



**INTERNATIONAL
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATION**

SINCE 2011, RECONFIRMED STATUS
AS OF 1. JANUARY 2022

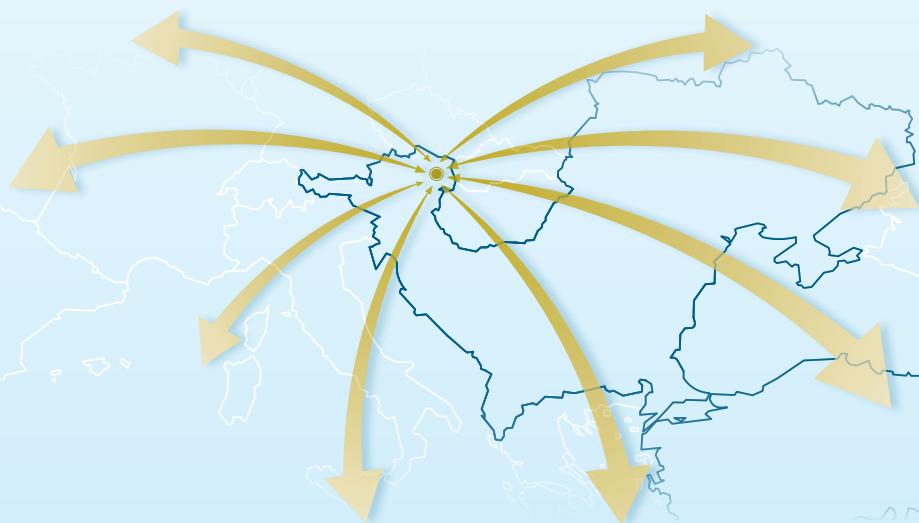


**CONSULTATIVE STATUS
WITH THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS (ECOSOC)**

Go South East

REGISTERED IN THE
TRANSPARENCY REGISTER
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



**REVIEW 2022
PREVIEW 2023**

**Vienna Economic Forum has the honor to cooperate
for a better understanding in the region with**



Austro-Arab Chamber
of Commerce



Austria Institut für Europa- und
Sicherheitspolitik



Anatolian Businessmen
Association, Istanbul



Bled Strategic Forum, Bled,
Slovenia



Bled School of Management, Slovenia



Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce
and Industry (BCCI), Sofia



Central European Initiative (CEI)
Trieste



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



Foreign Economic Relations Board
of Turkey (DEİK), Istanbul



Delphi Economic Forum NPO
Athens



EastEuroCo Executive Search Group Ltd.
Budapest



Federation of Austrian Industries, Vienna



Foreign Investors Services d.o.o., Belgrade



Handelskammer Schweiz-Österreich-
Liechtenstein, Vienna



Hayek Institut, Vienna



International Business and Diplomatic
Exchange (IBDE), London



Institut für den Donaauraum und
Mitteleuropa (IDM), Vienna



International Foundation for Sustainable Peace
and Development 2009



Marmara Group, Strategic and Social
Research Foundation, Istanbul



New Bulgarian University
Sofia



Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft
Berlin



Organization for International Economic
Relations, Vienna



Österreichischer Gewerbeverein
Vienna



OstWestWirtschaftsForum
Bayern eV



Regional Cooperation Council
Sarajevo



TSMOKOS Group INTERNATIONAL
d.o.o., Greece and Serbia



Turkish Enterprise and Business
Confederation (TURKONFED), Istanbul



Vienna School of International Studies
Austria

INTERNATIONAL
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATION
SINCE 2011, RECONFIRMED STATUS
AS OF 1. JANUARY 2022



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

REGISTERED IN THE
TRANSPARENCY REGISTER
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



REVIEW 2022
PREVIEW 2023



The Independent Platform

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



20th JUBILEE VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

VIENNA FUTURE DIALOGUE 2023

13 November 2023

Vienna City Hall/Wiener Rathaus
Lichtenfelsgasse 2
1010 Vienna



Working Languages: German and English
Simultaneous translation will be provided



The Flag of Vienna Economic Forum has been proudly waving in the heart of the Vienna Embassy District next to numerous national flags!

With this highly symbolic act, Vienna Economic Forum has received recognition and its international reputation as THE European economic platform based in Vienna has been confirmed!

CONTENTS

PAGE

Bundesgesetzblatt	7
Facsimile of Notification of the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs.....	8
Facsimile of Notification of Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC)...	9
Introduction.....	10
Board of Vienna Economic Forum	12
Arbitrators and Auditors of Vienna Economic Forum	15
Ambassadors Committee of Vienna Economic Forum.....	16
Prime Ministers, Members of the Patrons Committee of Vienna Economic Forum	17
Honorary Committee of Vienna Economic Forum.....	18
Vienna Economic Forum – Team/Teamwork	23
Meet the Partners.....	26
Vienna Economic Forum – Annual Board Meeting 2022.....	68
Vienna Economic Forum – General Assembly 2022	72
Vienna Economic Talks – 2022	78
21 st Traditional Garden Party in a Small Setting.....	96
19 th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2022	114
Vienna Economic Forum – Daily Business	152



BUNDESGESETZBLATT

FÜR DIE REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH

Jahrgang 2021

Ausgegeben am 27. Dezember 2021

Teil II

593. Verordnung: Zuerkennung der Rechtsstellung einer Internationalen Nichtregierungsorganisation oder einer Quasi-Internationalen Organisation an Nichtregierungsorganisationen (INROV)

593. Verordnung des Bundesministers für europäische und internationale Angelegenheiten betreffend die Zuerkennung der Rechtsstellung einer Internationalen Nichtregierungsorganisation oder einer Quasi-Internationalen Organisation an Nichtregierungsorganisationen (INROV)

Auf Grund der §§ 15 und 16 des Amtssitzgesetzes (ASG), BGBl. I Nr. 54/2021, wird im Einvernehmen mit dem Bundesminister für Arbeit und dem Bundesminister für Inneres verordnet:

Internationale Nichtregierungsorganisationen

§ 1. Folgenden Nichtregierungsorganisationen wird die Rechtsstellung einer Internationalen Nichtregierungsorganisation (§ 15 ASG) zuerkannt:

1. Atomic Reporters, Gumpoldskirchen;
2. Confédération Sportive Internationale Travailleiste et Amateur – International Workers and Amateurs in Sport Confederation (CSIT), Wien;
3. Democrat Youth Community of Europe (DEMYC), Wien;
4. Ground Truth Solutions – Organisation zur Stärkung der Verantwortlichkeit in der humanitären Hilfe (Ground Truth), Wien;
5. Impact Finance Organization – Verein zur Förderung des Impact Investings (IMFINO), Wien;
6. International Federation for Information Processing – Internationale Vereinigung für Informationsverarbeitung (IFIP), Laxenburg;
7. Internationale Biathlon Union (IBU), Salzburg;
8. Internationales Presseinstitut – International Press Institute (IPI), Wien;
9. Internationaler Rat zur Erhaltung des Wildes und der Jagd (CIC), Wien;
10. One Earth Future Austria – Verein zur Prävention und Klärung bewaffneter Konflikte (OEF Austria), Wien;

11. Vienna Economic Forum (VEF), Wien;

12. Weltverband von Fremdenführervereinen (WFTGA), Wien;

13. World Institute for Nuclear Security – Weltweites Institut für Nukleare Sicherheit (WINS), Wien.

Quasi-Internationale Organisationen

§ 2. Folgenden Nichtregierungsorganisationen wird die Rechtsstellung einer Quasi-Internationalen Organisation (§ 16 ASG) zuerkannt:

1. Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens – Ban Ki-moon Zentrum für globale Bürger, Wien;
2. FES Regionalbüro für Zusammenarbeit und Frieden in Europa, Wien;
3. Frauen ohne Grenzen – Women without Borders / SAVE – Sisters Against Violent Extremism, gemeinnütziger Verein, Wien;
4. International Union of Forest Research Organizations – Internationaler Verband Forstlicher Forschungsanstalten (IUFRO), Wien;
5. Multilateraler Dialog KAS, Wien;
6. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership – Partnerschaft für erneuerbare Energie und Energieeffizienz (REEEP), Wien;

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 • Contact: www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo/contact

27 July 2012

Dear NGO Representative,

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

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

Privileges and benefits of consultative status

1) ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31

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

.../..

Vienna Economic Forum

DEAR MEMBERS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM!

The year 2022 was special in two significant ways. On the one hand, it brought a much anticipated and necessary relief from the global pandemic, thus returning a form of normality to everyday living and to the prospects of recovery and economic revival. On the other hand, the world as we know it was shaken by a new reality that imposed yet another challenge.

Looking back at the previous years, we can be absolutely certain about the unique quality of Vienna Economic Forum to be resilient and to adapt to new circumstances, always having in mind and striving to fulfill its founding goal: to follow the incorporated vision, the Vienna Economic Forum vision of building a “Common Economic Area from the Adriatic to the Black Sea.”

Vienna Economic Forum remains true to its maxim: “Where there is a will, there is a way!” This remains true today more than ever, and we are firmly and consistently dedicated to discovering the best way to secure stable economic development in an unstable environment.

This has been the focus of Vienna Economic Forum’s endeavors throughout 2022 and was achieved primarily in the realization of the “Vienna Economic Talks – Istanbul Meeting 2022” in May 2022. The event made a further contribution to the core goal of Vienna Economic Forum: regional economic development. Vienna Economic Forum would like to express its gratitude to the Presidency of the Republic of Turkiye Investment Office for the strong organizational support and for the symbolic choice of the historic location Dolmabahçe Palace, where the Vienna Economic Forum member country Turkiye strives for peaceful resolution of conflicts.

After several years of logistical restrictions, many Vienna Economic Forum members, partners and friends, including high-ranking economic representatives and political decision-makers, had the opportunity to strengthen existing ties and build new relationships. This in itself was momentous and provided us the prospect of progress and mutual advancement.

This impetus was further encouraged by the realization of the 19th Vienna Economic Forum – “Vienna Future Dialogue 2023” under the motto “Economy Meets Politics in Difficult and Uncertain Times” – which took place on 14 November 2022 at the Raiffeisen Bank International in Vienna. Vienna Economic Forum remained successful in its endeavors to stay always in tune with the times by securing excellent contributions of distinguished speakers from various countries and sectors. Apart from the participants on-site, the 19th Vienna Economic Forum attracted the attention of economic, diplomatic and political representatives and over 1000 online viewers from 22 countries thanks to the official channel of the European Parliament and European Commission „Europe by Satellite Chanel +” as well.

Dear Members, Partners and Friends of Vienna Economic Forum,

We constantly strive to create opportunities for the further development and realization of the Vienna Economic Forum vision. This is a proof of the strong commitment and trust you have placed in us. What can be discerned from the past year of immense global challenges is that Vienna Economic Forum has what it takes to stand the trials of time. That the core goal of Vienna Economic Forum – to promote regional economic cooperation – is now more imperative than ever. This cooperation is a prerequisite for ensuring solid results that would contribute to further development and further growth.

Together we stand strong in the face of many challenges, and the vision and achievements derived from bringing economy and politics together serve as a reminder of why our endeavors are important.

Yours,



Amb. Victor Jackovich
President



Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva
Secretary General

BOARD OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



Ambassador Victor JACKOVICH
President, Jackovich International, USA

President



Ambassador Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA
Founder of Vienna Economic Forum

Secretary General



Dr. Ognian DONEV
Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer
of Sopharma PLC., Bulgaria

Vice-President



DI Ryszard PRESCH
Executive Board Member, Novomatic AG

Vice-President



Mag. Peter HÖFINGER
Member of the Managing Board, Vienna Insurance Group

Vice-President



Mag. Heinz MESSINGER
Managing Director, AME International GmbH

*Vice-President
Financial Referent*



Dr. Georg BUCHER
Member of the Management Board
Steiermärkische Bank und Sparkassen AG

Board Member



Prok. Mag. Dr. Christian SCHWARZ
Head of Corporate Development/M&A/International Affairs
KELAG AG

Board Member



Mag. Nikolaus-Conrad LORENZ
Strategy Director, Canon CEE GmbH

Board Member



Dr. Stephan PACHINGER
Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Rechtsanwälte PartG mbB

Board Member



Mr. Ahmet Burak DAĞLIOĞLU
President, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office

Board Member



Ambassador Dr. Emil BRIX
Director
Diplomatische Akademie Wien – Vienna School of International Studies

Board Member



DI Wolfgang ANZENGRUBER
Former CEO of Verbund AG (2009–2020)

Board Member



Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ
President of the Serbian Association of Economists, Serbia

Board Member



Dr. Nina DRAČIĆ
President of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro

Board Member



Dr. Nikolay TSENKOV
Manager of Municipal Guarantee Fund of Sofia Municipality

Board Member



Dr. Kurt GOLLOWITZER
CEO, Wien Holding GmbH

Board Member



MSc. Olha BOSAK
*Strategic Advisor on Strategy and Business Development
enso GmbH*

Board Member



Mr. Veselin BALDZHIEV
CEO, Bulgarkontrola, LTD, Bulgaria

Board Member



Mr. Emmanuel FOREST
Former CEO, BOUYGUES EUROPE SA, Brussels, Belgium

Board Member

ARBITRATORS OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



KR Ing. Otto MUSILEK, *Consultant, MEC Management Energy Consulting
Member of Vienna Economic Forum*



Mag. Marika LEVENA, *Strategic Advisor, European Investment Bank
(EIB), Luxemburg, Member of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Friedhelm BOSCHERT, *Founder, MINDFUL SOLUTIONS and
Executive Advisor, Member of Vienna Economic Forum*

AUDITORS OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



Mag. Gregor HÖPLER, *Head of Group Executive Office
Raiffeisen Bank International AG*



Mag. Ekkehart STREMITZER, *Managing Director
AME International GmbH*

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



H.E. Mr. Roland BIMO, *Ambassador of Albania*



H.E. Dr. Kemal KOZARIĆ, *Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina*



H.E. Mag. Desislava NAYDENOVA-GOSPODINOVA
Ambassador of Bulgaria



H.E. Mr. Daniel GLUNČIĆ, *Ambassador of Croatia*



H.E. Mr. Lulzim PLLANA, *Ambassador of Kosovo*



H.E. Michaela MOCANU, *Ambassador of Moldova*



H.E. Ambassador Dragana RADULOVIĆ
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Montenegro



H.E. Osvit ROSOKLIJA, *Ambassador of North Macedonia*



H.E. Mr. Emilian Horatiu HUREZEANU, *Ambassador of Romania*



H.E. Mr. Aleksander GERŽINA, *Ambassador of Slovenia*



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



H.E. Mr. Vasyl KHYMYNETS, *Ambassador of Ukraine*



PATRON OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

Dr. Heinz FISCHER, *former President of the Republic of Austria
(2004–2016)*

PRIME MINISTERS MEMBERS OF THE PATRONS COMMITTEE OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



H.E. Mr. Edi RAMA, *Prime Minister of Albania*



H.E. Ms. Borjana KRIŠTO
Chairwoman of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina



H.E. Mr. Andrej PLENKOVIĆ, *Prime Minister of Croatia*



H.E. Mr. Albin KURTI, *Prime Minister of Kosovo*



H.E. Mr. Dorin RECEAN, *Prime Minister of Moldova*



H.E. Mr. Dritan ABAZOVIĆ, *Prime Minister of Montenegro*



H.E. Mr. Dimitar KOVACHEVSKI, *Prime Minister of North Macedonia*



H.E. Mr. Nicolae-Ionel CIUCĂ, *Prime Minister of Romania*



H.E. Mr. Denys SHMYHAL, *Prime Minister of Ukraine*

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

www.vienna-economic-forum.com/index.php/en/about-en/committee-en

HONORARY COMMITTEE OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



Dr. Josef TAUS, Member of the Supervisory Board of Management Trust Holding AG, Founding Member and First elected President of Vienna Economic Forum



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



Mag. Andreas TREICHL, Former CEO, Erste Group Bank AG Founding Member of Vienna Economic Forum



Dr. Wolfgang SCHÜSSEL, Former Federal Chancellor of Austria



Dr. Walter ROTHENSTEINER, Former Advocate General of the Austrian Raiffeisen Association, Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Mr. Heinz SUNDT, Former General Director of Telekom Austria AG Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Dr. Martin BARTENSTEIN, Former Federal Minister of Economy of the Republic of Austria, Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



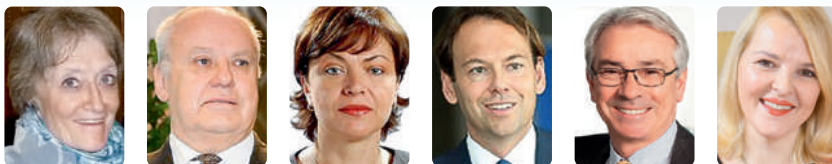
Dr. Rudolf GRUBER, Former President of the Supervisory Board of EVN AG, Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Dkfm. Elisabeth GÜRTLER, Former Chief Executive Officer Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum



