. Günther OFNER**, Member of the Executive Board, Flughafen Wien AG, Austria, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

- **Mr. Hakan ATEŞ**, CEO, DenizBank Financial Services Group, Chairman of DenizBank AG, Member of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Mag. Peter LENNKH**, Member of the Board, Corporate Banking, Raiffeisen Bank International AG, Austria, Member of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Amb. Gazmend TURDIU**, Deputy Secretary-General, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), based in Sarajevo, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum

A lively discussion paved the way for a common development of the regional economy and it was agreed that this 14th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2017 is the right moment, platform and instrument to give a genuine, relevant and sustainable impulse and support for the common development of the region as part of a united Europe.

At the end of the panel discussions, at the traditional Vienna Economic Forum Award Ceremony, **Dr. Ognian DONEV**, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum, received the Cooperation Partner of the Year 2017 Award on behalf Sopharma PLC and **Dr. Akkan SUVER** was awarded on behalf of the Marmara Group Foundation as Strategic Partner of the Year 2017.

The future signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Serbian Association of Economists and Vienna Economic Forum was announced and the Vice-President of OstWestWirtschaftsForum Bayern eV (OWWF), **Hermann PÖNISCH**, the President of Vienna Economic Forum, **DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER**, and Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the future cooperation between OWWF Bayern and Vienna Economic Forum. **Mr. Arda ERMUT**, President, Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT), President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum signed, together with the President of Vienna Economic Forum, **DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER**, and Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, a Cooperation Agreement ensuring the continuity of the successful cooperation between ISPAT and Vienna Economic Forum.

At the following Farewell Reception, final thoughts and conclusions between all participants and speakers were exchanged in a festive atmosphere and formed the end of yet another successful Vienna Economic Forum. The importance and relevance of this platform has proven itself yet again and will culminate in the 15th Jubilee at the 15th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2018 on 19 November 2018.

On the eve of the 14th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2017, the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, together with Verbund AG, invited to a Reception at the Hotel Imperial in Vienna.

Vienna Economic Forum would like to thank all the cooperation partners:



Special thanks to:



## PROGRAM

SUNDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2017

### LOCATION

Hotel Imperial, Kärntner Ring 16, 1015 Vienna

6:30–8:30 p.m. **WELCOME RECEPTION of 14<sup>th</sup> Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2017 (by personal invitation)**  
hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and Verbund AG

MONDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2017

### LOCATION

Novomatic Forum, Friedrichstraße 7, 1010 Vienna

8:45–9:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**  
hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and Novomatic AG

9:30 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO (by invitation)**

9:45–10:30 a.m. **OPENING of 14<sup>th</sup> Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2017**

### Moderation and Opening

**Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA,**

*Member of the Board, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum*

### Welcome Address

**Mag. Harald NEUMANN, CEO, NOVOMATIC AG,**

*Vice-President of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

### Opening Statement

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

### Main Statement

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

10:30 a.m.–  
12:30 p.m. **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

### WE LIVE IN A DIGITAL TIME!

### VISIONS AND INVESTORS' RESPONSE.

### Moderation

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

### Main Statement

**Mr. Alexander RIEDL, Deputy Head of Unit, Digital Economy and Skills,**  
*DG CONNECT, European Commission*

### Participants in the Discussion

**Mag. Hermann ANDERL, Managing Director, Canon CEE GmbH, Austria,**  
*Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum*

**H.E. Kocho ANGJUSHEV, PhD**, Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of the Economic Affairs of **Macedonia**  
**Mr. Emmanuel FOREST**, CEO, **BOUYGUES Europe SA, Belgium**, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum  
**Mr. Arda ERMUT**, President, Investment Support and Promotion Agency of **Turkey (ISPAT)**, President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum  
**Mr. Alejandro PLATER**, Chief Executive Officer & Chief Operating Officer, **Telekom Austria Group**  
**Dr. Dorothee RITZ**, General Manager, **Microsoft Austria**  
**Mr. Gordán MILINIĆ**, Director, **Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Dr. Stephan PACHINGER**, Partner, **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Austria**, Member of Vienna Economic Forum  
**Dr. Florin VODIȚĂ**, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of **Romania**  
**H.E. Valdrin LLUKA**, Minister of Economic Development of **Kosovo**

