Three Seas Summit and Business Forum

SOFIA
BULGARIA

HYBRID EVENT

8th I 9th July 2021
SAVE THE DATE

PRESIDENT of the REPUBLIC of BULGARIA | REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA Ministry of Economy | BSMEPA | AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BULGARIA | BULGARIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

THREE SEAS SOFIA SUMMIT AND BUSINESS FORUM

AGENDA

DRAFT

8th July 2021 (Thursday)

12:00 – 14:30 Registration & Welcome coffee

15:00 – 17:00 **Business Forum Opening** (Hall 3)

Mr. Kiril Petkov, *Minister of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria*

PRESIDENTIAL PANEL

"Three Seas Initiative: A path to smart development and comprehensive economic growth"

- **H.E. Mr. Rumen Radev**, President of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **H.E. Ms. Kristalina Georgieva**, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
- **H.E. Ms. Kersti Kaljulaid**, President of the Republic of Estonia
- **H.E. Mr. János Áder**, President of Hungary
- **H.E. Mr. Egils Levits**, President of the Republic of Latvia
- **H.E. Mr. Gitanas Nausėda**, President of the Republic Lithuania (online)
- **H.E. Mr. Andrzej Duda**, President of Poland
- **H.E. Mr. Klaus Iohannis**, President of Romania
- **H.E. Mr. Borut Pahor**, President of the Republic of Slovenia
- **H.E. Mr. Andrej Plenković**, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Croatia
- Representative of **H.E. Mr. Alexander Van der Bellen**, President of Austria
- **H.E. Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, President of Germany
- **H.E. Ms. Margrethe Vestager**, Executive Vice-President, European Commission
- **H.E. Ms. Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, President of the Hellenic Republic

17:00 – 19:00 **PANEL ENERGY** (Hall 7)

PANEL INNOVATION (Hall 8)

National Palace of Culture, 1 Bulgaria Sq., Sofia

8th July 17:00 - 19.00 PANEL ENERGY

Hall 7

Keynote speakers

- **Ms. Kadri Simson**, EU Commissioner for Energy (tbc)
- **Mr. Andrey Zhivkov**, Minister of Energy, Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Piotr Naimski**, Secretary of State for Strategic Energy Infrastructure, Republic of Poland
- **Ms. Georgette Mosbacher,** Co-Chair of the Three Seas Program, Atlantic Council, USA
- Representative of the **U.S. Government**

ROUND TABLE

Main topic:

- Connectivity for transition to sustainability

Key deliverables:

Carbon neutral energy systems of the future will require increased energy efficiency, renewable energy and nuclear power, as well as natural gas as a transition and main fuel for balancing purposes. Repurposing of the existing gas infrastructure will be needed for the widespread use of low-carbon hydrogen.

Moderator: Mr. Kostadin Sirleshtov, *CMS Managing Partner, CEE Head of Energy & Climate Change, Bulgaria*

Natural gas as a transition fuel – the infrastructure priorities for the region

Main focus: *Natural gas should be recognized as an important transition fuel for the carbon neutral future. Interconnectivity is an essential element of security of supply and diversification, and further investment in interconnecting infrastructure should be considered.*

Speakers:

- **Mr. Virgil-Daniel Popescu**, Minister of Energy, Romania
- **Ms. Teodora Georgieva**, Executive Officer, ICGB AD
- **Dr. Christian Bruch**, President and CEO, Siemens Energy, Germany

Renewables as a driver for infrastructure development; the priorities for the region

Main focus: *Renewable energy development is a driver for infrastructure development (new grids, new storage capacities, new interconnectors).*

Speakers:

- **Ms. Julia Reinaud**, Senior Director for Europe, Breakthrough Energy (tbc)
- **Mr. Olivier Marquette**, President of AmCham Bulgaria and President of AES Bulgaria and Head of Business Development Eurasia, USA
- **Mr. Richard Koenig**, CEO Enery Development GmbH, Austria

The case for nuclear in the region – a joint inter-governmental effort

Main focus: *Most of the individual efforts of the countries of the region to build new nuclear capacities are likely to fail without a regional effort. Role of Governments in the development of nuclear energy is key and so are the joint efforts in our region.*

Speakers:

- **Mr. Péter Szijjártó**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary (tbc)
- **Mr. Ivan Pironkov**, Director, Westinghouse Energy Systems LLC- Bulgaria Branch (tbc)

Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business

8th July 17:00 - 19.00 PANEL INNOVATION

Hall 8

Keynote speakers

- **Ms. Mariya Gabriel**, EU Commissioner Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
- **Mr. Assen Vassilev**, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Andres Sutt**, Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology of the Republic of Estonia (tbc)

ROUND TABLE

Main topics:

Discussion on connecting the innovation ecosystems in the Region, joining capacities and linking the local research and RegTech initiatives and efforts.