Dr. Burkhard HOFER, Former President of the Supervisory Board of EVN AG, Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Prof. Dr. Suzanne RÖDLER, *Medical Specialist for internal Medicine and Cardiology, Medical University of Vienna AKH, Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Mag. Josef MAYER, *Former Vice Minister of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Austria, Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Amb. Prof. Vesna BOROZAN, *PhD, Sts. Cyril and Methodius University Skopje, North Macedonia, Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Andreas BRANDSTETTER, *CEO, UNIQA Versicherungen AG
Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Georg PÖLZL, *CEO, Österreichische Post AG
Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



Amb. Daria KRSTIČEVIĆ, *Member of the Board, Plinacro Ltd.
Gas Transmission System Operator, Croatia
Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Herbert STEPIC, *Former CEO, Raiffeisen Bank International AG
Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dkfm. Karl FINK, *Supervisory Board, Wiener Städtische Versicherung AG
Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Veit SORGER, *Former Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Mondi AG
Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Claus RAIDL, *Former President, Oesterreichische Nationalbank
Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Franz WOHLFAHRT, *Lawyer, Former CEO of Novomatic AG
Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



KR Hanno SORAVIA, *CEO of CEE and SEE, Soravia Group
Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Johann SOLLGRUBER, *Former European Commission Representation
in Austria, Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



KR Prof. Waltraud STEINBÖCK, *Long-Time Media Partner and Supporter
of Vienna Economic Forum*



Prof. Dr. Vujica LAZOVIĆ, *Former Deputy Prime Minister for Economic
Policy and Financial System, Montenegro, Long-Standing Supporter of
Vienna Economic Forum*



Ms. Dragijana RADONJIĆ-PETROVIĆ, *Partner, MD Solution
Vice President of the Serbian Association of Economists, Serbia
Active Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ewald NOWOTNY, *Former Governor, Oesterreichische
Nationalbank, Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



DI Dr. Erwin PRÖLL, *Former Governor of Lower Austria (1992–2017)
Honorary Consul of Slovenia with the consular district of Lower Austria
Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



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



Dr. Milan PARIVODIĆ, *Principal Attorney at law, Parivodic Advokati/
Lawyers, Serbia, Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum,
Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



KR Aki NUREDINI, *Entrepreneur, Long-Standing and Active Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Franz KOSYNA, *Vice Chairman and Deputy General Manager of Kooperativa Poistovna a.s. Bratislava, Vienna Insurance Group, Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Sonja SAGMEISTER-BRANDNER, *Author and Journalist, ZIB 2, ORF Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Mr. Sali LIMANI, *Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia to Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Uzbekistan Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Amb. Prof. Vasilka POPOSKA TRENEVSKA, PhD
Sts. Cyril and Methodius University Skopje, North Macedonia Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum



Ahmet Mesut ERSOY, *Former Chairman of the Management Board and CEO of Denizbank AG, Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Ernst HUBER, *Former Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO) Long-Standing and Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Amb. Meglena PLUGCHIEVA, *Former Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Swiss Confederation, Germany and Montenegro, Active Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



KR Prof. Mag. Gertrud TAUCHHAMMER, *Honorary Consul from Cameroon and Honorary Consul General from Tunisia Publisher of Magazine Society Media Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*



Ambassador Dr. Valentin INZKO, *Austrian diplomat, long time UN High Representative and EU Special Representative (HR/EUSR) for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Long-Standing Supporter of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Karl BLECHA, *Former Federal Minister of Interior of the Republic of Austria, Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*



Dr. Klaus LIEBSCHER, *Former Governor of the Austrian National Bank Former Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM TEAM



Dr. Snezana KEARNS

Senior Project Manager, Executive Assistant to the Secretary General



Mag. Niko PETKOVIĆ

Project Manager



Irena PAL, BBA

Project and Office Manager

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM IS PROUD TO WORK WITH



Mag. Christian PULTAR, *Managing Partner*

WWV Partner Steuerberatungs GmbH, Tax Consultant



Ms. Sheila EHM, *brennheiß serviert: Grafikdesign & Fotografie*



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



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




KR Prof. Mag. Gertrud TAUCHHAMMER, *Honorary Consul*
from Cameroon and Honorary Consul General from Tunisia
Publisher of Magazine Society
Media Partner of Vienna Economic Forum



The Independent Platform

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



Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER

CEO

AI Telekom Austria Group

Photo © Renee Del Missier

“As AI Telekom Austria Group we are at the epicenter of digitization and we are a reliable partner for business, people and society, even in particularly challenging times. Our strategic leitmotif "Empowering digital life" took on an even more decisive significance as a result of these developments. We are a leading provider of digital services and communications solutions in the CEE region with around 27 million customers and around 18,000 employees in seven core markets. Our Group offers telecommunications, broadband internet, integrated ICT and business solutions, payment, multimedia and entertainment services as well as wholesale and payment solutions. The digital transformation opens up enormous potential for more economic efficiency, social equality of opportunity and resource conservation in the interest of people and the environment. Cooperation and a common approach are the key to unlocking the enormous potential of digitization. Ultimately, it is always a question of how one can ensure even better living conditions for people and future generations within one's sphere of influence.”

„Als AI Telekom Austria Group stehen wir im Epizentrum der Digitalisierung und sind ein verlässlicher Partner für Wirtschaft, Mensch und Gesellschaft auch in speziell herausfordernden Zeiten. Unser strategisches Leitmotiv „Empowering digital life“ erhielt durch diese Entwicklungen einen noch entscheidenderen Stellenwert. Wir sind ein führender Provider für digitale Services und Kommunikationslösungen im CEE-Raum mit rund 27 Millionen Kunden und 18.000 MitarbeiterInnen in sieben Kernmärkten. Unser Konzern bietet Telekommunikation, Breitband-Internet, integrierte ICT- und Business-Lösungen, Payment-, Multimedia- und Entertainment-Services sowie Wholesale und Payment-Lösungen an. Die digitale Transformation eröffnet enormes Potenzial für ein Mehr an Wirtschaftlichkeit, sozialer Chancengleichheit und Ressourcenschonung im Interesse von Mensch und Umwelt. Zusammenarbeit und ein gemeinsamer Ansatz sind der Schlüssel, um das enorme Potenzial der Digitalisierung zu erschließen. Denn letztlich geht es stets um die Frage, wie man in seinem Einflussbereich für noch lebenswertere Bedingungen für die Menschen und nachfolgende Generationen sorgen kann.“

Hello, Future!

GlasfA1ser

for Austria.

A1 is starting Austria's largest fiber network expansion – directly to your home.

For more speed. More bandwidth. More realtime.
More stability. More possibilities.

A1.net/internet

Now You. In the **A1 Giganet**.





Mag. Heinz MESSINGER

*Managing Director
AME International GmbH*

*Vice-President and Financial Referent
of Vienna Economic Forum*

“Traditionally, Austria has strong relation to the region of the partner countries Vienna Economic Forum. AME International GmbH and myself have been actively working on strengthening the healthcare systems for VEF member countries for more than 25 years, creating a sustainable benefit for patients in the region.

The social impact of our projects has resulted in strengthening clinical care in over 200 hospitals worldwide covering more than 56.000 beds, improving the health situation for over 1.8 million inpatients and over 21 million outpatients and as such extending the benefit of improved access to care for a catchment area of 165 million people.”

„Österreich hat traditionell einen starken Bezug zur Region der Partnerländer des Vienna Economic Forum. AME International GmbH und ich arbeiten seit mehr als 25 Jahren aktiv an der Stärkung der Gesundheitssysteme für die VEF-Mitgliedsländer und schaffen damit einen nachhaltigen Nutzen für die Patienten in der Region.

Die sozialen Auswirkungen unserer Projekte haben dazu geführt, dass die klinische Versorgung in über 200 Krankenhäusern mit mehr als 56.000 Betten gestärkt wurde, die Gesundheitssituation für über 1,8 Millionen stationäre und über 21 Millionen ambulante Patienten verbessert wurde und somit ein Einzugsgebiet von 165 Millionen Menschen von einem verbesserten Zugang zur Versorgung profitiert.“



**„We improve
healthcare
delivery by using
Cutting Edge
Technology“**



AME International GmbH (AME) is a global provider of healthcare technology solutions based in Vienna, Austria. Founded in 1995, AME has extensive expertise in the development, implementation, operation and financing with international healthcare projects. To date, AME has successfully implemented around 90 healthcare projects and digital healthcare solutions in Europe, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

As a comprehensive solution provider AME strives to optimize processes and maximise efficiency gains for the benefit of patients, health care providers and medical staff. AME takes pride in creating individual sustainable solutions, using the leading brands technology partners. Training and Change Management are key focus areas, in order to attain sustainable project success. By taking a comprehensive and integrated view, we ensure the optimum solutions for our clients' individual needs.

As a provider and integrator for healthcare projects, our technical expertise and project management capabilities, supported by a strong financial background and access to project financing, ensure sustainable, cost-effective solutions for clients and stakeholders in the healthcare sector.

The range of services includes:

- 💧 Turn-key Solutions
- 💧 Modernization, upgrading and revaluation of Medical Technology Package Solutions
- 💧 Digital Solutions in Healthcare



AME International GmbH
Hietzinger Hauptstrasse 46, 1130 Vienna
Tel.: +43 1 503 59 79
Mail: office@ame.eu
Web: www.ame.eu





Mr. Veselin BALDZHIEV

*CEO
Bulgarkontrola, LTD, Bulgaria*

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

“Vienna Economic Forum is an internationally recognized organization, that has been established as a leading platform for regional economic cooperation between its member countries.

Over the past several years we have witnessed unprecedented global health and geopolitical events- the Pandemic and the Russian invasion in Ukraine, which resulted in a change of most economic and business models. We realized that common effort is needed to be able to overcome these challenges.

Thanks to the active role of Vienna Economic Forum, in supporting the processes and providing opportunities, we can build a stable foundation for a better future!”

„Vienna Economic Forum ist eine international anerkannte Organisation, die sich als eine führende Plattform für regionale wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Mitgliedsländern des Forums etabliert hat.

In den letzten Jahren wurden wir Zeuge beispielloser globaler gesundheitlicher und geopolitischer Ereignisse – die Pandemie und die russische Invasion in der Ukraine, die zu einer Änderung der meisten Wirtschafts- und Geschäftsmodelle führten. Wir haben erkannt, dass gemeinsame Anstrengungen erforderlich sind, um diese Herausforderungen bewältigen zu können.

Dank der aktiven Rolle des Vienna Economic Forum können wir durch die Unterstützung der Prozesse und das Bereitstellen von Möglichkeiten ein stabiles Fundament für eine bessere Zukunft schaffen!“



Bulgarkontrola is a Bulgarian leading company in the field of testing, inspection and certification services, providing tailor-made services to the private and public sectors. The services are designed to ensure that products conform to different standards and regulations in terms of quality, health, safety, environmental protection and social responsibility.

Bulgarkontrola acts as a „third party“, i.e. an independent body issuing reports and certificates independently of contractual obligations, according to international standards, regulations and client specifications to ensure that produced products or assets meet the requisite standards.



Mag. Nikolaus-Conrad LORENZ

Strategy Director
Canon CEE GmbH

Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum

Photo © H. C. Sattling

“The adoption of remote working models has had a significant impact on the way businesses operate, leading to a growing interest in smart work. As per the new Canon Insight report, half of all respondents indicate that their organization is now transitioning or has already transitioned to a flexible working model.

Remote working is here to stay, and the report highlights some challenges that come with it. For example, respondents reported issues with instant access to documents, file sharing, and approvals. However, the report also shows that IT decision-makers are committed to transitioning more of their business to the cloud, which should provide employees with a smoother smart working experience. 76% of IT decision makers are looking for one-stop suppliers to remove the headache connected with multiple vendors.

While many organizations are still catching up with technology to support new changes in working habits, Canon's cloud solutions can help streamline document-based processes and better support distributed teams. In addition, the company's cloud services can provide access and virtual collaboration capabilities that make teams more efficient and productive.

We have the experience and expertise to provide solutions prioritizing integration and making the transition to a smart workspace easier for companies.”

„Die Einführung von Remote-Arbeitsmodellen hatte erhebliche Auswirkungen auf die Arbeitsweise von Unternehmen und führte zu einem wachsenden Interesse an intelligenter Arbeit. Laut dem neuen Canon Insight-Bericht gibt die Hälfte aller Befragten an, dass ihr Unternehmen sich gerade auf ein flexibles Arbeitsmodell umstellt oder bereits umgestellt hat.

Fernarbeit wird bleiben, und der Bericht hebt einige Herausforderungen hervor, die damit einhergehen. Die Befragten berichteten beispielsweise von Problemen mit sofortigem Zugriff auf Dokumente, Dateifreigabe und Genehmigungen. Der Bericht zeigt jedoch auch, dass IT-Entscheidungsträger entschlossen sind, mehr von ihrem Geschäft in die Cloud zu verlagern, was den Mitarbeitern ein reibungsloseres intelligentes Arbeitserlebnis bieten sollte. 76 % der IT-Entscheidungsträger suchen nach Anbietern aus einer Hand, um die mit mehreren Anbietern verbundenen Kopfschmerzen zu beseitigen.“



SMART WORKING POWERED BY CANON



**Remote &
Collaborative
Working**



**Automated
processes**



**Data
Security**



**Cost
saving**

Extend your smart working experience from the office to any location with end-to-end solutions that provide unparalleled flexibility and efficiency. Save time, simplify sharing and collaboration, increase productivity through document digitization, processing, and printing. Canon is your one-stop supplier with a comprehensive portfolio of solutions for all your smart working needs.

Visit [canon-cee.com](https://www.canon-cee.com)

Canon

See the bigger picture



Dipl. Ing. Wolfgang KRÖPFL, MBA

*Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
enso group*

MSc. Olha BOSAK

*Strategic Advisor on Strategy and
Business Development*

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

“enso group is an **asset manager and transaction consultant** that operates internationally (Europe+, worldwide) and specializes in investments in renewable energy. We focus on the **optimal combination of energy resources** (hydro + solar, solar + hydrogen, and other hybrid concepts) creating successful projects particularly in **partnerships**. Our experienced team with 30+ years of individual track record in the energy sector offers all commercial and technical services along the entire value and life cycle chain of a **renewable energy project**.

We see ourselves as a representative of a sustainable future: „Sustainable investments for a sustainable future – made in Austria“. With our **strong partnerships** we contribute to an increasing awareness for sustainable energy. We spread the role of renewable energies by taking part in conferences, forums and relevant public discussions and associations. Vienna Economic Forum is an important partner for spreading and implementing our ideas and goals for a sustainable future in a circle of like-minded people”, states Wolfgang Kroepfl, CEO enso group.

*„Die enso Gruppe ist ein international agierender **Asset Manager und Transaktionsberater** – spezialisiert auf Investitionen im Bereich Erneuerbare Energie. Wir konzentrieren uns auf die **optimierte Kombination von Energiequellen** (Wasserkraft + Solarenergie, Solar + Wasserstoff und andere Hybride Konzepte) und setzen Projekte auch in Partnerschaften um. Unser erfahrenes Team mit über 30 Jahren individuellem track record im Energiebereich bietet alle Leistungen und Services sowohl kaufmännisch als auch technisch entlang der gesamten Werteschöpfungs- und Lebenszykluskette eines Erneuerbaren Energieprojektes.*

*Wir sehen uns als Botschafter einer nachhaltigen Zukunft: „Sustainable investments for a sustainable future – made in Austria“. Durch **starke Partnerschaften** tragen wir zu einem wachsenden Bewusstsein für nachhaltige Energie bei. Wir verbreiten die Bedeutung der erneuerbaren Energien im Energiemix durch die Teilnahme an Konferenzen, Foren und relevanten öffentlichen Diskussionen und Vereinigungen. Das Vienna Economic Forum ist dabei ein wichtiger Partner, um unsere Ideen und Ziele für eine nachhaltige Zukunft im Kreise gleichgesinnter vereint und verstärkt zu verbreiten und umzusetzen“, so Wolfgang Kröpfl, CEO enso group.*



enso
G M B H

www.enso.at



Sustainable Investments in sustainable energy – made in Austria.

enso is your **asset manager and transaction consultant** specialized in projects in renewable energies.

We focus on the the **optimal combination of energy resources.**

Your partner for pushing ideas regarding the **corporate social responsibility and climate change** to the next level.

enso GmbH
Dr. Auner Straße 20/3
A- 8074 Raaba-Grambach
Styria/Austria
www.enso.at



Dr. Stephan PACHINGER

*Partner
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Rechtsanwälte PartG mbB*

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

Photo © Martina Dräger

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

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



STAY AHEAD.

When you're doing business in multiple jurisdictions, every decision comes with higher stakes and more complex challenges. With unique global insight and experience, our highly integrated teams around the world will ensure that you cross borders with confidence.