**Q AND A SESSION**

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

12:30–1:30 p.m. **GET-TOGETHER LUNCH BUFFET**  
hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and Sopharma PLC

1:30–3:30 p.m. **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION – ECONOMY MEETS POLITICS**

**REGIONAL COOPERATION AS A PART OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.****Moderation**

**Amb. Victor JACKOVICH**, **Jackovich International LLC, U.S.A.**, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

**Main Statement**

**Mag. Wilhelm MOLTERER**, Managing Director, **European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)**, based in **Luxembourg**, Former Vice-Chancellor of **Austria**

**Participants in the Discussion**

**H.E. Zoran ZAEV**, Prime Minister of **Macedonia**, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum  
**Mag. Heinz MESSINGER**, Managing Director, **AME International GmbH, Austria**, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum  
**Dr. Gabriel LANSKY**, Managing Partner, **LANSKY, GANZGER + partner, Austria**, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum  
**Prof. Dr. Günther OFNER**, Member of the Executive Board, **Flughafen Wien AG, Austria**, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum  
**Mr. Hakan ATEŞ**, CEO, **DenizBank Financial Services Group**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of **DenizBank AG**, Member of Vienna Economic Forum

**Mag. Peter LENNKH**, Member of the Board, Corporate Banking, **Raiffeisen Bank International AG, Austria**, Member of Vienna Economic Forum  
**Amb. Gazmend TURDIU**, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), based in **Sarajevo**, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum  
**H.E. Dragica SEKULIĆ**, Minister of Economy of **Montenegro**

**HONOURED TO WELCOME**

**H.E. Darko RADUNOVIĆ**, Minister of Finance of **Montenegro**

**Q AND A SESSION**

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

3:30–4:00 p.m. **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**  
by the Moderators

4:00–5:00 p.m. **ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM**

- **Sopharma PLC – Cooperation Partner of the Year 2017**
- **Marmara Group Foundation – Strategic Partner of the Year 2017**

Followed by the

**OFFICIAL SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING between Vienna Economic Forum and**

- **Serbian Association of Economists**
- **OstWestWirtschaftsForum Bayern eV**

Concluded by the

**FAREWELL RECEPTION for all participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2017 on the Gallery at Novomatic Forum**

hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and DenizBank AG

5:00 p.m. **END of 14<sup>th</sup> Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2017**



PHOTO GALLERY



*In the heart of Vienna ...*



*... at Novomatic Forum*





*DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, President of Vienna Economic Forum  
Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum*



*Arrival of H.E. Mr. Zoran Zaev,  
Prime Minister of Macedonia*





*Mag. Harald Neumann,  
Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum  
DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner,  
President of Vienna Economic Forum*



*Discussions with Dr. Heinz Fischer,  
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum,  
former President of Austria (2004–2016)*





*Opening Session of the 14th Vienna Economic Forum*



*Dr. Willibald Plesser and Ms. Polina Christova, Members of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum surrounded by members of the Ambassadors Committee of Vienna Economic Forum*



*Opening by Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva*



Welcome Address by  
Mag. Harald Neumann,  
CEO of Novomatic AG and  
Vice-President  
of Vienna Economic Forum



Opening Statement by  
Dr. Heinz Fischer, Former President  
of Austria (2004–2016) and  
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum



Main Statement by DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner, Member of the Board of Verbund AG  
and President of Vienna Economic Forum



*Opening Speech by H.E. Mr. Zoran Zaev,  
Prime Minister of Macedonia*



*The Podium*



*Joint together for regional cooperation*



*The First Plenary Session "We live in a digital time! Visions and investors' response" was moderated by Dr. Ognian Donev, Chairman of the Board of Directors Executive Director of Sopharma PLC, Bulgaria and Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum*



*Main Statement by Mr. Alexander Riedl, Deputy Head of Unit, Digital Economy and Skills, DG CONNECT, European Commission*



