

Green Transition Forum 4.0 – Redefining CEE Region Global Perspective

Preliminary Agenda

June 26-28, 2024

DAY 1 - 26.06.2024

08:00 – 09:00 Terrace Coffee Morning – Networking Gathering

09:00 – 09:10 Official Opening

Welcome address by event organizers

Beta Hall Inspirational Speakers – Lubomila Jordanova, Founder & CEO of Plan A and Monika Stanisheva, Chair of the Board of Directors of Dir.bg

09:10 – 10:30 Keynotes Plenary

Keynote: Dimitar Glavchev, Prime Minister of Bulgaria

Beta Hal **MOBILIZING CAPITAL FOR GREEN PROJECTS**

The Role of Financial Institutions: How banks, institutional investors, development agencies, and multilateral organizations can drive green financing.

Moderator: Lilyana Pavlova, Vice President of the European Investment Bank (2019 - 2023)

- Ludmila Petkova, Minister of Finance, Bulgaria
- Iliana Tsanova, Deputy Director General and Chief Risk Officer, GD "Budget", EC
- Kyriacos Kakouris, Vice President, EIB
- Roger Havenith, Deputy Chief Executive, EIF
- Kamelia Mineva, CEO, ProCredit Bank
- Galina Vincelette, Country Director for the EU, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank
- Krassimira Raycheva, Country Manager Visa, Bulgaria
- Tsanko Arabadjiev, CEO, Bulgarian Development Bank

Alpha 2+3 **ESG Workshop**

Side event of BICA, Findings and ESG BG

10:30 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Parallel Sessions**

Beta Hall

SESSION 1: THE COST OF GOING GREEN

Understanding the Numbers: Exploring the financial implications of transitioning to a sustainable economy.

Investor Perspectives: Insights from institutional investors, venture capitalists, and impact funds

Scaling Up: Strategies to attract more capital for large-scale green projects

Shaping the Transition: Development Banks' Strategies for Accelerating Green Investments

Moderator: Sophia Kassidova, Head of Strategy & Green Policies, BDB

- Beata Dashinska-Muzychka, Presidential Ambassador, Special Envoy for the Three Seas Initiative
- Dorin Badea, Senior CEE Investment and Capital Markets Expert, Romanian Investment and Development Bank
- Hellenic Development Bank (tbc)
- Desislava Simeonova, CEO, UBB Bank
- Manyu Moravenov Ph.D, CEO, Bulgarian Stock Exchange
- Mila Nenova, Executive Director, InvestBulgaria Agency

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SESSION 2: DECARBONISATION OF TRANSPORT AND SMART MOBILITY

Overview of key strategic initiatives in the transport sector aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

Case studies of successful projects and their impact on the environment and economy. Collaborative efforts between government, private sector, and non-profits in advancing decarbonisation.

Moderator: Lubomir Stanislavov, CEO, Automotive Cluster, Bulgaria

- Georgi Gvozdeykov, Minister of Transport and Communications, Bulgaria
- Isidro Iaso, Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Valean (tbc)
- Andrei Novakov, MEP, EPP Group
- Emmanouil Fountoukis, Chairman of the BOD, Automotive Cluster Bulgaria
- Gabriel-Andrei Ţechera, Corporate Governance & IR Director at TTS (Transport Trade Services) S.A., Romania
- Rumen Ivanov, CEO DHL Express Bulgaria (tbc)

Alpha 1

SESSION 3: Powering the European Industrial Policy: The Potential of Offshore Wind in Central and Eastern Europe

Moderator: Ruslan Stefanov, Program Director, Center for the Study of Democracy

Opening: Ognian Shentov, Chairman, Center for the Study of Democracy

- Delyan Dobrev, Chairman, Energy Committee, National Assembly of Bulgaria
- Martin Vladimirov, Director, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy
- Alexandra Sdoukou, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Greece (tbc)
- Alexandra-Maria Bocse, State Adviser on Climate and Sustainability of the President of Romania (tbc)

12:00 – 12:30 **Lunch**

12:30 – 14:00 **Parallel Sessions**

SESSION 4: FIRESIDE CHAT – IMPLEMENTING ESG FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