[freshfields.com](https://www.freshfields.com)



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer



Amb. Victor JACKOVICH

*President
Jackovich International
USA*

*President
of Vienna Economic Forum*

“I am honored to be named the new President of the Vienna Economic Forum, an organization with a proven solid 20-year track record and with tremendous potential for further success. My many years of active engagement in diplomacy and commercial activity, primarily in regions of direct interest to the Vienna Economic Forum have confirmed my belief in the strength and capabilities of the peoples of Southeast Europe and surrounding countries. The overall objective should be the full integration of all of Europe, including Southeast Europe, into Euro-Atlantic associations, including the European Union (EU). Today, we are all faced with new and unique challenges. But these challenges should not deter progress in forging strong regional, Euro-Atlantic and global relations. To the contrary, all the more reason why the work of the Vienna Economic Forum and like-minded organizations take on added tremendous significance. The keys to progress toward this objective of integration remain the same as they have always been: good governance, democracy, transparent markets, open societies and regional and global cooperation.”

„Ich fühle mich geehrt, zum neuen Präsidenten des Vienna Economic Forum ernannt zu werden, einer Organisation mit einer nachweislich soliden 20-jährigen Erfolgsbilanz und mit enormem Potenzial für weiteren Erfolg. Mein langjähriges Engagement in der Diplomatie und den kommerziellen Aktivitäten, vor allem in den Regionen, die für das Vienna Economic Forum von direktem Interesse sind, hat meinen Glauben an die Stärke und die Fähigkeiten der Völker Südosteuropas und der umliegenden Länder bekräftigt. Das übergeordnete bzw. gesamte Ziel sollte die vollständige Integration ganz Europas, einschließlich Südosteuropas, in euro-atlantische Verbänden einschließlich der Europäischen Union (EU) sein. Heute stehen wir vor neuen und einzigartigen Herausforderungen. Diese Herausforderungen sollten jedoch den Fortschritt bei der Gestaltung starker regionaler, euroatlantischer und globaler Beziehungen nicht verhindern. Umso mehr, weil die Arbeit des Vienna Economic Forum und gleichgesinnten Institutionen eine enorme Bedeutung erlangt. Der Schlüssel zum Erreichen dieses Integrationsziels bleibt immer noch derselbe: gute Regierungsführung, Demokratie, transparente Märkte, offene Gesellschaften und regionale und globale Zusammenarbeit.“

JACKOVICH INTERNATIONAL

- ✓ Senior decision-maker liaison
- ✓ Local management of contracts
- ✓ Overall country assessments
- ✓ Security risk and political stability

TOP TO BOTTOM
NETWORKING



P.O. Box 370
St. George Island
Piney Point, Maryland, U.S. 20674
Tel. No. : (+1-202) 255-7952

office@jackovich.international
www.jackovich.international



Dr. Christian SCHWARZ

*Managing Director KI-Kelag International
and Interenergo*

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

“Electricity flows across every border – therefore it is important for all of us to promote the expansion of renewable energies throughout Europe. Our main goal is to invest in green, renewable energy in the Southeastern Europe region. Together with the Vienna Economic Forum, Kelag International and Interenergo, the subsidiary companies of Kelag, enable us to promote and develop the expansion of renewable energies such as hydropower, wind power and photovoltaics. This secures our future, but also contributes to a positive economic development in the region.”

„Strom fließt über jede Grenze – umso wichtiger ist es für uns alle, den Ausbau von erneuerbaren Energien in ganz Europa voranzutreiben. Unser wesentliches Ziel ist es in grüne, erneuerbare Energie in der Region Südosteuropa zu investieren. Gemeinsam mit dem Vienna Economic Forum ist es uns mit der Kelag International und der Interenergo, den Tochtergesellschaften der Kelag, möglich, den so wichtigen Ausbau der erneuerbaren Energien Wasserkraft, Windkraft und Photovoltaik voranzutreiben und weiterzuentwickeln. So kann nicht nur unsere Zukunft gesichert, sondern auch zu einer positiven wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung in der Region beigetragen werden.““



DEINE ENERGIE IST UNSERE NATUR

HEUTE MORGEN ERMÖGLICHEN

Es liegt an uns die Weichen zu stellen, damit auch nachfolgende Generationen mit einem Lächeln in die Zukunft blicken können. Wir von der Kelag stellen uns dieser Verantwortung. Durch die Bereitstellung eines zukunftsfähigen Energienetzes und den Ausbau erneuerbarer Energien schaffen wir nicht nur Versorgungssicherheit, sondern leisten auch einen wesentlichen Beitrag zur Energiewende.

Jetzt informieren auf [kelag.at](https://www.kelag.at)



Dr. Nina DRAKIĆ

*President, Chamber of Economy
of Montenegro*

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

“Representing the interests of the business community, the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro continuously conducts activities aimed at improving the business environment, monitors and analyses the business conditions, issues an opinion on the draft law and initiates the amendments to regulations in order to remove business barriers. Given that the internationalization process has become a necessity and a prerequisite for growth and survival of the companies, in the following period the special attention will be paid to the promotion of the economy, internationalization of the business, implementation of international projects, as well as continuous education and training of employees in the economy, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. I believe that cooperation with the Vienna Economic Forum will strengthen our international activities and contribute to the promotion of opportunities, economic and natural resources and development projects of Montenegro, in order to improve the business ties and regional cooperation.”

„Als Vertreterin von Interessen der Geschäftsgemeinschaft, die Wirtschaftskammer von Montenegro führt kontinuierlich Aktivitäten zur Verbesserung des Geschäftsumfelds durch, überwacht und analysiert die Geschäftsbedingungen, gibt Stellungnahmen zu Gesetzesentwürfen ab und initiiert Änderungen von Vorschriften, um Geschäftsbeschränkungen zu beseitigen. Da der Prozess der Internationalisierung zu einer Notwendigkeit und Voraussetzung für das Wachstum und Überleben von Unternehmen geworden ist, werden wir in der kommenden Zeit der Wirtschaftsförderung, der Internationalisierung und der Durchführung internationaler Projekte besondere Aufmerksamkeit widmen, wobei der Schwerpunkt auf der kontinuierlichen Verbesserung des Wissens der Mitarbeiter insbesondere in Klein-, Klein- und Mittelunternehmen liegen wird. Ich glaube, dass die Zusammenarbeit mit dem Vienna Economic Forum unsere internationalen Aktivitäten stärken wird und zur Förderung von wirtschaftlichen und natürlichen Ressourcen und Entwicklungsprojekten Montenegros beitragen wird, mit dem Ziel, die Geschäftsbeziehungen und die regionale Zusammenarbeit zu erweitern.“



CHAMBER OF
ECONOMY OF
MONTENEGRO



MONTENEGRO
your partner





Dr. Nikolay TSENKOV

Manager
Municipal Guarantee Fund for
SME Sofia

Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum

Photo © Marina Chankarova

“Municipal Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises is a unique financial instrument launched and developed by Sofia Municipality in support of business and innovation in one of the fastest growing capitals in Europe. Its mission is to increase the competitiveness and access to finance of SMEs in Sofia and to put the principle of ‘Think Small First’ in the focus of municipal economic policy.

The fund aims to provide loan guarantees to SMEs that have a cost-effective projects but cannot provide sufficient bank collaterals. So far, the Fund has supported more than 700 SME projects by issuing loan guarantees of more than 65m euros.

The ambitious goal that we are putting forward is Sofia to become the Balkan Capital of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Of course, this includes regional economic cooperation. The experience and successful model of our guarantee institution could be integrated in the CEE region for the implementation of joint transnational projects.”

„Der kommunale Garantiefonds für kleine und mittlere Unternehmen ist ein einzigartiges Finanzinstrument, das von der Stadt Sofia zur Unterstützung von Unternehmen und Innovationen in einer der am schnellsten wachsenden Hauptstädte Europas entwickelt und aufgesetzt wurde. Seine Aufgabe ist es, die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und den Zugang zu Finanzierungen von KMUs in Sofia zu steigern und das Prinzip ‚Think Small First‘ in den Fokus der kommunalen Wirtschaftspolitik zu rücken.

Der Fonds zielt darauf ab, Kreditgarantien für KMUs bereitzustellen, die ein ökonomisch sinnvolles Projekt haben, aber keine ausreichende Besicherung stellen können. Bisher hat der Fonds mehr als 700 KMU-Projekte durch die Vergabe von Kreditbürgschaften in Höhe von über 65 Mio. Euro unterstützt.

Unser ehrgeiziges Ziel ist es, aus Sofia die Hauptstadt des Unternehmertums und der Innovation auf dem Balkan zu machen. Dazu gehört selbstverständlich auch die regionale Wirtschaftskooperation. Die Erfahrung und das Erfolgsmodell unserer Garantieeinrichtung können in der CEE-Region für die Umsetzung gemeinsamer transnationaler Projekte integriert werden.“



OUR GUARANTEE SERVICES:

- Main warranty scheme: for any SME, registered in Sofia municipality
- Financing Innovative Start-ups Program: for any SME, which provide innovative products, services and/or processes
- Guarantee Instrument for Support: for any SME, with financial problems due to the Covid crisis

OUR MISSION:

We guarantee future

FIND US:

Main Office: 4 “11 August” Str. 2fl., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel: +359/2/980-99-38

Web: <https://ogf-sofia.com/en/>



DI Ryszard PRESCH

*Executive Board Member
Novomatic AG*

*Vice-President
of Vienna Economic Forum*

Photo © NOVOMATIC, Katharina Schill

“The Vienna Economic Forum forms a strong network and promotes investment opportunities in regions where NOVOMATIC has a strong presence. These days, the NOVOMATIC AG Group generates about a quarter of its revenues in those countries where the Vienna Economic Forum is also represented. Key factors for our Group’s success are economic growth, technological change and positive developments in the regulatory framework, which continuously open up new markets and business models. The cooperation with the Vienna Economic Forum contributes to further expanding our leading market position in the future.“

„Das Vienna Economic Forum bildet ein starkes Netzwerk und fördert Investitionsmöglichkeiten in Regionen, in denen auch NOVOMATIC sehr präsent ist. Mittlerweile erwirtschaftet der NOVOMATIC AG-Konzern rund ein Viertel des Umsatzes in jenen Ländern, in welchen auch das Vienna Economic Forum vertreten ist. Maßgebliche Faktoren für unseren Unternehmenserfolg sind dabei das wirtschaftliche Wachstum, der technologische Wandel und positive Veränderungen regulatorischer Rahmenbedingungen, die laufend neue Märkte und Business-Modelle eröffnen. Die Zusammenarbeit mit dem Vienna Economic Forum trägt dazu bei, unsere führende Marktposition auch in Zukunft weiter auszubauen.“



WE ARE ANALYSTS



We are 300 international financial experts out of a total of 21,200 employees at NOVOMATIC and responsible for the correct reporting and taxation of our worldwide revenues in Austria.

[novomatic.com/wirsindnovomatic](https://www.novomatic.com/wirsindnovomatic)



DI Peter UMUNDUM

Member of the Executive Board
Austrian Post

Cooperation Partner
of Vienna Economic Forum

Photo © Andreas Jakwerth

“The Vienna Economic Forum is a valuable platform for Austrian Post, succeeding excellently in linking stakeholders from the business community with each other as well as business-people with political decision makers. We highly value the personal exchange of view on an international level. This cross-border dialogue supports the strategy of Austrian Post, which has been very successfully operating in the CEE/SEE region and Turkey for many years thanks to its subsidiaries there.

With revenue of about € 2.5 billion in 2021 and more than 27,000 employees, Austrian Post is the country's leading logistics and postal services provider. It is also strongly positioned internationally with subsidiaries. In addition to Austria, we are represented by subsidiaries in Germany, Slovakia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Turkey. Last year Austrian Post transported more than 430 million parcels in these markets. Furthermore, Austrian Post has delivered all mail items in Austria in a CO₂-neutral manner since 2011, and delivery services will be 100% emission-free by the year 2030. All mail items have already been delivered in Graz since the end of 2021 without gen-erating emissions. This year, Innsbruck and Salzburg will also be converted to climate-friendly delivery operations.”

*„Das Vienna Economic Forum ist für die Österreichische Post AG eine wertvolle internationale Plattform, der es hervorragend gelingt, Stakeholder*innen aus der Wirtschaft untereinander sowie die Wirtschaft mit der Politik zu vernetzen. Den persönlichen Austausch auf internationaler Ebene schätzen wir dabei sehr. Dieser länderübergreifende Dialog unterstützt die Strategie der Österreichischen Post AG, die mit ihren Tochterunternehmen seit vielen Jahren sehr erfolgreich in CEE/SEE und der Türkei aktiv ist.*

*Mit einem Umsatz von rund 2,5 Milliarden Euro im Jahr 2021 und über 27.000 Mitarbeiter*innen ist die Österreichische Post die landesweit führende Logistik- und Postdienstleisterin und mit Tochtergesellschaften auch international stark positioniert. Neben Österreich sind wir in den Ländern Deutschland, Slowakei, Kroatien, Ungarn, Slowenien, Bosnien und Herzegowina, Serbien, Montenegro, Bulgarien und Türkei mit Tochterunternehmen vertreten. Im vergangenen Jahr beförderte die Post in all diesen Märkten mehr als 430 Millionen Paket-sendungen. Weiters stellt die Post seit 2011 alle Sendungen in Österreich CO₂-neutral zu, bis 2030 wird die Zustellung zu 100 Prozent emissionsfrei erfolgen. In Graz stellt die Post schon seit Ende 2021 alle Sendungen emissionsfrei zu, noch heuer wird auch in Innsbruck und Salzburg klimafreundlich zugestellt werden.“*

Internationally networked for your business





Mr. Ahmet Burak DAĞLIOĞLU

*President
Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye
Investment Office*

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

“Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Republic, Türkiye has been actively involved in regional integration and cooperation enhancement initiatives as a hub country. The Turkish private sector has also been actively investing in the region in various sectors such as manufacturing, telecommunication, logistics and infrastructure. With the rise of tech entrepreneurship now as a major driver of growth and investments globally, Türkiye has developed itself as center of technology ventures. Many international and domestic venture capital funds with a mandate to invest in the region maintain a foothold in Istanbul. As such, companies from Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) member countries can access multiple markets and expand their business by virtue of vast opportunities offered by Türkiye’s strategic location. At Invest in Türkiye, we value experience sharing with our counterparts in the region. We hosted the “Vienna Economic Talks - Istanbul Meeting 2022” in Istanbul on May 16-17 at a time when the impact of the pandemic lingered on and the political, economic and security risks of the Russia-Ukraine war peaked in our region. During the Talks, the role of VEF members in the changing economic and political environment globally was felt. In this vein, we also observed that conflicts can be resolved diplomatically, as was the case with the grain deal which was mediated by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. We experienced the vital importance of similar cooperation in the earthquakes that took place in Southeast Türkiye on February 6, 2023. Many search-and-rescue teams were flown in from VEF members to Türkiye and provided their kind support. With the coordination of VEF, member companies also stood by Türkiye with their aid. We thank them wholeheartedly. I strongly believe that cooperation in the VEF region could be extended and applied in many areas such as diplomacy, environment and disaster relief.”

„Anlässlich des 100-jährigen Bestehens der Republik beteiligt sich Türkiye als Drehscheibe aktiv an Initiativen zur Verbesserung der regionalen Integration und Zusammenarbeit. Darüber hinaus investiert der türkische Privatsektor in verschiedenen Branchen wie Produktion, Telekommunikation, Logistik und Infrastruktur aktiv in der Region. Mit dem Aufkommen von technischem Unternehmertum als einem wichtigen Motor für Wachstum und Investitionen hat sich Türkiye zu einem Zentrum für Technologieunternehmen entwickelt. Viele nationale und internationale Risikokapitalfonds, die in der Region investieren wollen, haben ein Standbein in Istanbul. Damit haben Unternehmen aus den VEF-Mitgliedsstaaten (Vienna Economic Forum) Zugang zu zahlreichen Märkten und können ihr Geschäft dank der enormen Möglichkeiten, die die strategische Lage von Türkiye bietet, ausweiten. Bei Invest in Türkiye legen wir großen Wert auf den Erfahrungsaustausch mit unseren Partnern in der Region. Wir waren Gastgeber der „Vienna Economic Talks - Istanbul Meeting 2022“ am 16. und 17. Mai in Istanbul – zu einer Zeit, als die Auswirkungen der Pandemie noch andauerten und die politischen, wirtschaftlichen und sicherheitspolitischen Risiken des Krieges zwischen Russland und der Ukraine in unserer Region ihren Höhepunkt erreichten. Bei den Gesprächen wurde die Rolle der VEF-Mitglieder in dem sich weltweit verändernden wirtschaftlichen und politischen Umfeld deutlich. In diesem Zusammenhang haben wir auch festgestellt, dass Konflikte auf diplomatischem Wege gelöst werden können, wie im Fall des Abkommens über Getreidelieferungen, das von Präsident Recep Tayyip Erdogan vermittelt wurde. Wie wichtig eine solche Zusammenarbeit ist, haben wir bei den Erdbeben im Südosten des Landes am 6. Februar 2023 erfahren. Viele Such- und Rettungsteams wurden von VEF-Mitgliedern nach Türkiye eingeflogen und leisteten freundliche Unterstützung. Unter der Koordination des VEF standen auch die Mitgliedsunternehmen Türkiye mit ihrer Hilfe zur Seite. Wir danken ihnen von ganzem Herzen. Ich bin der festen Überzeugung, dass die Zusammenarbeit in der VEF-Region auf viele Bereiche wie Diplomatie, Umwelt und Katastrophenhilfe ausgedehnt und angewendet werden könnte.“

TÜRKİYE YOUR RESILIENT PARTNER



RESILIENCE AND POWER TO BACK YOU UP

The world's **11th largest economy** (GDP at PPP) that climbed up 7 notches in 19 years.