*H.E. Prime Minister Zoran Zaev among President DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner and Secretary General Dr. Elena Kirtcheva*



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



*Statement by  
H.E. Dr. Kocho Angjushev,  
Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of  
the Economic Affairs of Macedonia*



*Statement by H.E. Mr. Valdrin Ljuka,  
Minister of Economic Development  
of Kosovo*







Statement by Mr. Emmanuel Forest,  
CEO, BOUYGUES Europe SA, Belgium,  
Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum



Discussion with the audience



Statement by Dr. Dorothee Ritz,  
General Manager, Microsoft Austria



*Statement by Mr. Gordan Milinić,  
Director, Foreign Investment Promotion  
Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina*



*Statement by Dr. Florin Vodiță,  
Foreign Policy Advisor to the  
Prime Minister of Romania*



*KR Ing. Otto Musilek,  
Member of Vienna Economic Forum*



*Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vice-President of OstWestWirtschaftsForum Bayern eV (OWWF), Mr. Hermann Pönisch*



*Signing of a Cooperation Agreement between ISPAT and Vienna Economic Forum*



*Lively discussions by the high-level participants throughout the conference*



*The Round Table Discussion "Regional cooperation as a part of the European integration" was moderated by Amb. Victor Jackovich, President of Jackovich International LLC and Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



*Main Statement by Mag. Wilhelm Molterer, Managing Director, European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), former Vice-Chancellor of Austria*



*Statement by H.E. Mr. Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of Macedonia*



*Panel of the Round Table Discussion*





*Statement by Dr. Gabriel Lansky,  
Partner at LANSKY, GANZGER+partner,  
Member of the Board of  
Vienna Economic Forum*



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



*Statement by Prof. Dr. Günther Ofner,  
Member of the Executive Board of  
Flughafen Wien AG, Member of the  
Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



*Statement by  
H.E. Ms. Dragica Sekulić,  
Minister of Economy of Montenegro*





*Statement of Mr. Hakan Ateş  
CEO  
DenizBank Financial Services Group  
Istanbul*



*Statement of Mag. Peter Lennkh,  
Member of the Board, Corporate Banking  
at Raiffeisen Bank International AG,  
Member of Vienna Economic Forum*





*Statement of Amb. Gazmend Turdiu,  
Deputy Secretary-General of the  
Regional Cooperation Council (RCC),  
Strategic Partner of  
Vienna Economic Forum*



*Annual Award Ceremony*





Recipients of the Vienna Economic Forum Badge of Honour: Mag. Wilhelm Molterer, H.E. Zoran Zaev, H.E. Dragica Sekulić



Mr. Ahmet Mesut Ersoy, H.E. Dr. Vasilka Poposka Trenevsk, Mr. Hakan Ateş, H.E. Zoran Zaev and Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva

## VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM AWARD COOPERATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2017



## VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM AWARD STRATEGIC PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2017



RECEPTION AT HOTEL IMPERIAL



*DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner  
Dr. Gabriel Lansky  
Dr. Vladimir Penkov  
Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva  
Mr. Hakan Ateş  
Mr. Ahmet Mesut Ersoy*



*Amb. Mag. Sami Ukelli  
Amb. Mr. Roland Bimo*



*Ms. Hilda Kolevska  
Amb. Ms. Chryssoula Aliferi  
Amb. Dr. Vasilka Poposka-Trenevska*



*Amb. Mr. Ivan Milić with wife*



*Mr. Hermann Pönisch  
DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner  
Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva  
Dr. Ognian Donev*



*Amb. Ms. Loreta Zakareviciene  
Amb. Mr. Victor Osipov  
Amb. Mr. Victor Jackovich*



*Dr. Johann Strahlhofer  
Member of the Advisory Council,  
VAMED Engineering GmbH  
Amb. Klaus Wölfer, Head of Department  
for EU Enlargement and Western Balkans  
Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe,  
Integration and Foreign Affairs*



*H.E. Valdrin Lluka  
Minister of Economic Development of Kosovo  
joined the reception*



*Amb. Dr. Vasilka Poposka-Trenevska  
Ms. Polina Christova  
Amb. Mag. Ksenija Škrilec*



*Ms. Iskra Stefanova  
Dr. Vladimir Penkov  
Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva*



*Mag. Heinz Messinger  
Dr. Ognian Donev  
Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva  
DI Dr. Günther Rabensteiner*

## AN INSIGHT INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



### Austrian Delegation at 20th Eurasian Economic Summit in Istanbul

Under the title “A Call for Humanity”, **Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum**, invited to the **20th Eurasian Economic Summit in Istanbul**.

