



Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva
Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum (VEF)

Place of Birth: Bulgaria

Degree: PhD in Law

Education:

1967-1971 University "St. Kliment Ochriski" in Sofia, Juridical Faculty
1991 PhD in Law, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Professional Life:

1972-1973 Advocate, Sofia Advocacy
1973-1976 Legal adviser (Contracts and Arbitrage) to Industrial plant "Tich trud", Sofia
1997-1998 Adviser of the Direction of UBS (United Bank of Switzerland), Zürich, Switzerland
2005- Member of the Board and Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum (VEF)

Academic Career:

1976-1990 University Lecturer at the University for National and World Economy, Sofia, Faculty of Law
1983 Scientific research in Social law at the University of Vienna, Austria
1987, 1990, 1996 Scientific research in Social law at the Max Planck Institute in Munich and Private law at the Max Planck Institute in Hamburg, Germany

Political Mandates:

- 1990 Sofia, National Round Table - Expert of the opposition at the time for the legal and political restructuring in Bulgaria after the communist regime
- 1990-1991 Member of Parliament in the first democratically elected Grand National Assembly of Bulgaria.
Vice-Chairman of the New Constitution Commission.
Member of the Commission for foreign policy of the Bulgarian Parliament.
Member of the Bulgarian parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg.
Member of the Bulgarian parliamentary Delegation to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe CSCE (OSCE), Vienna.

Diplomatic Career:

- 1991-1996 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to Switzerland
- 1994-1996 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to Principality of Liechtenstein
- 1999-2001 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to Finland
- 2001-2005 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of Austria

Merits:

- 2000- Honour Cross of St. George – Honourable Member of the Helsinki Battalion (founded in 1812)
- 2006- Grand Decoration in Gold with Sash for Services to the Republic of Austria
- 2014- Granting of honorary citizenship due to the extraordinary achievements already made and to be expected of a special interest to the Republic of Austria (in the field of Economics) – with Official Act of the Federal Government on July 3, 2014, in accordance with Art 10 (6) StbG.

Languages: Mother Tongue Bulgarian
German, English, Russian

Publications: Various scientific articles and studies, manuals and handbooks for university students and for practical legal use in Sofia, Munich, Hamburg and Vienna

Organisations: Founding Member, Member of the Board and Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum (VEF)
President of the Supervisory Board of Industrial Holding Bulgaria
Member of the International Advisory Board (IAB) of the TRANSIT Project, European Union, Horizon Europe program