A success story that reduced the gross public debt to GDP from **70% in 2002 to 27% in 2022.**

An eye-catching performance that expanded **GDP** from \$238 billion to **\$906** billion in 20 years.

The Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office, the official investment advisory body of Türkiye, is a knowledge-center for foreign direct investments and a solution partner to the global business community at all stages of investments. It provides customized guidance and qualified consulting before, during, and after entry into Türkiye.



**INVEST IN
TÜRKİYE**



Mag. Peter LENKHH

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

*Cooperation Partner
of Vienna Economic Forum*

Photo © RBI, David Sailer IMAGES

“RBI regards Austria, where it is a leading corporate and investment bank, as well as Central and Eastern Europe as its home market – as does the Vienna Economic Forum. We are present in 12 markets of the region with subsidiary banks. In addition, we serve our more than 17 million customers through numerous other financial service providers, for example in leasing and asset management. The VEF makes an important contribution to supporting both our own international activities and the business development of our customers and has done so for many years. Accordingly, the countries on which the VEF focuses also benefit from its activities in the long term and sustainably.”

„Die RBI betrachtet Österreich, wo sie als eine führende Kommerz- und Investmentbank tätig ist, sowie Zentral- und Osteuropa als ihren Heimmarkt – genauso wie das Vienna Economic Forum. Wir sind in 12 Märkten der Region mit Tochterbanken präsent, darüber hinaus betreuen wir unsere mehr als 17 Millionen Kunden über zahlreiche andere Finanzdienstleistungsunternehmen beispielsweise in den Bereichen Leasing und Vermögensverwaltung. Das VEF leistet einen wichtigen Beitrag zur Unterstützung sowohl unserer eigenen internationalen Aktivitäten als auch der Geschäftsentwicklung unserer Kunden, und das seit vielen Jahren. Dementsprechend profitierten auch die Länder, auf die das VEF seinen Fokus legt, langfristig und nachhaltig von dessen Tätigkeit.“



**Raiffeisen Bank
International**

Member of RBI Group



**We are your
reliable partner for
a sustainable future.**

We understand. #responsiblebanking





Mr. Aleksandar VLAHOVIĆ

*President
Serbian Association of Economists
Serbia*

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

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

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

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

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



Founded in 1947, the Serbian Association of Economists is a professional organization which gathers professional economists and aspires to promote the economics profession for the benefit of the society at large.

Main activities of the Association are: organization of scientific conferences and seminars, education and training programs, publishing activity and collaboration with academic institutions, regulatory bodies and government agencies. These activities are oriented toward the development and popularization of economic science and profession, enhancement of the quality of corporate and public governance, improvement of the economic system, regulatory framework and economic policy, strengthening of the competitiveness of Serbian economy, and promotion of ethical behavior in economic decision-making.



For thirty years now, Kopaonik Business Forum has been drawing attention of the scientific and business circles, gathering renowned experts and eminent figures from the local and regional economic and political domain. Originally starting back in the early 1990s as an idea of a group of enthusiasts from the Serbian Association of Economists about the need to

organize a scientific and thematic meeting focusing on key issues of economic transition and persisting to this very day, the Forum has continuously grown and evolved both in terms of content and organization, thus becoming the most prestigious business event in Serbia and the region. In addition to this, the continued improvement of quality of the Forum has been attained in a setting predominantly marked by discontinuities and shifts in virtually all segments of society. From the aspect of its relevance and impact, Kopaonik Business Forum has become an important national brand with strong regional identity, known among the general public as “the Serbian Davos”.



Foundation of the Serbian Association of Economists for Supporting Students of Economics was established in 2016 with the aim of developing and promoting economics as a science and profession, affirming talented students of economics, improving the quality of education offered

to students at faculties of economics and enhancing the quality of scientific research in the field of economics. The Foundation achieves the abovementioned targets by granting scholarships to talented students of faculties of economics, presenting awards to successful students of economics, by organising fundraising charity activities, independently or in cooperation with other similar organisations, through cooperation with state and privately owned business entities, cooperation with universities, schools, associations and other similar organisations whose primary interest is to promote economics.



Dr. Ognian DONEV

*Chairman of the Board of Directors and
Chief Executive Officer of Sopharma PLC.
Bulgaria*

*Vice-President
of Vienna Economic Forum*

“For 19 years, the Vienna Economic Forum has been promoting regional economic cooperation through its network of members and partners. It has established itself as a strong platform for the exchange of new ideas, experience, and good practices, which is extremely valuable especially in challenging times.

The focus of 19th Vienna Economic Forum was also on the economic cooperations in difficult periods. Under the motto „Economy meets Politics in Difficult and Uncertain Times“, it gathered guests, opinion leaders, decision makers and politics and together we discussed the needs of decisive measures to support the European economy.

I am grateful for the active role of all members, partners, and friends. In uncertain times this cooperation is fundamental for the development of our region and achieving even greater goals.”

„Seit 19 Jahren fördert Vienna Economic Forum die regionale Wirtschaftskooperation durch sein Netzwerk aus Mitgliedern und Partnern. VEF hat sich als starke Plattform für den Austausch neuer Ideen, Erfahrungen und bewährter Verfahren etabliert, was gerade in herausfordernden Zeiten äußerst wertvoll ist.

Wirtschaftskooperationen in schwierigen Zeiten standen auch im Mittelpunkt des 19. Vienna Economic Forum. Unter dem Motto „Economy meets Politics in Difficult and Uncertain Times“ versammelten sich Gäste, Meinungsführer, Entscheidungsträger und Politiker und diskutierten gemeinsam über die Notwendigkeit entscheidender Maßnahmen zur Unterstützung der europäischen Wirtschaft.

Ich bin dankbar für die aktive Rolle aller Mitglieder, Partner und Freunde. In unsicheren Zeiten ist diese Zusammenarbeit grundlegend für die Entwicklung unserer Region und das Erreichen noch größerer Ziele.“



90 YEARS OF
TRADITION
IN HEALTHCARE

sopharma



Dr. Georg BUCHER

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

*Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum*

Photo © Werner Krug

“With a tradition of almost 200 years, Steiermärkische Sparkasse has established a basis of trust, its customers know they can rely on.

The bank is a major part of the Styrian economy and one of the leading financial institutions in Southeastern Europe. With the successful completion of the accession process of Ohridska Banka AD in 2021, Sparkasse Bank AD Skopje is the second bank in the corporate segment and the third bank in the retail segment. We almost tripled our presence in North Macedonia and can thus be an even more stable economic partner in the region.

We are proud to be again member of the Vienna Economic Forum with immediate effect. The partnership opens up new opportunities to further expand our strong network.”

„Mit einer knapp 200-jährigen Tradition hat die Steiermärkische Sparkasse eine Vertrauensbasis geschaffen, auf die sich ihre Kund:innen verlassen können.

Die Bank ist ein wesentlicher Bestandteil der steirischen Wirtschaft und eines der führenden Finanzinstitute in Südosteuropa. Durch die erfolgreiche Übernahme der Ohridska Banka AD im Jahr 2021, stieg die Sparkasse Bank AD Skopje in die Gruppe der Großbanken auf und positioniert sich als zweitgrößte Finanzdienstleisterin im Kommerzbereich und als drittgrößte im Retailsegment. Wir konnten unsere Präsenz in Nordmazedonien nahezu verdreifachen und sind nun eine noch stabilerer Wirtschaftspartnerin in der Region.

Wir sind stolz, erneut Mitglied des Vienna Economic Forum zu sein. Durch die Partnerschaft ergeben sich für uns neue Möglichkeiten, um unser starkes Netzwerk weiterhin auszubauen.“

Reliable partners by your side: throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

Germany

Poland

Hong Kong

Czech Republic

Slovakia

Austria

Hungary

Moldova

Romania

Slovenia

Croatia

Bosnia and
Herzegovina

Serbia

New York

Montenegro

North Macedonia

Presence in CEE and SEE

Additional presence

steiermaerkische.at

ERSTE 

Steiermärkische
SPARKASSE 



Dr. Achim KASPAR

*Member of the Executive Board
COO, Verbund AG*

VERBUND: The Power to Transform

“VERBUND is Austria’s leading energy company and one of the largest producers of hydro-electricity in Europe. The Group generates around 97% of its electricity from renewable energy, primarily from hydropower. VERBUND trades electricity in 12 countries and generated around €874m group result and €1,579m in EBITDA in 2021 with approximately 3,200 employees. With its subsidiaries and partners, VERBUND is active in the generation of electricity, transmission and in international trading and sales. VERBUND has been quoted on the Vienna Stock Exchange since 1988 with 51% of the share capital being held by the Republic of Austria.

VERBUND is one of the most environmentally friendly energy companies in Europe, contributes significantly to supply security and is particularly committed to climate and environmental protection, careful use of resources and social responsibility. Sustainability is an essential part of the corporate strategy and of the corporate responsibility which is defined in the code of conduct for sustainable management. VERBUND is working intensively on the expansion of renewable energy sources and is thus making a significant contribution to a low-carbon energy future. VERBUND is a signatory to the UN Global Compact and supports the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” Further information: www.verbund.com

VERBUND: Die Kraft der Wende

„VERBUND ist Österreichs führendes Energieunternehmen und einer der größten Stromerzeuger aus Wasserkraft in Europa. Rund 97 Prozent des Stroms erzeugt das Unternehmen aus erneuerbaren Energien, vorwiegend Wasserkraft. VERBUND handelt in 12 Ländern mit Strom und erzielte 2021 mit rund 3.200 Mitarbeiter:innen ein Konzernergebnis von rund 874 Mio. Euro und ein EBITDA von rund 1.579 Mio. Euro. Mit Tochterunternehmen und Partnern ist VERBUND von der Stromerzeugung über den Transport bis zum internationalen Handel und Vertrieb aktiv. Seit 1988 notiert VERBUND an der Börse Wien, 51 % des Aktienkapitals besitzt die Republik Österreich.

Als eines der umweltfreundlichsten Energieunternehmen Europas trägt VERBUND maßgeblich zur Versorgungssicherheit bei und engagiert sich besonders für Klima- und Umweltschutz sowie Ressourcenschonung und übernimmt soziale Verantwortung. Nachhaltigkeit ist wesentlicher Bestandteil der Unternehmensstrategie und der unternehmerischen Verantwortung, die im Verhaltenskodex für nachhaltige Unternehmensführung geregelt sind. Intensiv arbeitet VERBUND am Ausbau der Erneuerbaren Energieträger und leistet damit einen maßgeblichen Beitrag zu einer karbonarmen Energiezukunft. VERBUND ist Unterzeichner des UN Global Compact und unterstützt die Agenda 2030 für nachhaltige Entwicklung der Vereinten Nationen und ihre 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).“ Weitere Informationen: www.verbund.com

Power to the future: VERBUND offers renewable energy and innovative solutions.



VERBUND's run-of-river power plant in Vienna (Freudenau)



VERBUND is Austria's leading electricity company and one of the largest producers of hydropower in Europe.

Almost 100% of our electricity are generated from climate-friendly, renewable sources. VERBUND is active in electricity generation, transmission, sales and international trading.

With innovative products and energy-related services for household, commercial and industrial customers, we are continuing on our way into the clean energy future.

www.verbund.com

Verbund



Mag. Peter HÖFINGER

*Member of the Board
Vienna Insurance Group AG
Wiener Versicherung Gruppe*

*Vice-President
of Vienna Economic Forum*

Photo © Jan Elm

“We see the Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) is an ideal partner for Vienna Insurance Group (VIG), as we are represented by our insurance companies in each of the VEF partner countries. As the leading insurance group in Austria and in the CEE region, VIG acts as a stable and reliable partner and pursues a long-term strategy. We are convinced of the enormous potential of our core market and focus on providing our customers in CEE with custom products and services tailored to their needs. The VEF network thus provides an excellent platform for the VIG Group to jointly drive the positive development of the entire region.”

„Wir sehen das Vienna Economic Forums (VEF) als einen idealen Partner für die Vienna Insurance Group (VIG), da wir mit unseren Versicherungsgesellschaften in jedem der Partnerländer des VEF vertreten sind. Als führende Versicherungsgruppe in Österreich sowie in der Gesamtregion CEE agiert die VIG als stabiler und verlässlicher Partner und verfolgt eine langfristige Strategie. Wir sind vom enormen Potenzial unseres Kernmarkts CEE überzeugt, wo wir Kunden ein individuelles, bedarfsgerechtes Angebot bieten. Das Netzwerk des VEF bietet somit für die VIG-Gruppe eine hervorragende Plattform, um gemeinsam die positive Entwicklung der gesamten Region voranzutreiben.“



PARTNERSHIP

Protecting what matters.

We stay close to our customers. Spread across 30 countries, our 50 Group companies build close relationships with our customers. This makes us a reliable partner that keeps up with the latest market developments, enabling us to offer the best possible solutions. To find out what also matters to us, visit vig.com



Dr. Kurt Gollowitzer

CEO
Wien Holding GmbH

Member of the Board
of Vienna Economic Forum

Photo © Wien Holding, Barbara Nidetzky

“As a company of the city of Vienna, we ensure and strengthen Vienna's position as a business location. With its projects and companies, Wien Holding is an important engine that boosts economic growth, creates jobs and improves the quality of life in the city. As partner of the Vienna Economic Forum we can rely on its knowledge and expertise, which enables us to make new contacts in the region from the Adriatic to the Black Sea. Thus we are able to use possible synergy effects for Vienna.”

„Als Unternehmen der Stadt sorgen wir dafür, die Position Wiens als Wirtschaftsstandort zu festigen und weiter auszubauen. Mit ihren Projekten und Unternehmen ist die Wien Holding ein wichtiger Motor, der das Wirtschaftswachstum ankurbelt, Arbeitsplätze schafft und die Lebensqualität erhöht. Dabei können wir auch auf das Wissen und die Expertise des Vienna Economic Forum zurückgreifen, dass uns durch seine überregionalen Netzwerke ermöglicht, neue Kontakte in der Region von der Adria bis zum Schwarzen Meer zu knüpfen und so Synergieeffekte optimal für Wien zu nutzen.“



making
v!enna
worth
living.

Your life is our passion.

Culture, real estate, logistics and media:
Wien Holding brings our city to life.
Wherever and whenever you want.
365 days a year. For everyone in Vienna.

www.wienholding.at



making vienna worth living.

w!enhold!ng

The company of the City of Vienna



VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

**ECONOMY MEETS POLITICS
IN DIFFICULT AND
UNCERTAIN TIMES
2022**



ANNUAL BOARD MEETING OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

On 21 February 2022

The Annual Board Meeting of Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) in 2022 took place on 21. February at the Vienna Headquarters of the VEF founding member Vienna Insurance Group AG (VIG). Upon the warm welcome by Mag. Peter Höfinger, Member of the VIG Board and nominated VEF Vice-President, to all of the participants on the top floor of the Ring Tower, the VEF President DI Peter Umundum, Board Member for Parcel & Logistics at the Österreichische Post AG took over and led through the agenda.

As an essential part of the meeting, the VEF Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva reported on the activities of Vienna Economic Forum in the past year 2021 – another special and volatile year, nevertheless a year offering fertile ground for even more successful VEF activities.

Through organizing and co-organizing, as well as by actively participating in many, mostly hybrid/online, events, VEF was able to reach an even wider international audience. The focus of Vienna Economic Forum last year was on the greatly accelerated transformation processes in key areas such as Energy, Infrastructure, Finance, etc., as well as on increased mediation for exploiting the enormously increased potential of the so-called "nearshoring", which has meanwhile become a central common denominator in the economic development strategies of the VEF member countries in the region from the Adriatic to the Black Sea.