ESG Reporting Frameworks: Enhancing Transparency and Accountability

Inclusive Leadership: Fostering Diversity and Social Impact in Corporate Culture

ESG Integration in Supply Chains: Creating Sustainable and Ethical Networks

Sustainable Finance: ESG Factors in Investment Decision-Making

Moderator: Boyan Rashev, Partner, YE denkstatt

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- John C.Havens, Director, IEEE and Planet Positive 2030
- Marija Pujo Tadic, President, International Institute for Climate Action, Croatia
- Demian Pintos, CEO, Philip Morris Bulgaria
- Marie-Christine von Hahn, Vice President, Corporate Sustainability & External Affairs, Aurubis
- Konstantin Delisivkov, Managing director of Energeo EOOD, Member of Geotechmin Group
- Ellen Wasylina, President and Founder, Trocadero Forum Institute
- Briseida Gjoza, Co-Founder, ConsciESG

SESSION 5: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

The challenges and opportunities in achieving food sustainability, considering the region's specific issues.

Policies to ensure food security farmers' prosperity while adapting to climate change: The role of EU regulations and government policies in creating sustainable solutions.

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Moderator: Zinaida Zlatanova, Founder and CEO, Institute for Sustainable Development

- Dr. Georgi Tahov, Minister of Agriculture of Bulgaria and Food, Bulgaria
- Charlina Vitcheva, Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, EC
- Mihail Dumitru, Deputy Director-General, DG Agriculture and Rural Development
- Giannis Balakakis, President, AgroBusiness Forum, Greece
- Svetlana Boyanova, Chairperson of Institute for AgroStrategies and Innovations
- Simeon Karakolev, Co-chair of the National Sheep Breeding Association

14:00 - 14:30 Coffee break

14:30 – 16:00 Parallel Sessions

SESSION 6: DECARBONIZING INDUSTRIES, GREEN SUPPLY CHAINS AND CIRCULAR ECONOMIES – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Solutions to decarbonize the shipping and aviation sector

Reducing carbon footprint in chemical and cement industry

Moderator: Doc. Atanas Georgiev, Dean of FEBA, Sofia University

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Opening keynote: George Kremlis, Chair Bureau Espoo Convention, UNECE

- Petko Nikolov, Minister of Economy and Industry, Bulgaria
- Jeton Raka, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Kosovo
- Konstantin Bojinov, Heidelberg Materials Devnya
- Agropolychim (tbc)
- Elisaveta Valova, Environmental Manager, Dundee Precious Metals
- Borislav Malinov, CEO, Bulgarian Association of Recycling
- Ivailo Naydenov, CEO, BFIEC
- Gergana Stancheva, Co-Founder and COO, Lam'on

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SESSION 7: NEXT GENERATION OF FARMING AND DEEP AGRITECH SOLUTIONS: SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Strategies and technologies that help agriculture adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change while maintaining productivity.

Circular Economy in Agriculture: Discuss how a circular economy approach can be applied in agriculture to minimize waste, optimize resource use, and enhance sustainability.

Moderator: Konstantin Haralampiev, Founder, Agrovar CC

- Matija Zulj, CEO & Founder at AGRIVI
- Christina Deligianni, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Verimarket
- Max Gurvits, Managing Partner, Vitosha Venture Partners
- Victor Penev, Founder and CEO, Edamam
- Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė, CEO of AgriFood Lithuania
- Ilia Iordanov, Co-Founder ONDO Smart Farming Solutions

16:00-17:00

SESSION 8: KEY PRIORITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH John Kerry, United States Secretary Of State (2013 – 2017), U.S. Special Presidential Envoy For Climate (2021 – 2024) and

Sergei Stanishev, Prime Minister of Bulgaria (2005-2009), MEP

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Panel Discussion

- Beata Dashinska-Muzychka, Presidential Ambassador - Special Envoy for the Three Seas Initiative
- Business leaders and Industrial stakeholders

17:00

Networking Reception

DAY 2 - 27.06.2024

08:00 – 09:00 Terrace Coffee Morning – Networking Gathering

09:00 – 09:10 Official Opening

Beta Hall Welcome address by event organizers

09:10 – 10:30 Keynotes Plenary

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THE EASTERN EUROPEAN AGENDA IN COP29: LEADING THE CLEAN TECH TRANSITION