Key deliverables:

Innovation efforts of the countries in the region would greatly benefit of more coordinated way of cooperation and joint utilization of the countries assets – both as investment vehicles, R&D hubs, human capital and RegTech cooperation.

The panel will explore how such a cooperation could be practically undertaken, which of the 3Seas countries would be interested to participate in the follow-up and provide it for continuation at the next meeting of the 3Seas Initiative.

Moderator: Mr. Filip Genov, *Managing Director, SophiaLab, Bulgaria*

Speakers:

- **Mr. Eglė Markevičiūtė**, Vice-Minister of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania
- Representative of Google, USA (tbc)
- **Chair/BM of SPIRIT** – the Slovenian State Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investment and Technology, Slovenia (tbc)
- **Mr. Michael Kanownik**, President of Digital Poland/CEE Digital Coalition, Poland
- **Ms. Geraldine O'Keeffe**, Co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer of Software Group (Bulgaria, Global)
- **Mr. Gregor Potocar**, Chief Revenue Officer, Infobip (Croatia, Global)
- **Mr. Mihnea Craciun**, Executive Director, Endeavor Romania

Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business

17:00-19:00 **B2B meetings** **B2B Lounge**

19:00-20:00 Dinner Cocktail

National Palace of Culture, 1 Bulgaria Sq., Sofia

THREE SEAS SOFIA SUMMIT AND BUSINESS FORUM

AGENDA

DRAFT

9th July 2021 (Friday)

9:00 – 10:00 Welcome coffee

9:00 – 10:30 **PANEL 3SIIF & INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH** (Hall 9)

How to work with 3SIIF and finance 3SI priority projects beyond the scope of the Fund

Keynote by

Mr. Ian Brzezinski, Senior Fellow, The Atlantic Council, Washington, D.C., USA

Speakers:

Mr. Atanas Pekanov, Deputy Prime Minister for EU Funds Management, Bulgaria

Joe Philipsz, Head of 3SIIF Investments, Amber Infrastructure Limited, United Kingdom

Mr. David Marchick, Chief Operating Officer, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, Washington, DC., USA (tbc)

Ms. Beata Daszynska-Muzyczka, Chairperson of the Supervisory Board of the Three Seas Initiative Investment Fund, President of the Management Board of Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (Polish Development Bank), Poland

Mr. Nikolay Dimitrov, Member of the Supervisory Board of the Three Seas Initiative Investment Fund and Executive Director of the Bulgarian Development Bank

Moderated by

Mr. Iliya Lingorski, Chief Economist of the Bulgarian Development Bank

10:30 – 12:30 **PANEL TRANSPORT** (Hall 7)

PANEL DIGITALIZATION (Hall 8)

9th July 10:30 - 12.30 PANEL TRANSPORT

Hall 7

Keynote speakers

- **Ms. Adina Vălean**, European Commissioner for Transport (tbc)
- **Mr. Georgi Todorov**, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Representative of the **U.S. Government**

ROUND TABLE

Main topic:

- Digital mobility

Moderator: Mr. Kaspars Briškens, *Head of Strategy & Development at the Rail Baltica (Baltic States)*

Speakers:

- **Martin Gauss**, Air Baltic, Latvia
- **Mr. Mikołaj Wild**, Solidarity Transport Hub Poland, Poland
- **Mr. Stefano Maio**, Business Development Manager, Balkans, Bechtel Civil Infrastructure, USA
- **Mr. Henrik Hololei**, Director General DG Mobility and Transport, European Commission (tbc)
- **Mr. Iavor Pantaleev**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bulgarian National Freight Forwarding Association
- **Mr. Dan Tok**, Board member of the Czech Rail Agency
- **Mr. Marko Filipović**, Mayor of Rijeka, Connect Rijeka 2030: Multimodal transport hub with a sustainable and efficient transport system, Croatia (tbc)

Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business

9th July 10:30 - 12.30

PANEL DIGITALIZATION

Hall 8

Keynote speakers

- **Ms. Margrethe Vestager**, Executive Vice-President, European Commission (tbc)
- **Mr. Kiril Petkov**, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Boštjan Koritnik**, Minister of Public Administration, Slovenia (tbc)
- **Mr. Ciprian Teleman**, Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, Romania (tbc)

ROUND TABLE

Main topic:

Build Smart Infrastructure is a Key for Economic growth of the Region

Topics:

- Digitalization of Infrastructure across the Sectors for the Industry 4.0
- Public Cloud is Key Enabler for Smart Infrastructure Services
- Access to Open Data is a Crucial Component for Infrastructure of Tomorrow.