In the background of the economic policy talks organized by VEF in 2021 at the highest state level, the annual report highlighted the proud fact that Vienna Economic Forum was granted the honour by the official Viennese authorities to display and wave the VEF flag in the Prinz-Eugen-Street 58, in the heart of the Embassy district. With this highly symbolic act, Vienna Economic Forum reaffirmed its high status and international reputation as the European economic platform based in Vienna!

The Board unanimously accepted the admission of new VEF members as Cooperation partners and Members-legal entities.

Furthermore, it was accepted that the voted changes in the VEF Board, as well as the updates in the Patrons, Ambassadors, Honorary committee were to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Assembly for resolution.



Family Photo

Annual Board Meeting 2022 of Vienna Economic Forum at the Headquarters of Vienna Insurance Group

Photo below (f.l.t.r) First row: Mr. Faruk Kurtulmuş, Country Advisor, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office; Mag. Heinz Messinger, Managing Director, AME International GmbH; Mag. Peter Höfner, Member of the Managing Board, Vienna Insurance Group AG; Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva; DI Peter Umundum, Member of the Board, Österreichische Post AG; Mr. Mustafa Kemal Kafadar, Senior Advisor, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office; (f.l.t.r) Second row: Mag. Stefan Krenn, LL.M., Director Group Marketing & Communications, Novomatic AG; Mag. Christian Pultar, Managing Partner, WWV Partner Steuerberatungs GmbH, Tax Consultant; Mag. Ekkehart Stremitzer, Managing Director, AME International GmbH; Dr. Stephan Pachinger LL.M, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Rechtsanwälte PartG mbB



Working atmosphere at the Annual Board Meeting 2022 while maintaining a safe distance



Hosted by Mag. Peter Höfnger, Member of the VIG Board and VEF Vice-President



Exchange of ideas in a friendly atmosphere at the VEF Board Meeting 2022



Working together

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

On 14 March 2022

The Annual General Assembly of Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) in 2022 took place on 14. March in the premises of the EVN Headquarters in Maria Enzersdorf and was hosted by Mag. Stefan Szyszkowitz, VEF Board Member, Spokesman of the Executive Board of EVN AG.

Mag. Szyszkowitz and the VEF President DI Peter Umundum, Member of the Board of Austrian Post AG, opened the General Assembly by welcoming the members present. Before moving on to the agenda, the VEF President gave the floor to the VEF Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva for a few farewell words from the suddenly deceased founding father and Honorary President of Vienna Economic Forum, Vice- Chancellor Dr. Erhard Busek. In a minute of silence, all participants commemorated our highly esteemed companion, friend and role model Dr. Busek. We will all miss him dearly!

Very emotionally affected and with clearly noticeable dismay, the VEF Secretary General was able to briefly report on some of the most important activities of Vienna Economic Forum in the past difficult but successful year 2021 for VEF. As per the annual plan for 2022, she announced the forthcoming Vienna Economic Talks - Istanbul Meeting which took place on 16.-17. May in the VEF Member country Türkiye. They served as a very good opportunity for fruitful exchange between high-ranking representatives of politics and economy as well as for driving economic cooperation between companies from Austria and from the countries of the Southeastern Europe region.

With gratitude, Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva addressed all those present, who continue to support Vienna Economic Forum, even under the challenging conditions of our time, and rely on its growing networking potential.

VEF President DI Peter Umundum informed about the admission of new VEF members at the Board meeting on 21 February 2022 as follows:

As Members – Cooperation Partners:

- Vienna Insurance Group (VIG)
- Municipal Guarantee Fund of Sofia Municipality
- KI-Kelag International GmbH

As Members – Legal entities:

- Frequentis AG
- Aryxe Group Holding OÜ
- University for National and World Economy Sofia
- OMEKS, d.o.o., Slovenia, Smart Building and Construction Company

The new VEF Members were unanimously welcomed by the General Assembly.

Furthermore, the General Assembly unanimously made the following decisions:

- Mag. Peter Höfinger, Member of the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) board, was elected as a Board member and Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum
- Dr. Georg Bucher, Board member, Steiermärkische Bank und Sparkassen AG, was elected Board member of Vienna Economic Forum
- Dr. Nikolay Tsenkov, Manager of the Municipal Guarantee Fund of Sofia Municipality, was elected Board member of Vienna Economic Forum
- Dr. Nina Drakić, President, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, has been co-opted as a Board member of Vienna Economic Forum

The following were appointed as Members of the Patrons Committee of Vienna Economic Forum:

- H.E. Mr. Kiril Petkov, Prime Minister of Bulgaria
- H.E. Ms. Natalia Gavrilița, Prime Minister of Moldova
- H.E. Mr. Dimitar Kovačevski, Prime Minister of North Macedonia
- H.E. Mr. Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, Prime Minister of Romania
- H.E. Mr. Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of Kosovo

Honorary membership in the Honorary Committee of Vienna Economic Forum was awarded to the following:

- KR Prof. Mag. Dr. Gertrud Tauchhammer, Honorary Consul from Cameroon and Honorary Consul General from Tunisia, Publisher of Society Magazin, VEF- Media Partner
- H.E. Dr. Meglena Plugtschieva, extraordinary and plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Montenegro
- Ambassador Dr. Valentin Inzko, Austrian Diplomat, former High UN Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina

The following were appointed as Members of the Ambassadors Committee of Vienna Economic Forum:

- H.E. Mr. Osvit Rosoklija, extraordinary and plenipotentiary Ambassador of North Macedonia to the Republic of Austria
- H.E. Dr.h.c. Emilian Horatiu Hurezeanu, extraordinary and plenipotentiary Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Austria
- H.E. Mr. Alexander Gerzina, extraordinary and plenipotentiary Ambassador of Slovenia to the Republic of Austria
- H.E. Dr. Vasyl Khymynets, extraordinary and plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Austria



Family photo of the Annual General Assembly 2022 of Vienna Economic Forum

During several speeches, thoughts were exchanged about the challenging times and above all about the need for action in view of the tragic war in Ukraine. There was consensus on the need for more intensive idea generation for VEF repositioning and identification of new approaches that should highlight the important role of Vienna Economic Forum in the region. Above all, the internationally active business community, which is strongly represented in VEF, should expand its potential for influence and thus make a significant contribution to peace and prosperity in the region of Southeast Europe. The active participation of the VEF members in the upcoming Istanbul Meeting would be a very good starting point for this.

The Vienna Economic Forum team would like to thank all members for their constant support and for the trust they have always shown. These inspire us to develop and realize further visions in order to be there for all VEF members, partners and friends, as we have been in all the years up to now!



Active participants



Keeping safe and maintaining distance



Building bridges



The Independent Platform

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



Vienna Economic Forum
VEF
Go South East

VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS ISTANBUL MEETING 2022

**ECONOMY AS A DRIVING FORCE
IN DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN TIMES**

17 May 2022, Dolmabahçe Palace, Istanbul



PRESIDENCY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
**INVESTMENT
OFFICE**

Vienna Economic Forum is proud to cooperate with:



Special thanks to:





VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS

ISTANBUL MEETING 2022

17 May 2022
Dolmabahçe Palast, Istanbul, Türkiye



PRESIDENCY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
**INVESTMENT
OFFICE**



Photos © Ferhat M. Zuprevic

*Family Photo
Vienna Economic Talks – Istanbul Meeting 2022*

Vienna Economic Forum is proud to have had co-organised the event together with the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office, represented by its President, Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu, Member of the VEF Board.

The high-ranking participants – representatives of regional politics and the global economy – made a significant contribution to the great success of the event. The very lively debates focused on the exciting topic: "Economy as a Driving Force in Difficult and Uncertain Times". As part of the intensive program, Türkiye's economic resilience and economic development through cooperation, including the reconstruction of the VEF member country Ukraine after the war, were discussed.

Vienna Economic Talks – Istanbul Meeting 2022 moderated by Ms. Andrea Sanke, Journalist and Senior Presented for TRT Word News in Istanbul, was opened by Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Member of the Board and Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum who addressed the long-lasting history and excellent cooperation between VEF and Invest in Turkey from the organizing of the first VEF – Istanbul Meeting in 2007, followed by the Istanbul Meeting in 2011 and the Vienna Economic Forum- Meet Turkey in Vienna in 2012, until the Istanbul Meeting 2022. She further discussed the economic and geopolitical importance of Türkiye for the region and its future development.

In his opening statement Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu, President of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office and Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum explained that the same room where the Vienna Economic Talks – Istanbul Meeting 2022 was taking place is the same room where the Ukraine-Russia negotiations on the ongoing war took place and expressed his wish for a prompt positive outcome. Furthermore, he spoke about the very low FDI for the region and highlighted that the main target of the strategy is to increase Türkiye's share in global FDI market to 1.5 percent as of 2023, by enhancing its performance in terms of quality FDI profiles. He also stressed the importance of increasing the FDI volume to the region.

During his opening, DI Peter Umundum, Member of the Board Parcel and Logistics of the Austrian Post AG and President of Vienna Economic Forum, spoke about new economic era thus accentuating the necessity of the Istanbul Meeting 2022. He spoke about how the economy can transform the world and assist in facing all of the challenges as a driving force in difficult and uncertain times as well as the dire need for enhanced regional cooperation and ongoing connectivity. President Umundum expressed the positive experiences Austrian Post AG has had, especially in view of the good and steady growth of ARAS Kargo in the country and the impressive amount of 2 million parcels delivered per day in 2021. He expressed his view on further potentials for future developments.

During the First Session: "Exploring Türkiye's Economic Resilience in an Age of Opportunities and Challenges" in her Video Impulse Statement Ms. Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth spoke about the tremendous potential, talents and opportunities for this region, the fruitful cooperation between EU and Türkiye spanning for over 2 decades. Furthermore, she accentuated the many possibilities, open access

and opportunities that the EU programmes Horizon Europe and Erasmus Plus offer, drawing the attention to the Green Erasmus offering opportunities in the fight against the climate change.

H.E. Mr. Hekuran Murati, Minister of Finance, Labor and Transfers of Kosovo, opened the question about how to make the economy more resilient, especially in the view of the COVID situation, inflation, energy squeeze thus stressing the necessity for infusion of funds in order to bridge the big gap caused by the current challenges on one hand. On the other, H.E. Minister Murati reported on the Kosovo growth of 10,5% in 2021.

In his statement Mr. Mehmet Kacir, Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology of Türkiye discussed the COVID disruption and the effects on the supply chains, the resilience in this matter, and the production lines moved to Türkiye during the situation. There has been over 290 billion US dollars of FDI in the last 20 years in Türkiye. The many start-ups receive steady support by the Government. Türkiye has deep roots and productive ties with the countries from the region, thus accentuating the importance of further, even more active cooperation and relationship.

During the lively and productive discussion led by the Moderator Mr. Auskar Surbakti, Journalist and Senior Presenter for TRT World news in Istanbul, Ms. Barbara Hagen, CFO of ARAS Kargo once again accentuated the great achievements and impressive number of parcels that ARAS Kargo managed to successfully deliver on a daily basis presented as an opportunity by the pandemic, emphasising the 2021 as a record year. Dr. Gabriel Lansky, Partner, LANSKY, GANZGER, GOETH, FRANKL + Partner (LGP), Austria spoke about the great success that they have on local and international level with over 200 lawyers present in over 20 countries in the areas of investment, finance and trade. Dr. Lansky further informed about the new office in Türkiye. Mr. Burak Bilge, CEO of Austria Card Türkiye and President of Türkiye-Austria Business Council at the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEIK), Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum spoke about the presence of his company in Türkiye since 1996, the smart cards that they produce and digital services that they offer, Dr. Hüseyin Gelis, President and CEO of Siemens Türkiye, elaborated on the long history of Siemens, as well as its role as a platform for growth in Türkiye. He discussed the new issues that the market faces these days, which are not only materials shortage but labour shortage as well. The President of the Marmara Group Foundation and Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum Dr. Akkan Suver highlighted the long-standing collaboration with Vienna Economic Forum and invited to the 25th Eurasian Forum in Istanbul.

At the beginning of the Second Session: "Fostering Economic Development through Local, Regional and International Cooperation" the high-ranking participants had the opportunity to primarily hear the Video Impulse Statement of Dr. Lilyana Pavlova, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) who talked about fostering economic development through local, regional and international cooperation, accentuated the necessity of acting faster, together and more decisively in order to help the world tackle the ongoing challenges. Vice President Pavlova further elaborated on how the effects of COVID demonstrated the power of European solidarity, thus accentuating the 58 billion Euros allocated by the EIB to help fight the

negative economic and social consequences. On a global level, new partnerships, are key to sustainable development, such as Invest EU.

In his Impulse statement Ambassador Dr. Valentin Inzko, former UN High Representative and EU Special Representative (HR/EUSR) for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum talked about over 60 initiatives currently active in the Western Balkan region, of which some duplicated. He elaborated on the work of the Regional Cooperation Council which replaced CEFTA, the Berlin process and the necessity for the initiatives not only to exist but to be implemented and realized which Ambassador Dr. Inzko believes to be of key importance, further accentuating the need for sense of urgency and halt to the immigration from the Balkans.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Mr. Faruk Kaymakci, started his Keynote statement stressing that Türkiye rejects the war by Russia and supports Ukraine in all its efforts. He spoke about the artificial creation of the phrase Western Balkan meant to discriminate and marginalize Türkiye when we should be talking about South-Eastern Europe. He further accentuated the excellent relationship between Türkiye and the countries from the Western Balkans on both economic and political level, spoke about the accession perspective of Türkiye and the fact that the efforts of both EU and Türkiye to assist the countries from the Balkans should be complementary and enhance each other.

During his participation in the discussion, Mr. Pavle Radovanović, Vice President of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum indicated the role of the Chambers of Economy in Fostering Economic Development and highlighted the fact that they represent the “voice” of the business community and possess the capacities and knowledge to transform justified requirements into concrete actions. Dr. Nikolay Tsenkov, Manager of the Municipal Guarantee Fund of Sofia Municipality, Bulgaria, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum spoke about the unique form and function of the Municipal Guarantee Fund and its significant role in supporting small and middle enterprises, as well as the importance of cooperation among the institutions, not rivalry. Mr. Erdem Acay, CEO of Coşkunöz Holding Türkiye discussed the supply chains and the ongoing rivalry rather than cooperation, increased interest in the VEF Member countries and the necessity for multiple sources for supplies, not relying on one. Mr. Ali Tahan, Head of International Banking and Investor Relations, Vakıfbank Türkiye discussed the huge amount allocated as loans to the small and medium enterprises, support for the Türkiye’s exporters and branches of the Bank in Qatar and USA. Mr. Ufuk Cemal Bali, General Manager and Member of the Board of Intesa Sanpaolo elaborated on the activities of the bank in Türkiye but also in the subsidiaries all over. Intesa Sanpaolo is among the top banks in the country and in Europe. He spoke of two most important aspects of steady and reliable supply chain according to him and in Türkiye and that would be the geographic aspect and the population.

At the end of the Second Session Ambassador Dr. Victor Jackovich, President of Jackovich International LLC, USA and Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum provided an exceptional overview of the Vienna Economic Talks – Istanbul meeting 2022 thus summarizing all of the interesting statements, contributions and observations by the many eminent participants and contributors.