**WHAT IS AHEAD FOR THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL:
FIRESIDE CHAT WITH Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, VP of the EU Commission responsible for the Green Deal and Sergei Stanishev, Prime Minister of Bulgaria (2005-2009), MEP**

Moderator: Julian Popov, Minister of Environment, Bulgaria (2023 - 2024)

- Petar Dimitrov, Minister of Environment, Bulgaria
- Yalchin Rafiyev, Lead Negotiator for COP29 Azerbaijan and Deputy Foreign Minister
- Kurt Vandenberg, Director General, DG Climate Action
- Charlina Vitcheva, Director General, DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- Sasha Bezuhanova, Founder, Move.bg
- Daniele Violetti, Senior Director, Programmes Coordination, UNFCCC

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SESSION 1: THE FUTURE OF ENERGY: RENEWABLES AND LOW CARBON EMISSION TECHNOLOGIES

Breakthroughs in Solar Photovoltaic and Energy Storage (EU Battery Alliance)
Advances in Wind Energy: Offshore Wind Farms and Turbine Technologies
Green Hydrogen: A Catalyst for Decarbonizing Industries
Empowering Energy Communities - Exploring Collaborative Models for Sustainable Development and Local Empowerment
Carbon capture and storage (CCS): a key technology in low carbon industries

Moderator: Veselin Todorov, President, Solar Academy Bulgaria

- Iva Petrova, Deputy Minister of Energy, Bulgaria
- Kristian Ruby, Secretary General, Eurelectric
- Nadejda Kokotovic, CEO, Brussels Energy Club
- Ivan Ivanov, Chairman, EWRC
- Bozidar Dedus, Co-Founder, @ H2 Croatian Association for Development of Hydrogen Fuel Cells
- Elenko Bojkov, Deputy Minister of Energy (2022-2023)
- Franck Neel, Member of the Executive Board Responsible for Gas & Power, OMV Petrom, Romania

Closing Keynote: Viktor Garbev, Executive Vice President, CWP Europe

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Parallel Sessions

SESSION 2: ENERGY TRANSFORMATION – NAVIGATING THE FUTURE LANDSCAPE

The Big Energy Transformation: Opportunities and Challenges in CEE Region

Moderator: Slavcho Neykov, Chairman of the Board, Energy Management Institute

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- Vladimir Malinov, Minister of Energy, Bulgaria
- Sebastian-Ioan Burduja, Minister of Energy, Romania (tbc)
- Victor Parlicov, Minister of Energy, Moldova
- Matthew Baldwin, Deputy Director General, DG Energy
- Karel Kral, CEO, Electrohold Bulgaria Group
- Rob Dobbins, Head of Partnerships and International Assets, OMV Petrom

SESSION 3: SMART CITIES: INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Discussion on the role of technology, infrastructure, and community engagement in building environmentally conscious cities - the importance/opportunities of making use of the geothermal technology in the context of green cities

Moderator: Adriyana Mihaylova, founder of Imp-Act Agency and co-founder of Gradoscope

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- Vassil Terziev, Mayor of Sofia
- Tomislav Tomašević, Mayor of Zagreb (tbc)
- Matus Vallo, Mayor of Bratislava (tbc)
- Perparim Rama, Mayor of Pristina
- Simeona Manova, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Ferreira, Cohesion and Reforms
- Mihai Tudorancea, Managing Director, TUD Group
- Nadya Dankinova, CEO, Fund FLAG

12:30 - 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 14:30 Parallel Sessions

SESSION 4: ENERGY TRANSFORMATION - BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY MIX AND ENLARGING INTERCONNECTED GRIDS

Exploring Integrated Approaches for a Balanced and Sustainable Energy mix. Enlarging Interconnected Grids for Cross–Border Energy Trade – next steps and strategies

Discussing Strategies for Diversifying Energy Sources to Enhance Resilience. Discussion: Is There Synergy Between Nuclear, Gas, and Renewable Energy Sources

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Moderator: Svetoslav Ivanov, Chairman, Bulgarian Natural Gas Association

- Angelin Tsachev, Director and Member of the Management Board of the Electricity System Operator
- Ivan Velez, Sales Trader, ACT Commodities
- Kiril Ravnachki, CEO, Bulgartransgas
- Peter Fildishev, Head of Gas Trading and Operations at MET Energy Trading Bulgaria
- Teodora Georgieva, CEO, ICGB
- Bulgarian Petrol Association (tbc)