Moderator: Mr. Petar T. Ivanov, *CEO, American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria*

Speakers:

- Representative of Google, USA
- Representative of Facebook, USA (tbc)
- **Ms. Isabella Groegor-Cechowicz**, Vice-President, Sales PS, EMEA, Amazon Web Services, USA
- **Mr. Artur Chimielewski**, Head of Business development, IS-Wireless, Poland
- **Mr. Michal Potoczek**, OChK, National Cloud Operator of Poland

Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business

10:30 - 12:30 **SIDE EVENTS**

MEETING OF THE 3SI CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (Hall 1.4)

MEETING OF THE 3SI RESEARCH & INNOVATION AGENCIES (Hall tbc)

MEETING OF THE 3SI INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES (Hall 1.2)

9th July 10:30 - 12.30
Meeting of the 3SI Chambers of Commerce and Industry
(Hall 1.4)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:
Role of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and companies from energy, transport and digitalization sectors in the Three Seas Initiative

Moderator: Mr. Krasen Stanchev, *Institute for Market Economy, Bulgaria*

Speakers:

- **Mr. Tsvetan Simeonov**, President of BCCI, Bulgaria
- Transport: **Ms. Olga Vassilevska**, MV Logistica, Bulgaria
- Digitalization: **Mr. Agop Kasparian**, Association Internet Service and Technology, Bulgaria
- Energy: **Mr. Plamen Pavlov**, Bulgarian Gas Association
- **Ms. Ulrike Straka**, Austrian Federal Chamber, Advantage Austria, Austria
- **Mr. Ivan Barbaric**, Vice President for International Affairs, Croatian Chamber of Economy
- **Mr. Aigars Varkulevicius**, President, Association of Lithuania Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, Latvia
- Representative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Slovenia (tbc)
- Representative of the CCI of Romania (tbc)
- **Ms. Eleonora Ivanova**, Bulgarian – Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Hungarian-Bulgarian CCI (tbc)

9th July 10:30 - 12.30
Meeting of the 3SI Research & Innovation Agencies
(Hall tbc)

Main topic: Aligning priorities for developing successful research & policymaking initiatives for stronger and more cooperating regional innovation ecosystems

Host and Moderator: Mr. Martin Danovski, Chairman, State Agency Research and Innovation, Bulgaria

Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Organizations working in the field of research & innovation

- **Prof. dr. Robert Repnik**, Director of the Slovenian Research Agency
- **Ms. Irena Martinović Klarić**, Ph.D., Executive director of the Croatian Science Foundation
- **Representative** of the Estonian Research Council (tbc)
- **Representative** of the Croatian Science Foundation (tbc)
- **Representative** of the Poland National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) (tbc)

9th July 10:30 - 12.30
Meeting of the 3SI Investment Promotion Agencies
(Hall 1.2)

10:30 – 10:40

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:
Investment Agencies: Drivers of mutual success for investors and Governments

Moderator: Mr. Bostjan Skalar, *Executive Director, WAIPA, Switzerland (tbc)*

Opening and Keynote speaker:

- **Mr. Stamen Yanev**, Executive Director of InvestBulgaria Agency, Bulgaria

10:40 – 11:40

PANEL 1:
The role of Investments Promotion Agencies in 3SII projects:

- Key functions that could be covered and performed by IPAs in 3SII projects, **Mr. Stamen Yanev and representatives from the other IPAs;**
- Possibility for cooperation among IPAs in multilateral and cross-border projects, **Mr. Stamen Yanev and representatives from the other IPAs;**
- Potential for collaboration with the 3SIIFund and Amber Infrastructure - **Mr. Joe Philipsz**, Head of 3SIIF Investments, Amber Infrastructure
- The potential impact of EU State Aid policies on 3SII projects – **Directorate General for Competition, European Commission**;
- Compatibility and coherence between the EU Projects of Common Interest (PCI) and 3SII projects - **Directorate General for Competition, European Commission**
- **Q&A Session**

12:00 - 12:30

PANEL 2:
Spreading cooperation:

- Creating network among the IPAs and 3SIIFund;
- Possibility for utilization and integration with 3SII projects database;
- Adoption of declaration for cooperation.

10:00 – 12:30 **B2B meetings** **B2B Lounge**

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch cocktail

National Palace of Culture, 1 Bulgaria Sq., Sofia