Vienna Economic Forum thanks all cooperation partners for their support, A1 Telekom Austria Group, AFRY AF Pöyry, AME International GmbH, CANON CEE GmbH, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Jackovich International LLC, Kelag AG, LANSKY, GANZGER, GOETH, FRANKL + Partner (LGP), Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, MUNICIPAL GUARANTEE FUND FOR SME SOFIA, Novomatic AG, Austrian Post AG, The Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office, Raiffeisen Bank International, Serbian Association of Economists, Sopharma PLC, Steiermärkische Bank und Sparkassen AG, Verbund AG, Vienna Insurance Group (VIG), Wien Holding GmbH, as well as the special supporters of the event ARAS Kargo and Ray Sigorta A.S. Vienna Insurance Group.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 16 MAY 2022

7:00–9:00 p.m. **WELCOME COCKTAIL** (by personal invitation)

TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022

LOCATION

Dolmabahçe Palace

Vişnezade, Dolmabahçe Cd., 34357 Beşiktaş/Istanbul

8:00–8:45 a.m. **REGISTRATION**

8:45–8:55 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO** (by invitation)

9:00–9:30 a.m. **OPENING SESSION**

ECONOMY AS A DRIVING FORCE IN DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN TIMES

Moderation

Ms. Andrea SANKE, *Journalist, Senior Presenter for TRT World news in Istanbul*

Opening

Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, *Member of the Board*

Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Ahmet Burak DAĞLIOĞLU, *President*

Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office

Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

DI Dr. Peter UMUNDUM, *Member of the Board*

Parcel & Logistics, Austrian Post AG, President of Vienna Economic Forum

9:30–11:00 a.m. **1st SESSION**

EXPLORING TÜRKIYE'S ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN AN AGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Moderation

Mr. Auskar SURBAKTI, *Award-winning Journalist, Anchor of TRT World's flagship daily international business and finance programme, Money Talks*

Impulse Statement

Ms. Mariya GABRIEL, *European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (Video Statement)*

Keynotes

Mr. Mehmet Fatih KACIR, *Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology of Türkiye*

Participants in the Discussion

Mr. Arda ERMUT, *CEO and Board Member of Türkiye Wealth Fund*

Ms. Barbara HAGEN, *CFO, ARAS Kargo, Türkiye*

Dr. Gabriel LANSKY, *Partner, LANSKY, GANZGER, GOETH, FRANKL + Partner (LGP), Austria*

Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Burak BILGE, *CEO of Austria Card Türkiye and President of Türkiye-Austria Business Council at the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEİK), Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*
 Dr. Hüseyin GELİS, *President and CEO of Siemens Türkiye*
 Dr. Akkan SUVER, *President, Marmara Group Foundation Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*

Q and A Session

led by the Moderator

11:00–11:30 a.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 a.m.–
1:15 p.m. **2nd SESSION**

**FOSTERING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH LOCAL, REGIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Moderation

Mr. Auskar SURBAKTI, *Award-winning Journalist, Anchor of TRT World's flagship daily international business and finance programme, Money Talks*

IMPULS STATEMENTS

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

Amb. Dr. Valentin INZKO, *former UN High Representative and EU Special Representative (HR/EUSR) for Bosnia and Herzegovina Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum*

Keynotes

Mr. Faruk KAYMAKCI, *Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye*

Participants in the Discussion

Mr. Pavle RADOVANOVIĆ, *Vice President of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Dr. Nikolay TSENKOV, *Manager, Municipal Guarantee Fund of Sofia Municipality, Bulgaria, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Mr. Erdem ACAY, *CEO, Coşkunöz Holding, Türkiye*

Mr. Ahmet DÖRDÜNCÜ, *CEO, Akkök Holding, Türkiye*

Mr. Ali TAHAN, *Head of International Banking and Investor Relations, Vakıfbank, Türkiye*

Mr. Ufuk CEMAL BALI, *General Manager and Member of the Board, Intesa Sanpaolo*

Summary

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

1:15–2:30 p.m. **NETWORKING LUNCH**

2:30 p.m. **END OF VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS
ISTANBUL MEETING 2022**

Vienna Economic Forum
is proud to cooperate with:



Special thanks to:



Media Partner:



PHOTO GALLERY



Interested Audience and participants at the historic Dolmabahçe Palast



High-ranking audience



Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva



Mr. Ahmet Burak Daglioglu



Inspiring and thought-providing statments and discussions



STATEMENTS



DI Peter Umundum



INTERESTED AUDITORIUM



H.E. Mr. Hekuran Murati, Minister of Finance, Labor and Transfers of Kosovo



Mr. Auskar Surbakti



Mr. Mehmet Fatih Kacir, Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology of Türkiye



Ms. Barbara Hagen

EXITING EXCHANGE OF IDEAS



*Dr. Akkan Suver
President, Marmara Group Foundation
Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*



Mr. Burak Bilge



Dr. Hüseyin Gelis, President and CEO of Siemens Türkiye



Dr. Gabriel Lansky



Q&A Time

INTERESTING QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS



Q&A Time



Amb. Dr. Valentin Inzko, Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum



*Mr. Ufuk Cemal Bali
General Manager and Member of the Board
Intesa Sanpaolo*

STIMULATING STATEMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS



Mr. Faruk Kaymakci, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye



Mr. Erdem Acay, CEO, Coşkunöz Holding, Türkiye



Mr. Pavle Radovanović, Vice President of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro



Dr. Nikolay Tsenkov, Manager, Municipal Guarantee Fund of Sofia Municipality, Bulgaria, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Mr. Ali Tahan, Head of International Banking and Investor Relations, Vakıfbank, Türkiye



High-level discussion



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

The loved Culinary and Musical Journey through the Member Countries of Vienna Economic Forum



"From the Adriatic to the Black Sea"

21ST TRADITIONAL GARDEN PARTY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

On 10 June 2022 in the Paradise-Garden of Villa Flora

After the long break of the pandemic period, the approximately 300 members, partners and friends of Vienna Economic Forum were able to enjoy the most popular summer social event of Vienna Economic Forum, defined as a "Culinary and Musical journey through the VEF Member countries".

The mixture of guests from all countries of the VEF region, from Europe and world-wide was warmly welcomed by the hostess, Prof. Mag. Tauchhammer, Publisher of Society Magazine, long-standing VEF - Media Partner and VEF honorary member.

In her emotional opening speech, the Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva especially thanked the Ambassadors and Charges d'affaires of the Embassies of the VEF countries and emphasized: "All of you, Excellencies, accredited in Austria, have a highly responsible mission at this specific time: to not only represent your own country, but to act much more in a regional and European dimension, to think of a common European future, to do everything in our power to ensure the prosperity and well-being of one's own country as part of the entire region and the whole of Europe!"

Furthermore, the Secretary General and VEF founder Dr. Elena Kirtcheva paraphrased the world-famous words of former US President Kennedy from 1961: "In deep conviction that the VEF mission obliges us all, we do not ask what Austria and Vienna can do for Vienna Economic Forum and the VEF member countries, we want to do more and more for the state of Austria and the city of Vienna! In order to fulfil this mission, and to position our VEF region, the region "From the Adriatic Sea to the Black Sea" – from Vienna – even better on the European and world map, to not only make this region more visible, but in order to support its native role in the enforcement of the economic, European and universal human values, we strive to transform Vienna Economic Forum into a real international organization based in Vienna. Where there's a will, there's a way!" emphasized the Secretary General. The hostess, Prof. Mag. Tauchhammer, invited the present Ambassadors, members of the Ambassadors Committee of Vienna Economic Forum, the Chargés d'affaires and Diplomats of the Embassies, the Members of the VEF Board and the Members of the VEF honorary committee to the traditional Family photo:

Present were:

- H.E. Mr. Kemal KOZARIĆ – Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Charge d'Affaires a.i. Ms. Victoria Scolnic - Moldova
- Charge d'Affaires a.i. Ms. Marija Lakic Barfus – Montenegro
- H.E. Mr. Osvit ROSOKLIJA – Ambassador of North Macedonia
- H.E. Mr. Emilian HUREZEANU – Ambassador of Romania
- Mr. Mag. Matjaz MARKO, Gesandter/Wirtschaftsrat – Slovenia
- Mr. Alattin Temur, First Counselor – Türkiye

Members of the VEF Board:

- Mag. Peter Höfnger – Member of the Board Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) and VEF-Vice President
- Mr. Wilbert Verheijen – Managing Director, Canon CEE GmbH
- Mr. Emmanuel Forest – Former CEO, BOUYGUES EUROPE SA; Brussels

Member of the Honorary Committee of Vienna Economic Forum:

- Dr. Franz Kosyna
- Amb. Prof. Dr. Vasilka Poposka Trenevskaa
- Dr. Ernst Huber
- Mr. Ludwig Nießen

The VEF Board member Emmanuel Forest that flew from Paris especially for this occasion, in the honour of the VEF Member country Ukraine sang two ukrainian songs.

The many guests were indulged by the Embassies with country-specific and traditional culinary delicacies.

The diverse artistic program, with performances from Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and North Macedonia, was enjoyed by the guests very much – the folk dances of the region encouraged many to dance along.

The good mood, the culinary delicacies, the musical entertainment and the unique atmosphere of the paradise-garden of the Villa Flora have, especially in the difficult time of a war on the old continent in the 21st century, again proven how much the people of the region from the Adriatic to the Black Sea have in common and how much everyone appreciates universal human values.

INTERNATIONAL
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATION



Go South East

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

KÜNSTLERISCHES PROGRAMM

21. Traditionelle Gartenparty „Kulinarische und musikalische Reise durch die Mitgliedsländer des Vienna Economic Forum“

10. Juni 2022, von 18:00 bis 21:00 Uhr

VILLA FLORA
Hüttelbergstraße 23a, 1140 Wien



18:20 Uhr **Eröffnung**

18:30 Uhr **Beginn des Künstlerischen Programmes**

Mr. Emmanuel Forest, Mitglied des VEF- Vorstandes singt die ukrainischen Lieder:

- Дивлюсь я на небо (Ich schaue in den Himmel)
- musikalisches Arrangement von Vladislav Zarembo auf einer Melodie von Ludmila Alexandrova, Text von Mikhailo Petrenko
- Чорні брови (Schwarze Augenbrauen)
- Volkslied nach einem Gedicht von Konstantin Dumitraschenko

19:15 – 19:35 Uhr **Bosnien und Herzegowina**

Die Band Fakat Combo

Martina Jozinovic (Vokal); Anel Ahmetovic (Akkordeon); Dzenan Fehric (Gitarre)

- Vino piju nane age Sarajlije
- Ah moj Aljo
- Snijeg pade
- Miljacka
- Oj Safete Sajo

19:40 – 20:00 Uhr **Bulgarien**

Das Folklore Ensemble Kitka, Verein Bulgarische Rhythmen ist allen Teilnehmern der traditionellen VEF- Garten Party schon gut bekannt.

- 3 Volksliedern
- Pirinski Tanz, Choreografie Dimitar Petrov

20:05 – 20:25 Uhr **Moldau**

Herr Sasha Danilov, Klarinetist aus Moldau führt die folgenden Kompositionen aus:

- Moldawien-Medley
- <https://danilov.at>

20:30 – 20:50 Uhr **Nordmazedonien**

Orchestra Aleksandar, Herr Aleksandar Arabadjiev, Herr Jakob Eckhart und Herr Mathias Drozda stellen sich mit den folgenden traditionellen Liedern aus Nordmazedonien vor:

- Gajtan Oro
- Zajko kukurajko
- Gajdarsko Oro
- Sedna baba da vechera

20:50 Uhr **Gemeinsam tanzen**

Alle Gäste sind eingeladen, den Abend mit einem gemeinsamen Tanz ausklingen lassen.

Ende der 21. Traditionellen Garten Party „Kulinarische und musikalische Reise durch die Mitgliedsländer des Vienna Economic Forum“.

PHOTO GALLERY



Welcome Words from the host
KR Prof. Mag. Gertrud Tauchhammer and the
Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva



Members of the Board, Ambassadors, Members of the Honorary Committee and Arbitrators
of Vienna Economic Forum



Mr. Emmanuel Forest, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Honoring the VEF member country Ukraine with several Ukrainian songs



Celebrating together 21 years Garden Party of Vienna Economic Forum

FRIENDLY AND SMILING ATMOSPHERE ...



... ON A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION



The Host KR Prof. Mag. Gertrud Tauchhammer with the Society Team



TRADITIONAL COSTUMES AND TRADITIONAL TASTY FOOD ...





Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Elena Kircheva with the VEF-Team and Supporters

WONDERFUL EXCHANGE IN A COLORFUL ENVIRONMENT ...



... BUILDING FRIENDSHIP AND MAINTAINING BANDS



SMILING FACES AND WONDERFUL CULTURAL PROGRAMME





CELEBRATING TOGETHER





SHARING MUSIC, CULTURE AND SMILES



Vienna Economic Forum
is proud to cooperate with:



Special thanks to the Host and Media Partner:



Vienna Economic Forum
**19th VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM
 VIENNA FUTURE DIALOGUE 2022**
 Go South East

Raiffeisen Bank International
 Member of RBI Group

**ECONOMY MEETS POLITICS
 IN DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN TIMES**

Monday, 14 November 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (CEST/UTC+1)
 Raiffeisen Bank International - Raiffeisen Hall, Am Stadtpark 9, 1030 Vienna

Vienna Economic Forum is proud to cooperate with:

A1 AFRY AME Canon Freshfields JTI ZACHRYVICH INTERNATIONAL kelag Chamber of Economy of Montenegro NOVOMATIC INVESTMENT OFFICE Raiffeisen Bank International sopharma SPARKASSE Verbund VIG wienholding



19TH VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM – VIENNA FUTURE DIALOGUE 2022

ECONOMY MEETS POLITICS IN DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN TIMES

14 November 2022
Raiffeisen Bank International
Raiffeisen Hall



During the 19th Vienna Economic Forum - Vienna Future Dialogue 2022 which under the motto "Economy meets Politics in Difficult and Uncertain Times" took place on 14. November 2022 at the Raiffeisen Bank International in Vienna, the Board and the Members of Vienna Economic Forum had the honour and the pleasure to welcome the invited participants, high-ranking decision-makers from economy and politics from 22 countries.

The conference was moderated by Ambassador Victor Jackovich, President, Jackovich International LLC, USA and Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum.

In his Opening Speech of the First Session: "Can the Economy be a Driving Force in Difficult and Uncertain Times", the VEF President DI Peter Umundum greeted the many participants onsite and online and spoke about the importance of strong cooperation, especially in these difficult and uncertain times. President Umundum stressed that for our focus VEF region, Vienna Economic Forum is a platform for communication and collaboration and invited the participants to use this possibility.

During his Welcome and Input, the host, Mag. Peter Lennkh, Member of the Management Board, Corporate Banking, Raiffeisen Bank International AG, (RBI) and Board Member of the Vienna Economic Forum stated that in light of this current crisis and the prevailing uncertainty, the European politics must take ambitious measures to support the economic activity of our continent and to ultimately safeguard the Western model of democracy and way of living.

In her video Impulse Statement, H.E. Ms. Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, stressed that the lessons learned of the past century in Europe has taught us that economic cooperation works. She spoke about the importance and advanced achievements of the cooperation of the Balkan countries in the field of digitization and the important role of this cooperation and she concluded her speech with a quote from Ambassador Dr. Kirtcheva: "Where there is a will, there is a way".

In her insight, the VEF Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva emphasized how important it is to stay true to the VEF vision of building a "Common Economic Area from the Adriatic to the Black Sea", especially in these difficult and uncertain times. Giving the audience some negative, as the abandoned Nabucco project in the past, and positive examples as the Greece-Bulgaria Interconnector from the present, she reminded of the significance in times like these to focus on regional cooperation and the implementation of long-term projects that could offer options to the VEF region and Europe.

Ambassador Victor Jackovich announced the Second Session "Securing Regional Economic Development in an Insecure Environment. How to Manage the Challenges under the Pressure of the Reality" and invited H.E. Mr. Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of Kosovo and Patron of Vienna Economic Forum to deliver his Keynote.

H.E. Prime Minister Kurti expressed his belief that the regional economic development depends on coming closer to democratic values and aspirations towards EU membership of each and every country of the Western Balkans. The global pandemic and the consequent war in Ukraine have taught the democratic policy makers and the businesses of all sizes an important lesson

over the past two years: it is not only of an absolute necessity to allocate production and other services to geographically closer regions but to base our economies on sound market principles and democratic values alike in order to be resilient. Interest and values go hand in hand.

Mr. Djordje Radulovic, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro stated that the best way to tackle today's challenges is through European integration and through regional cooperation.

Mag. Peter Höfner, Member of the Board of Vienna Insurance Group AG and Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum stated that we are entering a multi-polar world which is going to change a lot of the mechanisms of globalisation used in the past, leading more to regionalization and cooperation between the regions and stressed the importance of adapted supply chain. Mag. Thomas Arnoldner, CEO of A1 Telekom Austria Group, Member of the VEF Board, stressed that we cannot underestimate the role that technology plays in mastering the ongoing crises. The one who masters technology best is the first to go out through these crises as a winner, the one who masters technology is to be the fastest to overcome and prevail these crises. Dr. Stephan Pachinger, LL.M, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Member of the VEF Board spoke about the dangers and risks of a non-harmonized, fragmented legal framework as can be seen and experienced today.

In his Video Statement H.E. Olivér Várhelyi, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement pointed out that this year's Vienna Economic Forum comes at a critical time for Europe and the region.

In view of the unprecedented crisis caused by the global pandemic 2 years ago and the current war of aggression in Ukraine, which has worsened the state of affairs by fuelling global inflation, increasing geopolitical fragmentation and challenging macroeconomic stability, Commissioner Várhelyi elaborated on the impact of these political and economic changes in the EU neighbourhood and the Western Balkans countries and stressed that as a result, the war has brought EU and the neighbouring countries closer together, as well as that the changing geopolitical situation has strengthened the EU enlargement and neighbourhood policy!

H.E. Commissioner Várhelyi concluded his address by accentuating that strengthening the bonds between the EU and Western Balkans in this new geopolitical reality is indispensable and pointed out that to attract investments the region must rethink existing strategies and further explore new opportunities like nearshoring.

The Q and A session that followed prompted lively discussions and an exchange of ideas with high-ranking representatives of regional and European politics as well as high-ranking representatives of Austrian, regional, European and international economy.