Representatives of all continents of the world attended an excellently organised discussion and listened to high-level speakers – a world-renowned visionary writer **Edward de BODO**, **H.E. Abdullah GÜL**, 11th president of the Republic of Turkey, **H.E. Mehmet SIMSEK**, Deputy Prime Minister, **H.E. Bujar NISHANI**, President of the Republic of Albania and **H.E. Gjorge INVANOV**, President of the Republic of Macedonia were among the esteemed attendees.

The Austrian Delegation, represented by Federal President (2004–2016) **Dr. Heinz FISCHER**, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, **Dr. Erhard BUSEK**, former Vice-Chancellor and President of Vienna Economic Forum and Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** spoke about the issues: “The Future of European Union”, “Sustainable Energy”, “The Refugee Problem”, “Rising Nationalism and Populism” and “Neoliberal Economy and Global Terror”.

Traditionally, the **20th Eurasian Economic Summit** gathered over 300 high-level attendees – presidents and former presidents, ministers and decision-makers from politics, economy, representatives of the diplomatic corps, business people, academics and representatives of different religions – all with a common goal: the construction of a better, common future for this world.



### The CEO of smart technologies DI Hansjörg Tengg on a work visit at the premises of Vienna Economic Forum

Long-term member and supporter of Vienna Economic Forum, **DI Hansjörg TENGG**, CEO of smart technologies Management, Beratungs- und Beteiligungsgesellschaft m.b.H. and Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** discussed intensely the successful development and future-oriented activities of Vienna Economic Forum for the good collaboration of the member countries, especially in the economic sector.



### New Horizons for Vienna Economic Forum

The newly elected president of Vienna Economic Forum **DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER** and Secretary General **Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** discussed at an intensive “tour d’ horizon” – Talk on 8 May 2017 the success story of Vienna Economic Forum and the new challenges of present times for the economic development of the whole VEF-Region.

The Vienna Economic Forum team was glad to announce **6 November 2017** for the **14th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2017 – “Economy meets Politics”** and kindly asked its members and partners to “save the date”.



### Vienna Economic Forum Decoration for Amb. Victor JACKOVICH Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

On 9 May 2017 the newly elected Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum **Amb Victor JACKOVICH**, **President of Jackovich International LLC, USA** and Secretary General **Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** discussed the active cooperation for further support of the economic development in the countries of the VEF-Region.

Special focus was put on **Vienna Economic Talks – Belgrade Meeting 2017** on 21–22 May 2017 at which **Amb. Victor JACKOVICH** moderated the First Evening Session “**The Responsibility to be Regionally Connected**” on 21 May 2017.

As the other Members of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, **Amb. Victor JACKOVICH** received the **Vienna Economic Forum Badge of Honour** by **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**.



### Dr. Vladimir PENKOV, Senior Partner and Chairman Penkov • Markov & Partners International Law Firm Working visit at Vienna Economic Forum

Long-time member of Vienna Economic Forum **Dr. Vladimir PENKOV**, **Senior Partner and Chairman, Penkov • Markov & Partners International Law Firm** and Secretary General **Amb Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** continued the series of intensive talks on the regional, economic cooperation and the role of all Vienna Economic Forum members in the process.



### Prof. Dr. Ewald NOWOTNY, Governor of Austrian National Bank elected Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum

**Governor Prof. Dr. NOWOTNY** was pleased to receive the Vienna Economic Forum Badge of Honour.

On 11 May 2017, Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** and **Governor of the Austrian National Bank Prof. Dr. Ewald NOWOTNY**, who was elected **Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum** for his longstanding support at the last General Assembly, discussed the potential points of intersection of economy and politics and the more intensive cooperation in the near future.