SESSION 5: EU SECURITY BLUEPRINT: PRIORITIZING UKRAINE'S DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE

SUSTAINABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE CEE REGION

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Central and Eastern Europe's Vital Role in Post–War Restoration Unveiled

Moderator: Boyko Vassilev, journalist

- Rossen Plevneliev, President of Bulgaria (2012-2017)
- Joe Philipsz, Head of the Three Seas Investment Fund
- Dirk Buschle, Deputy Director Energy Community Secretariat responsible for the Ukraine Energy Support Fund
- Maksim Bondarenko, CEO, UkrainInvest
- Matthew Bryza, Former White House and Senior State Department Official, USA

14:30- 15:00 Coffee Break

15:00- 16:30 Parallel Sessions

SESSION 6: NAVIGATING THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN ACHIEVING DECARBONIZATION TARGETS

The Role of Nuclear Energy in Achieving Sustainability Goals (**Insights from the Net Zero Industry Act**)

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Examining the Potential of Small Modular Reactors for More Flexible and Scalable Nuclear Energy Solutions.

The Challenges and opportunities in deploying SMRs.

Moderator: Anton Ivanov, Deputy Chairman, Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum

- Westinghouse (tbc)
- Cosmin Ghita, CEO, Cherna Voda NPP (tbc)
- Joe Philipsz, Head of the Three Seas Investment Fund
- prof. Georgi Kaschiev, Chief expert, Kozloduy NPP (2021-2024)
- Bogomil Manchev, Chairman of Bulgarian Atomic Forum
- Ivan Hinovski, Chair of the Chamber of Energy Communities in Bulgaria

KEYNOTE: HRH PRINCE EL HASSAN BIN TALAL OF JORDAN

DAY 3 - 28.06.2024

08:00 – 09:00 Terrace Coffee Morning – Networking Gathering

09:00 – 09:20 Welcome address by Rumen Radev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria

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09:20 – 10:50 Keynotes Plenary

Beta Hall

NAVIGATING THE NEXUS: MAPPING FUTURE JOBS IN THE GREEN AND DIGITAL ERA

Moderator: Zornitsa Roussinova, Chair of the Economic and Social Council

- Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights
- Ivailo Ivanov, Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria
- Jana Skalkova, Chief Advisor in the Cabinet of Minister, MPSV, Czech Republic
- Tsvetanka Mintcheva, CEO and Chairperson of the Management Board of UniCredit Bulbank
- Oliver Röpke, President of European Economic and Social Committee
- Plamen Dimitrov, President of CISB
- Vasil Velev, President of the BDF, BICA

Alpha 2+3

POLICY ROUNDTABLE: ENERGY INNOVATION AND SECURITY: STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC TIES

Moderator: Ruslan Stefanov, Program Director, Center for the Study of Democracy

Opening: Ognian Shentov, Chairman, Center for the Study of Democracy

- Andrew Light, Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, USA
- Delyan Dobrev, Chairman, Energy Committee, National Assembly of Bulgaria
- Jacques Besnainou, Chief Commercial Officer, Westinghouse (tbc)

10:50 - 11:10

Coffee Break

11:10 - 11:30

prof. Martin Vechev, the Architect of INSAIT

Endorsement of the daily agenda by event organizers with support of BgGPT

11:30 - 12.30

Keynotes Plenary

Beta Hall

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL: DRIVING INNOVATION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Moderator: Irina Obustarova, Editor-in- Chief, Recursive

- Iliana Ivanova, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
- Rosen Karadimov, Minister of Innovation and Growth, Bulgaria
- Andrew Light, Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, USA
- Svetoslava Georgieva, Chair of the EIC Fund Board
- Jason King, CEO, Yettel

12:30 - 13:00

FIRESIDE CHAT: INNOVATION HORIZONS: EXPLORING CEE'S PATH TO GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS with **MARC LEMAITRE**, Director-General for Research and Innovation, EC and **SVILEN RANGELOV**, Co-Founder and CEO, Dronamics

Moderator: Milena Stoycheva, CEO, Junior Achievement Bulgaria, Minister of Innovation and Growth (2023-2024)

13:00 - 13:30

Lunch

13:30 - 14:30

Parallel Sessions

Beta Hall

SESSION 1: EDUCATION AND INNOVATION

Education for Innovation: Bridging the Gap – Addressing the role of education in fostering an innovative mindset.