At the beginning of the third session: "Enhanced Cooperation between the Regional Economy and Politics – what is the right way?" the participants had the opportunity to hear the video Keynote statement by Dr. Lilyana Pavlova, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB). Dr. Pavlova stressed the importance of Vienna Economic forum as a platform that fosters regional cooperation, economic ties and solidarity and pointed out that we need to unite forces more than ever towards sustainable and prosperous Europe.

EIB Vice President Pavlova spoke about the aspiration of the EIB to support the neighbourhood and enlargement countries by launching a dedicated branch EIB Global earlier this year for the Bank's operations outside the EU. This branch is to serve as a dedicated arm to assist in shifting the operating model through reinforcement of the local presence of the EIB thus helping the region benefit from the latest EU initiative Global Gateway.

The EIB Vice President Dr. Pavlova concluded her Statement by saying that at these grave times for the world that threaten to disrupt the very foundation of our lives and economies, the only way forward is to advance with all activities that ensure sustainable future for all. The EIB Group, together with the European commission and other local partners can play a decisive role in supporting the energy security, green transition, and competitiveness of the regional economies.

Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu, President of the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office, VEF Board Member delivered the second Keynote. He spoke about the rising importance of regional cooperation in times of deglobalization. He stressed that it is not only political or economic cooperation of importance when we talk about regional cooperation, but cooperation in logistics and infrastructure is also important for the resilience of the supply chains as well. Thus, we must think and act on various other fields of regional cooperation.

He accentuated the many challenges that we have been facing that are taking the focus off our region. We must keep the cooperative environment alive in order to have robust geography with political fields in terms of economy, trade relations and investment relations. All of the stakeholders involved, must make decision taking into consideration the well being of others as well.

In his concluding remarks he called for all of the countries to join the global discussions and called for development of more inclusive policies and inclusive mechanisms for the decision-making processes globally. He accentuated the Motto of the Investment Office "Türkiye is your resilient partner in your businesses".

Dr. Achim Kaspar, Member of the Executive Board, COO of Verbund AG, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum spoke about energy policy being the right example for cooperation in Europe on a global base. Energy is of utmost importance in order to have sustainable development. Dr. Nina Drakic, President of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Member of the VEF Board spoke about the traditional challenges with which the business community faces enhanced by the current challenges. Dr. Drakic expressed her belief that we have an obligation to require the views of the business community to be put into focus to the attention of the decision makers. Mr. Burak Bilge, CEO of Austria Card Türkiye and President of the Türkiye-Austria Business Council at the Foreign Relations Board of Türkiye (DEİK), Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum expressed his views on the importance of logistic cooperation and nearshoring and the important role that Türkiye plays and shall play in these areas for the years to come. He furthermore accentuated the tremendous potential of start-ups in the future cooperation.

Mag. Teodora Georgieva, Executive Officer and Board Member of ICGB AD Gas Interconnector Greece – Bulgaria shared the success story from the inception to the realization of the Gas Interconnector Greece – Bulgaria especially during these extremely challenging times. She accentuated the strategic role of this impressive project calling it “the game changer for the region” providing options not only for the two countries but for the whole region as well.

Dr. Gabriel Lansky, Partner, Lansky, Ganzger, Goeth, Frankl + Partner (LGP), Member of the VEF Board spoke about cooperation not only on regional level but on a global scale, stressing the effect that the current ongoings have an impact on the world-wide economy. He invited the audience to consider several thought-provoking aspects of the many implications and effects of the actions that are currently in force as a result of the war in Ukraine. Dr. Nikolay Tsenkov, Manager of Municipal Guarantee Fund of Sofia Municipality, Member of the VEF Board spoke about the significance of the geography of the countries and the opportunities it provides. He expressed his views that in the current situation it is the regional cooperation that should be in the forefront offering collaboration not only on an economic or political level but connecting the countries on cultural and traditional level as well.

During the Insight that Ms. Velina Tchakarova, M.A., Director, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES) provided she stated that the only certainty in global affairs is actually the uncertainty. Change is the only constant in life.

She pointed several trends which in her view would be equally important for both the EU institutions and for the businesses and would in turn affect the lives of the citizens. Ms. Tchakarova pointed out the impact that globalization has had and stressed the bifurcation of the global system as a highly important megatrend whose development would greatly affect the global fashions and the global well-being.

In her final remarks she stated that when it comes to the geoeconomic side, many countries are in position to weaponize geoeconomic means. We must be cautious and businesses must develop a clear understanding about the geopolitical and geoeconomic risks linked directly to the behaviour of states and organizations with important international relevance. Finally, as a lesson drawn from the previous industrial revolutions, the power that emerged victorious out of riding the way of the industrial revolution became also the global power.

At the end of the third session, the moderator, Ambassador Dr. Victor Jackovich, President of Jackovich International LLC, USA and VEF Board member, provided an extraordinary overview of the 19th Vienna Economic Forum - Vienna Future Dialogue 2022, of the many interesting statements, contributions and observations of the high-ranking participants and speakers, as well as of the many happenings currently affecting the VEF region.

The Vienna Economic Forum Award "Country Partner of the Year 2022" was given to the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office for the excellent and fruitful cooperation. The award was accepted by the President Mr. Ahmet Burak DAĞLIOĞLU, Member of the VEF Board.

During the working lunch that followed, the participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas, cultivate contacts and make new ones in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

The subsequent response has been extremely positive.

Vienna Economic Forum would like to thank all members, partners and friends for the enduring and constant support that drives us to achieve greater goals and broaden our horizons.

Special Thanks goes to: A1 Telekom Austria Group, AFRY Management Consulting Austria GmbH, AME International GmbH, CANON CEE GmbH, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Jackovich International LLC, KELAG Kärntner Elektrizitäts AG, LANSKY, GANZGER + Partner, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Municipal Guarantee Fund of the City of Sofia, Novomatic AG, Österreichische Post AG, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office, Raiffeisen Bank International, Serbian Business Association, Sopharma PLC, Steiermärkische Bank und Sparkassen AG, Verbund AG, Vienna Insurance Group, Wien Holding GmbH.

Vienna Economic Forum would like to thank Raiffeisen Bank International in particular for the hospitality and strong technical support, and also to VEF Media Partner Society Magazine.

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2022

LOCATION

Hotel Imperial
Kärntner Ring 16, 1015 Vienna

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

MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2022

LOCATION

Raiffeisen Bank International, Raiffeisen Hall
Am Stadtpark 9
1030 Vienna

8:15–8:45 a.m. **REGISTRATION**

8:45–8:55 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO (by invitation)**

9:00–9:30 a.m. **1st SESSION**

CAN THE ECONOMY BE A DRIVING FORCE IN DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN TIMES

Moderation

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

Opening

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

Welcome and Input

Mag. Peter LENNKH, *Member of the Management Board, Corporate Banking,*
Raiffeisen Bank International Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Impulse Statement

H.E. Ms. Mariya GABRIEL, *European Commissioner*
for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (Video Statement)

Insight

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

9:30–11:00 a.m. **2nd SESSION**

**SECURING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN AN INSECURE ENVIRONMENT.
HOW TO MANAGE THE CHALLENGES UNDER
THE PRESSURE OF THE REALITY?**

Moderation

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

Keynote

H.E. Mr. Albin KURTI
*Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum*

Participants in the Discussion

Mr. Djordje RADULOVIC
*Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Montenegro*

Mag. Peter HÖFINGER, *Member of the Board, Vienna Insurance Group AG
Wiener Versicherung Gruppe, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum*

Mr. Branko AZESKI, *President, Economic Chamber of North Macedonia*

Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER, *CEO, A1 Telekom Austria Group AG
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Dr. Stephan PACHINGER LL.M., *Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Insight

H.E. Mr. Olivier VÁRHELYI, *European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and
Enlargement (Video Statement)*

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

11:00–11:30 a.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 a.m.–
1:15 p.m. **3rd SESSION**

**ENHANCED COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE REGIONAL ECONOMY AND POLITICS –
WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY?**

Moderation

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

Keynotes

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

Mr. Ahmet Burak DAĞLIOĞLU, *President, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye
Investment Office Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Participants in the Discussion

Dr. Achim KASPAR, *Member of the Executive Board, COO, Verbund AG
Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum*

Dr. Nina DRAKIĆ, *President, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Mr. Burak BILGE, *CEO of Austria Card Türkiye and President of Türkiye-Austria
Business Council at the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEİK)
Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*

Mag. Teodora GEORGIEVA
*Executive Officer and Board Member,
ICGB AD Gas Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria*

Dr. Gabriel LANSKY, *Partner
LANSKY, GANZGER, GOETH, FRANKL + Partner (LGP)
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Dr. Nikolay TSENKOV, *Manager of Municipal Guarantee Fund
of Sofia Municipality
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum*

Insight

Ms. Velina TCHAKAROVA, M.A.
Director, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES)

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

1:15–1:30 p.m.	ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE INVESTMENT OFFICE – COOPERATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2022
1:30 p.m.	End of the live streaming
1:30–2:30 p.m.	NETWORKING TIME – BUFFET LUNCH – for the onsite participants Possibilities for BILATERAL MEETINGS FOR VEF MEMBERS (organized by VEF)

Vienna Economic Forum
is proud to cooperate with:



Media Partner:



Photos © SOCIETY/Polaschnig



Family photo

*19th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2022
Economy Meets Politics In Difficult And Uncertain Times*

PHOTO GALLERY



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



*DI Peter Umundum
President of Vienna Economic Forum*



Constructive exchange of ideas



*Mag. Peter Lennkh, Member of the Board of
Vienna Economic Forum*





Ms. Velina Tchakarova, M.A., Director, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES)



H.E. Ms. Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth



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



Interested audience



High ranking podium participants



Minute of silence for victims by the explosion in Istanbul



*H.E. Mr. Albin Kurti
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum*



*Keynote of H.E. Mr. Albin Kurti
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum*





Mag. Peter Lennkh, Member of the Management Board, Corporate Banking, Raiffeisen Bank International



Mag. Thomas Arnoldner, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Mr. Djordje Radulovic, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro



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



INTERESTED AUDIENCE



DI Ryszard Presch, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum



Mag. Peter Höfninger, Vice-President of Vienna Economic Forum



Mag. Heinz Messinger, Vice-President and Financial Referent of Vienna Economic Forum



Members of Vienna Economic Forum



CAPTIVATING STATEMENTS



Members of Vienna Economic Forum



*Special address by H.E. Ms. Mariya Gabriel
European Commissioner*



*Dr. Stephan Pachinger LL.M, Member of the Board of
Vienna Economic Forum*



*H.E. Mr. Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner for
Neighbourhood and Enlargement*

STRENGTHENING BANDS



Q&A Session



BULIDING NEW TIES



H.E. Ms. Michaela Mocanu, Ambassador of Moldova to Austria



Maintain communication



DISCUSSIONS



*Dr. Lilyana Pavlova
Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB)*



Dr. Achim Kaspar, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Dr. Nina Drakić, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum





Mr. Burak Bilge, President of Türkiye-Austria Business Council at the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEİK)



Dr. Gabriel Lansky, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



Mr. Burak Bilge, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum



Mag. Teodora Georgieva, Executive Officer and Board Member, ICGB AD Gas Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria



Gas Interconnector Greece – Bulgaria a leading project for the CESEC initiative



H.E. Mr. Emil Hurezeanu, Ambassador of Romania to Austria



Dr. Nikolay Tsenkov, Manager of Municipal Guarantee Fund of Sofia Municipality



Ms. Velina Tchakarova, M.A., Member of Vienna Economic Forum



Dr. Nikolay Tsenkov, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum



*H.E. Mr. Osvit Rosoklija
Ambassador of North Macedonia to Austria*



Dr. Stephan Pachinger LL.M, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Rechtsanwälte PartG mbB



Dr. Ernst Huber, Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum

ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY



*Mr. Ahmet Burak Dağlıoğlu
President, Presidency of the Republic of
Türkiye Investment Office*



**ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
INVESTMENT OFFICE – COOPERATION PARTNER
OF THE YEAR 2022**

COOPERATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2022



*ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKIYE INVESTMENT OFFICE
COOPERATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2022*



FAMILY FOTOS





WELCOME COCKTAIL
ON EVE OF THE 19TH VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



H.E. Mr. Albin Kurti and Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva



Dr. Achim Kaspar



DI Peter Umundum



HOTEL IMPERIAL VIENNA, MARBLE HALL



*Amb. Victor Jackovich and
Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva*



*Secretary General and Amb. Dr. Valentin Inzko,
Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum*



*Guest of Honour H.E. Mr. Albin Kurti, Patron of
Vienna Economic Forum*



WELCOMING H.E. MR. ALBIN KURTI
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
PATRON OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



IDEAS EXCHANGE IN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE





Exchange of ideas in good spirit



DISCUSSIONS FOR THE NEXT DAY



DEEPENING THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN VEF-MEMBERS AND -PARTNERS ...





PERSONAL MEETINGS



CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUES ...



VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM DAILY BUSINESS 2022

A Reaffirmed granting of the Status of an International Non-Governmental organization (Int.NGO) to Vienna Economic Forum by the Austrian legal authorities

Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) is highly pleased and honoured to announce that it has been re-listed in the Austrian **new decree on granting the Legal Status of an International Non-Governmental Organization (Int.NGO)**, coming into force on 1 January 2022.

The regulation currently enacted by the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs in agreement with the Federal Minister for Labour and the Federal Minister for Interior continuously confirms the Int.NGO status of VEF, which Vienna Economic Forum was originally granted with the official decision of the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs on 7. January 2011.

The long-standing state recognition of Vienna Economic Forum as Int.NGO stands as witness to the numerous VEF successes in supporting cross-border interaction between economy and politics, which are based on strict adherence to the principle of neutrality and the gradually created international basis of trust.

For Vienna Economic Forum it is an honour to be able to further strengthen Austria as a point through its activities, and to continuously contribute to the economic cooperation and development of all VEF member countries as an economic region that is constantly growing closer together.



Photo (r.s.): H.E. Mrs. Natalia Gavrilita, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, (r.s.): VEF Vice-Presidents, Dr. Ognian Donev, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Sopharma PLC, Bulgaria and Mag. Heinz Messinger, Managing Director, AME International GmbH

VEF DELEGATION MET H.E. MS. NATALIA GAVRILIȚA, PRIME MINISTER OF MOLDOVA

This year's **international activities of Vienna Economic Forum** commenced with a high-level working visit of the **two VEF Vice-Presidents** Dr. Ognian Donev, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Sopharma PLC, Bulgaria and Mag. Heinz Messinger, Managing Director, AME International GmbH, **to the VEF Member country Moldova.**

Due to the **excellent cooperation between VEF and the representatives of the Moldovan Government**, a series of high-level working meetings were held on site as part of the 2-day visit program (25–27 January 2022).

During the first meeting with **H.E. Mr. Sergiu Gaibu, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova** and **Mr. Stelian Manic, Director of the Investment Agency of the Republic of Moldova**, the **VEF Vice-Presidents** presented the milestones of economic projects implemented in the country by Sopharma PLC and AME International GmbH, and discussed prospects for investment expansion.

In an additional meeting with **H.E. Ms. Ala Nemerenco, Minister of Health of the Republic of Moldova**, and taking into consideration the current challenges, focal points in the further development process of the health system, withing the interest areas of the two VEF cooperation partners, were discussed.

At the meeting with **H.E. Mr. Dumitru Budianschi, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Moldova**, focus of the talks was on the domestic banking sector as well as the current status of financing options for foreign investment projects. In a concluding meeting, the two **VEF Vice-Presidents**, accompanied by **Mr. Nikolay Borissov, CEO of Moldindconbank S.A.** met with **H.E. Mrs. Natalia Gavrilița, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova and Member of the VEF Patrons Committee**. During the talks with the Prime Minister the investment climate in Moldova was discussed, including the good practices of financing for interested investors based on the intensive intergovernmental cooperation between Moldova and Austria.

As a member of the **VEF Patrons Committee, Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilița**, was presented with the VEF agenda for 2022 and invited to participate in the **19th Vienna Economic Forum in November this year**. In addition, possible steps towards Moldova-oriented economic talks in Vienna Economic Talks format were considered.

For the excellent cooperation between **VEF and the Republic of Moldova**, the delegation, on behalf of the VEF Board, presented **H.E. Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilița** with the **"Badge of Honour of Vienna Economic Forum"** for her support as a member of the **VEF Patrons Committee**.



The VEF Vice-Presidents Dr. Ognian Donev, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Sopharma PLC, Bulgaria and Mag. Heinz Messinger, Managing Director, AME International GmbH, presenting to H.E. Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilița the "Badge of Honour of Vienna Economic Forum".