### Vice President of OstWestWirtschaftsForum Bayern Mr Hermann PÖNISCH at a working visit at the premises of Vienna Economic Forum

On the occasion of a working visit at the Vienna Economic Forum on 24 May 2017, the **Vice President of OstWestWirtschaftsForum Bayern (OWWF)**, Mr. **Hermann PÖNISCH**, and the Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** discussed the potential cooperation in the near future, which both parties would like to stipulate in a **Memorandum of Understanding**.



### The Executive President of Bulgarian Industrial Association Dr. Bojidar DANEV at a working visit at Vienna Economic Forum

The Executive President of **Bulgarian Industrial Association**, long-standing and active supporter of different activities of Vienna Economic Forum, **Dr. Bojidar DANEV**, accepted the **Vienna Economic Forum Badge of Honour** as a newly elected member of the **Vienna Economic Forum Honorary Committee**.

**Dr. DANEV**, whose visionary work is known and valued within the entire European Union, discussed in-depth with Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** new ideas and topics for the further successful development of the joint cooperation.



### Longstanding Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum Dr. Akkan SUVER receives “Special Merit Medal” by the President of Albania, H.E. Bujar NISHANI

The President of Albania, H.E. Mr. Bujar NISHANI, awarded the President of the **Marmara Group Foundation**, **Dr. Akkan SUVER**, a longstanding strategic partner of the Vienna Economic Forum, with a “Special Merit Medal” for his contribution to peace and international understanding in the Balkans through his work with the **Eurasian Economic Summits**. During the medal ceremony, President Nishani stated that Dr. Akkan Suver is well aware of peace, stability and coexistence in the Balkans with a non-government organization that he is leading with great success. In his speech, **Dr. Akkan SUVER** said; “I accept this medal as a medal given to all non-governmental organizations of the great Turkish nation.”

### H.E. Mr. Victor Osipov, Ambassador of Moldova Working visit at Vienna Economic Forum

On the occasion of a working visit on June 14th 2017, **Mr. Victor OSIPOV, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova**, and Secretary General, **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** discussed the further intensive cooperation.

On behalf of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, the Secretary General awarded **Amb. Victor OSIPOV** with the **Vienna Economic Forum Badge of Honour**.



## New Bulgarian University Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum Hosts of the International Scientific and Practical Conference

„Power, Governance and Social Development.  
Global, regional and national perspectives“

An International Scientific and Practical Conference was held on June 7 at the New Bulgarian University, during which the topic of “**Power, Governance and Social Development**” was discussed. The event, which attracted great interest, was organized by representatives of the Administration and Management Department.

During the opening, **Prof. Antonyi SLAVINSKI, Ph.D.**, Chairman of the NBU Board of Trustees, welcomed numerous guests, including leading international scientists, business managers, researchers, lecturers and experts from various public domains.

**Amb. Dr. Elena KIRCHEVA**, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum (VEF), and **Vania KASTREVA, Ph.D.**, former Deputy Minister of Education and Science, and Head of the Sofia Inspectorate of Education at the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) greeted the participants.

The goals set at the start of the international forum covered major issues. Some of these were related to proposals of conceptual schemes, parameters and theoretical and applied models for the various global risks – inequality and social cohesion, demographic crises, migration waves, employment; discussion on effective political, economic and governance models for integration into society – power mechanisms, integration, human capital, business environment, sustainable development and corporate social responsibility (CSR); elaboration of global, regional and national priorities and trends with economic, political, social, cultural and environmental dimensions.

The International Scientific and Practical Conference, which has become a tradition, is yet another proof that **New Bulgarian University, a longstanding strategic partner of Vienna Economic Forum**, is an institution that succeeds in finding the true pulse of the present and seeks effective solutions to current issues by identifying global, regional and national perspectives.