Exploring strategies to enhance education for future innovators.
Discussing collaborations between academia and industry for skill development.
Spotlighting successful innovation stories and projects from the region

Moderator: Neli Koleva, Policy and Communications Executive, Education consultant

- Galin Tsokov, Minister of Education and Science, Bulgaria
- Dr Igor Papič, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Slovenia
- Federico Menna, CEO, EIT Digital
- Evgenia Peeva, CEO, SoftUni Buditel
- Prof. Evgeni Stanimirov, PhD, Rector, University of Economics Varna (tbc)

Alpha 2+3

ACCELERATING INNOVATION IN THE CEE REGION: INTERACTION WITH ECOSYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS

Incentives and support mechanisms to foster research and innovations
Role of national and EU funding programs in upgrading research capabilities

Roundtable with Marc Lemaître, Director-General for Research and Innovation (RTD), European Commission

Moderator:

- Nikolay Vasev, CEO, EPIX AI
- Victor Botev, founder of Iris AI
- Alfredo Soria, CEE Director, Plug and Play

- Todor Todorov, CEO, Bronia AI
- Dragomir Ivanov, CEO, HydroGenera
- Maria Alexandrova, Head of Innovations and Sustainability, Nasekomo
- Petar Tsankov, CEO, LatticeFlow
- Prof. Radka Kuneva, Executive Manager of the Molecular Medicine Centre (tbc)
- Boris Kostadinov, Director of Software Integrations, Information Services

SESSION 2: FIRESIDE CHAT INVESTORS - FOUNDERS: HOW TO BOOST INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH FEMALE LEADERSHIP

Club Lounge

Keynote: Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner 2017-2023; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria (2023 - 2024)

Moderator: Milena Stoycheva, Minister of Innovation and Growth, Bulgaria (2023-2024)

- Svetoslava Georgieva, Chair of the EIC Fund Board
- Celine Sandberg, CEO & founder at Agoprene
- Diana Miteva, Chair of the Board, Ladies Forum Sofia
- Mariya Hristova, EIT RIS Policy Council
- Anne-Charlotte Joubert, Founding member of the EU Female Founders
- Ekaterina Velkova, Partner, Morningside Hill Capital Management
- Ina Abadjieva, Co-founder & Managing Partner at Rosey's Mark
- Maria Marinova, Executive Director, Bulgarian Venture Capital Association
- Elena Nikolova, Community Manager, Bulgarian Angels Club

14:30 – 15:30

Parallel Sessions

SESSION 3: DIGITALIZATION AND CYBER SECURITY TRENDS SHAPING THE CEE

Exploring the impact and potential of digitalization in the CEE region.
Discussing successful digital transformation case studies

Moderator: Kristina Eskenazi, Chair of the Biotechnology and Health Cluster

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- Valentin Mundrov, Minister of E-government, Bulgaria
- Krzysztof Gawkowski, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Affairs, Poland (tbc)
- HRH Prince Boris of Tarnovo
- Sasa Bilic, President, EURECA
- Simeon Kartselyanski, Cyber Security Manager, Information Services
- Dario Zoric, Regional Digitalisation Lead, CEE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
- Prof. Silvia Ilieva, Director of the GATE Institute at the SU (tbc)
- Kobi Freedman, CEO and Co-Founder, Findings

SESSION 4: LEADERSHIP IN INNOVATION: INSIGHTS FROM THE CEE PIONEERS. THE ETHICAL DIMENSION OF AI

Engaging conversation with notable innovation leaders from the CEE region

Showcasing notable deep tech startups and research initiatives.

What are the most significant ethical challenges in the current tech environment of accelerated AI systems development?

15:30-16:30

Moderator: Monika Manolova, PhD, DNA Bulgaria; MKAI Scientific Advisor

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- Pavel Lisev, CEO and Management Board Member, FMFIB
- Prof. Melodena Stephens, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Management, UAE
- Andres Leon-Geyer PhD, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru
- Marisa Zalaback, AI Ethicist and Educational Psychologist
- Georgi Kirov, CEO and Founder, Crisp Labs