Photo (l.s.): Mr. Stelian Manic, Director of the Investment Agency of the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Mr. Sergiu Gaibu, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova, (r.s.): VEF Vice-Presidents, Mag. Heinz Messinger, Managing Director, AME International GmbH and Dr. Ognian Donev, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Sopharma PLC, Bulgaria

Photo on the right: H.E. Ms. Ala Nemerenco, Minister of Health of the Republic of Moldova left: VEF Vice-President, Mag. Heinz Messinger, Managing Director, AME International GmbH



Photo (f.l.t.r): VEF Vice-Presidents, Mag. Heinz Messinger, Managing Director, AME International GmbH and Dr. Ognian Donev, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Sopharma PLC, Bulgaria with H.E. Mr. Sergiu Gaibu, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova and Mr. Stelian Manic, Director of the Investment Agency of the Republic of Moldova

WORKING VISIT OF THE VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM MEMBER OF THE BOARD – FORMER MINISTER OF ECONOMY OF SERBIA MR. ALEKSANDAR VLAHOVIC, PRESIDENT OF THE SERBIAN ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMISTS



During an analytical and constructive working meeting on 8 February 2022 in the VEF premises, the former Minister of Economy of Serbia **Mr. Aleksandar Vlahovic, President of the Serbian Association of Economists and Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum** and **Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum**, discussed in detail the current development and the necessary initiatives for the VEF region, talked about the new aspects of further and more active cooperation and set the course for their **development in the next period.**

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM – COOPERATION PARTNER NOVOMATIC AG HONOURED AS AUSTRIAN LEADING COMPANY FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN A ROW



Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) is pleased to report, that the **VEF Cooperation partner Novomatic AG**, which employs around 21,000 people at more than 45 locations worldwide, was once again recognized as a leading company by the independent, cross-industry excellence platform "**Leitbetriebe Austria**" for its group-wide sustainable business strategy, high innovative strength and promotion of youth talent.

VEF congratulates its Cooperation partner Novomatic AG, one of the largest employers in Lower Austria, on both this important recognition, as well as on the other important awards for their employee-friendly working climate and **wishes them many more successes.**

IN MEMORIAM DR. ERHARD BUSEK

Founding Father and Honorary President of Vienna Economic Forum

(* 25. März 1941 in Wien; † 13. März 2022)

The Vienna Economic Forum Members and Partners were deeply saddened by the unexpected passing of the Founding Father and Honorary President of Vienna Economic Forum, former Vice Chancellor of Austria Dr. Erhard Busek.

With the demise of Dr. Busek Austria loses a statesman and a great European. Committed to European issues to the end, he acted as a driving force and as a critical thinker. His exceptional commitment is respected far beyond Austria's borders.

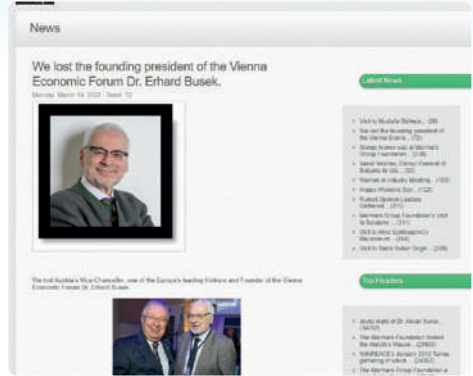
It was his tireless engagement to the European path of the VEF Member Countries in the region "From the Adriatic to the Black Sea" that made him one of the co-founders and a long-standing President of Vienna Economic Forum.

Vienna Economic Forum will always hold him in fond memories as a great visionary. We are grateful for the many years of close cooperation, for the great passion in building the Vienna Economic Forum-Family and for the time we were able to spend with him.

We will miss Dr. Busek as a highly valued personality who always stood by his convictions and ideals and was therefore a role model for all of us.



**VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM
STRATEGIC PARTNER
MARMARA GROUP
FOUNDATION BIDS
FAREWELL TO
FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR
DR. ERHARD BUSEK
FOUNDING FATHER AND
HONORARY PRESIDENT OF
VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM**



**THE AMBASSADOR OF TÜRKIYE H.E. MR. OZAN CEYHUN
WELCOMMED SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR
DR. ELENA KIRTCHEVA ON A WORKING MEETING**



On 15 April 2022, the **Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** visited the **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Türkiye H.E. Mr. Ozan Ceyhun** for a working meeting at the **Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye**.

The conversation focused on new aspects of further and more active future cooperation with the Embassy. During the intensive discussions, a special focus was placed on the organization of the upcoming **Vienna Economic Talks - Istanbul Meeting 2022 on 16-17 May 2022 in Istanbul**.

The **Secretary General Amb. Kirtcheva** sincerely thanks Ambassador Ceyhun for the shown hospitality and is looking forward to a further fruitful cooperation.

DELEGATION OF THE TURKISH-AUSTRIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL OF THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BOARD OF TÜRKIYE (DEIK) VISITING VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



During a very constructive and analytical working meeting on 27 April 2022 at the VEF premises, a **delegation of the Turkish-Austrian Business Council of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEIK)**, long-standing Strategic partner of VEF and **Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum**, discussed in detail the current developments and the necessary initiatives for the VEF region. The forthcoming **Vienna Economic Talks – Istanbul Meeting 2022** that are to be held on 16–17 May, as well as new aspects of further and more active future cooperation, were also the main topic of the conversation.



TALKS ABOUT THE FUTURE WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE INVESTMENT OFFICE MR. AHMEZ BURAK DAGLIOGLU AT VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

After 2-days of successful events in Salzburg and Vienna on economic developments and economic opportunities in Turkey, the **President of Invest in Türkiye Investment Office Mr. Ahmet Burak DAGLIOGLU, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum**, visited the Vienna Economic Forum premises at Prinz Eugen Straße 58, in the Vienna's 4th district, on 27 April 2022 to discuss future cooperation.



During the intensive exchange of ideas, the Investment Office **President Mr. Ahmet Burak DAGLIOGLU**, a long-standing VEF Cooperation partner and Member of the VEF Board and Ambassador **Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum**, spoke about new impulses for further and even more active collaboration.

The forthcoming **Vienna Economic Talks – Istanbul Meeting 2022** that are to be held on **16–17 May 2022**, the **4th Istanbul event** through the years that the two parties are organizing together were also the topic of the meeting.

PUBLIC LAW, EU LAW AND PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW STUDENTS FROM LAW SCHOOL HAMBURG FOR AN INTERNSHIP VISIT AT VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



After the break due to the pandemic, **Prof. Dr. Jörn Axel Kämmerer, Head of the Department for Public Law, Public International and EU Law at Bucerius Law School Hamburg**, once again organized an internship trip to Vienna with a group of his students.

In the **Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) premises, on 19 May 2022**, the students in a very interested and engaged manner discussed various aspects of international law with the **VEF Secretary General**

Ambassador Dr. jur. Elena Kirtcheva. Furthermore, the founding of Vienna Economic Forum and its development as an **International Non-Governmental Organization (International NGO)**, as well as the possibilities of further development as a real International Organization (IO) based in Vienna – which is also a special topic of Professor Dr. Kämmerer's teaching – were debated.

The lively academic discussion took place in a very friendly atmosphere, determined by a thirst for knowledge, for which the Secretary General Dr. Kirtcheva thanks Prof. Dr. Kämmerer very much. The two sides look forward to possible future joint activities.

INTENSIVE TALKS ABOUT THE FUTURE AT THE BAN KI-MOON CENTRE FOR GLOBAL CITIZENS IN VIENNA



On 13. June, Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Member of the Board and Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, visited Dr. Heinz FISCHER, former Federal President of the Republic of Austria (2004–2016), Patron of Vienna Economic Forum, for a working meeting at the premises of the BAN KI-MOON CENTRE for Global Citizens in Vienna.

During an intensive exchange of ideas, the challenges of the time, revealing regional, European and global values of cooperation, were discussed.

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM-COOPERATION PARTNER NOVOMATIC AG WITH A SUCCESSFUL THIRD NOVOMATIC-COMPANY DAY

Vienna Economic Forum (VEF) is pleased to inform about the great response at the **third NOVOMATIC Company Day** and to congratulate on this successful and very important day for the employees!

NOVOMATIC AG CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE BRANDS IN AUSTRIA

Vienna Economic Forum is pleased to be able to inform about the further successes of the **VEF Cooperation partner NOVOMATIC AG**, represented on the VEF Board by **DI Ryszard Presch** as VEF Vice-president.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM AMBASSADOR DR. ELENA KIRTICHEVA WITH A VIDEO STATEMENT AT THE KAZAKHSTAN – NORTH MACEDONIA B2B FORUM IN ALMATY



On 5. September 2022 the **first North Macedonia - Kazakhstan B2B Forum** was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Organized by the Embassy of North Macedonia in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the national company KAZAKH INVEST, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the forum discussed issues of investment opportunities in such areas as the agro-industrial complex, pharmaceuticals and petrochemicals.

The VEF **Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** greeted the forum with a **Video statement** accentuating the **common goal of the Almaty B2B Forum and Vienna Economic Forum**: strengthening regional economic collaboration between neighboring countries to promote investment opportunities in North Macedonia, as well as in the whole VEF region and contributing to economic consolidation of the region.

Ambassador Dr. Kirtcheva pointed to the investment talks held in Vienna and other VEF member countries that resulted in investments in the Republic of North Macedonia, a founding member of the Vienna Economic Forum.

In this regard, the Secretary General thanked **H.E. Ambassador Sali Limani**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of North Macedonia to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic, **Member of the Honorary Committee of Vienna Economic Forum** and organizer of the **First B2B Forum North Macedonia – Kazakhstan** and underlined, that Kazakhstan and its companies have the capacity, resources and opportunities to become a key player in the economic cooperation with North Macedonia, as well as with **VEF and all 13 member countries of Vienna Economic Forum in the region, defined as “The region From the Adriatic to the Black Sea”**.



Video statement of the Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva

AMBASSADOR DR. ELENA KIRTICHEVA AS A GUEST ON BLOOMBERG TV BULGARIA'S "IN DEVELOPMENT" PROGRAM



Bloomberg Television is an international news network specializing in business and finance. Since Bloomberg first launched TV news in the United States in 1994 and four years later in Germany, it now reaches over 310 million homes worldwide. It has its headquarters in New York, London and Hong Kong. On 5. September 2022, the **founder and Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** was invited to be

a guest on **Bloomberg TV Bulgaria** in the highly acclaimed live program **“In Development”**. The VEF Secretary General spoke about the founding, the goals and the visions of Vienna Economic Forum. The economic development of the 13 VEF member states and the economic consolidation of the entire VEF region “From the Adriatic to the Black Sea”, which also includes Bulgaria, as well as the **plans for further VEF development as an International organization, seated in Vienna**, in accordance with the international public law, were discussed.

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM IS PLEASED TO INFORM

Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva became a **Member of the International Advisory Board of the EU Project TRANSIT : “TRANSITION to sustainable future through training and education”**.

The Project has received successful funding from the HORIZON EUROPE Topic **“Sustainability and educational aspects for renewable energy and renewable fuel technologies”**.

The project is expected to **start on the 1 October 2022** with an official launch during the **13th Mediterranean Conference on Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Energy Conversions (MEDPOWER2022)**.

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM AND THE FUND OF FUNDS (FOF) – FUND MANAGER OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS IN BULGARIA SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

The two sides, represented by the **Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** and **CEO and Chairman of the Board, Mr. Martin Gikov** announced an intensive cooperation.

The signing took place in the ceremonial hall of the Fund of Funds (FOF) in the presence of the **Deputy Minister for Innovation and Growth, Mr. Stefan Savov**.



The partnership will aim to evolve into a **regional platform for exchange of ideas and experience**. By signing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **FoF, the Vienna Economic Forum** will expand its broad network of contacts by adding a structurally important Bulgarian institution which provides financing for development. On its part, the Fund of Funds will benefit from the opportunity to collaborate with a key platform for strategic economic cooperation in the region of Southeast Europe.

A major impact of the MoU will be the focused development of a regional ecosystem of key stakeholders in the area of development financing. Dialogue and coordination of efforts among key actors will not only strengthen the impact of their interventions, but will also contribute to making yet another step towards the economic and social integration of the region.

Mr. Martin Gikov, FoF CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors: “We are extremely happy that the Fund of Funds will partner with the highly appreciated Vienna Economic Forum. I strongly believe that by achieving our shared goals we will successfully increase the uptake of financial instruments in Bulgaria and, in addition, leverage the potential of our region for economic growth.”

Ambassador Dr. Elena Kircheva, Secretary General of the VEF, made the following comments: “I wish to express how glad I am that the **Vienna Economic Forum and the Fund of Funds** have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Established in 2004 under the Austrian law, the VEF is a Bulgarian initiative! Accordingly, every opportunity to **foster economic growth of and between the 13 Member Countries** and achieve economic consolidation of the region defined as **‘From the Adriatic to the Black Sea’** through stronger, more proactive and more innovative Bulgarian participation makes me deeply delighted and proud.”

VEF MEMBER CANON AUSTRIA LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN FOR MONTHLY PRINTING FLAT RATE



Vienna Economic Forum is pleased to announce the **launch of the new monthly printing flat rate campaign** by VEF member **Canon Austria**, represented by **Mag. Anderl, Managing Director of Canon Austria** and a long-time reliable member of **Vienna Economic Forum**.



WORKING MEETING WITH THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF MOLDOVA H.E. MICHAELA MOCANU AT VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

On 4 October 2022 the new **Ambassador of Moldova H.E. Michaela Mocanu** and the **Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** met for a working meeting at the VEF premises.

In a very friendly atmosphere the possibility for a further, deepened collaboration was discussed. In view of the intensive preparations for the upcoming **19th Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2022 which is to take place on 14 November 2022**, the focus was placed on planning the high-level participation of the VEF Member country, Moldova.

Vienna Economic Forum wishes H.E. Ambassador Michaela Mocanu many successes during her diplomatic mission in Austria.

WORKING MEETING WITH H.E. AMBASSADOR DRAGANA RADULOVIĆ, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF MONTENEGRO AT VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM



On 25 October 2022, the **Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum, Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** welcomed **Ambassador Dragana Radulović, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Montenegro** to a working meeting at the premises of Vienna Economic Forum.

The discussion focused on current issues concerning the regional cooperation in the present situation, as well as on the upcoming **19. Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna Future Dialogue 2022**, which is to take place on 14 November 2022 dedicated to the highly current topic: "Economy Meets Politics in Difficult and Uncertain Times".

The VEF Founding Member country Montenegro is represented in the Board of Vienna Economic Forum by Dr. Nina Drakić, President of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro. VEF is pleased to intensify the cooperation with the Embassy of Montenegro and with the Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Ambassador Dragana Radulović.

VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM – LIONS CLUB VIENNA OSTARRICHI GET-TOGETHER PUNCH



Vienna Economic Forum is proud to have had the opportunity to support the **Initiative of the VEF-Honorary President Dr. Günther Rabensteiner** and the **Lions Club Vienna Ostarrichi** for a Get-Together Punch at the historical location of the Michaeler Platz in the heart of Vienna.

The collected amount shall be donated to support the many Lions Club's charitable projects.

The Vienna Economic Forum Team is proud of the possibility to actively participate and is delighted to be a part of such a noble initiative.

NOVOMATIC ALSO CERTIFIED IN ITALY AND SPAIN ACCORDING TO HIGHEST PLAYER PROTECTION STANDARD

Vienna Economic Forum is pleased to be able to inform about the further successes of the VEF Cooperation partner **NOVOMATIC AG**, represented on the VEF Board by DI Ryszard Presch as VEF Vice-president.

AMBASSADOR DR. KIRTCEVA MET IN ADDIS ABABA H.E. MR. AHMED SHIDE, MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA



On 29 December 2022, **Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Member of the Board and Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum** had the honour and the pleasure to be received by **H.E. Mr. Ahmed Shide, Minister of Finance of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** for a working visit during her trip to Addis Ababa.

Various possibilities and concrete initiatives and ideas for future cooperation between **Ethiopia and Vienna Economic Forum** were discussed during the intensive discussion and in a friendly atmosphere.

INTERNATIONAL
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATION
SINCE 2011, RECONFIRMED STATUS
AS OF 1. JANUARY 2022



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

REGISTERED IN THE
TRANSPARENCY REGISTER
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Dear Members and Strategic Partners, dear Friends!
Your ongoing support and trust in Vienna Economic Forum
has been instrumental in our continued commitment and
dedication to the further economic consolidation of the
Region “From the Adriatic to the Black Sea”.

Vienna Economic Forum remains strongly focused on
the regional economic cooperation and will continue to
establish, maintain and develop close collaboration with the
other regional, European and global initiatives.

With the support of



Media Partner





**INTERNATIONAL
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATION**
SINCE 2011, RECONFIRMED STATUS
AS OF 1. JANUARY 2022

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

**REGISTERED IN THE
TRANSPARENCY REGISTER
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Prinz-Eugen-Straße 58/4-5
A-1040 Wien | Vienna
Österreich | Austria
T: +43 (1) 714 10 14 11
F: +43 (1) 714 10 14 19
E: office@vienna-economic-forum.com
H: www.vienna-economic-forum.com