## Working visit of CEO Petrol Ofisi A.Ş. and representatives of Turkey-Austria Business Council (DEİK)

Secretary-General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRCHEVA** together with the board members of Vienna Economic Forum **Mr. Ahmet Mesut ERSOY**, Chairman of the Management Board and CEO of DenizBank AG and **Dr. Ludwig NIESSEN**, Member of the Board, COO/CTO of Wiener Börse AG, welcomed **Mrs. Gülsüm AZERI**, CEO of Petrol Ofisi A.Ş., **representative of the DEİK Turkey-Austria Business Council** as well as of the **Turkish Embassy in Austria** on 28 September 2017 at the premises of Vienna Economic Forum.

In the course of the visit, **a future cooperation and in-depth cooperation** with Vienna Economic Forum was discussed, as well as **potential joint projects for 2018**.





## Work Meeting with Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ President of Serbian Association of Economists

At a constructive meeting on 9 December 2017 in Vienna, **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum and **Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ**, President of Serbian Association of Economists, reaffirmed their shared commitment to effective and pragmatic cooperation in the VEF region by signing a **Memorandum of Understanding**.

During this meeting, **President VLAHOVIĆ** presented Vienna Economic Forum with the **Certification of Appreciation** together with the **Successful Operation Award**, which were awarded in honour of long-term cooperation and exceptional contribution to achieving programme objectives of the Serbian Association of Economists. These high honours had been awarded to Vienna Economic Forum during the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of successful operation of Serbian Association of Economists in November 2017 in Belgrade.



## H.E. Mag. Ksenija ŠKRILEC, Ambassador of Slovenia First official visit at Vienna Economic Forum

On the occasion of a first official visit on 15 November 2017, **H.E. Mag. Ksenija ŠKRILEC**, **Ambassador of Slovenia**, and Secretary General **Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA** discussed the further intensive cooperation.

On behalf of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, the Secretary General welcomed **H.E. Amb. Mag. Ksenija ŠKRILEC** among her colleagues in the **Ambassadors Committee of Vienna Economic Forum** and awarded Her Excellency with the **Vienna Economic Forum Badge of Honour**.



## Vienna Economic Forum visits Novomatic AG

The President **DI Günther RABENSTEINER** and the Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, **Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, met with the CEO of Novomatic AG **Mag. Harald NEUMANN**, Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum on 11 December 2017 at Novomatic AG in Gumpoldskirchen, Lower Austria.

After a comprehensive and informative tour of the company, a new **Cooperation Agreement** was signed between Novomatic AG and Vienna Economic Forum in order to continue the existing cooperation and to carry on to shape the future of Vienna Economic Forum in an innovative and constructive manner.



## Work Meeting with DI Dr. Franz Fischler President of the European Forum Alpbach

In a constructive meeting on 20 February 2018 in Vienna, **Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA**, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum and **DI Dr. Franz FISCHLER**, President of the European Forum Alpbach and European Union's Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries (1995–2004) addressed the potential of a future cooperation between the European Forum Alpbach and Vienna Economic Forum.

The **European Forum Alpbach** takes place since 1945 every year in August in the Tyrolean mountain village Alpbach. International speakers and participants from science, business and politics, as well as experts and students discuss current topics in order to find interdisciplinary solutions.



## H.E. Mr. Željko Perović, Ambassador of Montenegro First official visit at Vienna Economic Forum

On the occasion of a first official visit on 20 February 2018, **H.E. Željko PEROVIĆ**, **Ambassador of Montenegro**, and Secretary General **Amb. Dr Elena KIRTICHEVA** discussed a further intensive cooperation.

On behalf of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, the Secretary General welcomed **H.E. Željko PEROVIĆ**, **Ambassador of Montenegro** among his colleagues in the **Ambassadors Committee of Vienna Economic Forum** and awarded His Excellency with the **Vienna Economic Forum Badge of Honour**.



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

# **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 2018**

### **18 MAY 2018**

**NATIONAL PALACE OF CULTURE – CONGRESS CENTRE SOFIA (NDK)  
HALL 6, BULGARIA SQUARE 1,  
1263 SOFIA, BULGARIA**

