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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. 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. Kristalina Georgieva**, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
- **H.E. Ms. Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, President of the Hellenic Republic

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

**PANEL INNOVATION** (Hall 8)

# 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 (tbc)
- **Ms. Teodora Georgieva**, Executive Officer, ICGB AD
- **Dr. Christian Bruch**, President and CEO, Siemens Energy, Germany
- **Darius Maikštėnas**, Chairman of the Board, CEO, Ignitis, Lithuania

### 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:

- **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
- **Mr. Carsten Stang**, Global Chief Commercial Officer, ib vogt GmbH, Germany (tbc)
- Representative of **Baywa**

### 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

### 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 (tbc)
- **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:

- Chair/BM of SPIRIT – the Slovenian State Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investment and Technology, Slovenia
- Representative of CEDEC, the European Federation of Local and Regional Energy Companies, Europe
- Representative of Digital Poland, Poland (tbc)
- Representative of ASSECO, Poland (tbc)
- Representative of UiPath, Romania (tbc)

**Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business**

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

19:00-20:00 Dinner Cocktail

# 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

**Panel:**

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

**Mr. Gavin Tait**, CEO at 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 topics:

- Well-designed multi-modal infrastructure value chain and sustainable mobility
- Digitalization of Railways

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

#### Speakers:

- **Martin Gauss**, Air Baltic, Latvia (tbc)
- **Solidarity Transport Hub Poland**, Poland (tbc)
- **Mr. Stefano Maio**, Business Development Manager, Balkans, Bechtel Civil Infrastructure, USA (tbc)
- **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. Andreas Matthä**, CER Chair and CEO of Austrian Federal Railways - Connecting Europe Express, Austria (tbc)
- **Mr. Vojko Obersnel** - 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 Teleanu**, Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, Romania

## 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 Amazon Web Services, USA
- Representative of Facebook, USA (tbc)
- Representative of A1 Austria (tbc)
- **Mr. Sławomir Pietrzyk**, President and CEO IS-Wireless, Poland (tbc)
- **Mr. Michał Potoczek**, OChK, National Cloud Operator of Poland (tbc)

**Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business**

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

**MEETING OF THE 3SI CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** (Hall 1.2)

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

**MEETING OF THE 3SI INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES**  
ONLINE (Hall 1.4)

**9th July 10:30 - 12.30**  
**Meeting of the 3SI Chambers of  
Commerce and Industry**  
(Hall 1.2)

**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
- CCI of Slovenia (tbc)
- Austrian Business club in Bulgaria (tbc)
- CCI of Romania (tbc)
- CCI of Latvia (tbc)
- Bulgarian – Romanian CCI (tbc)
- 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 1.4) ONLINE

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 - **Ms. Anne Funch Jensen**, member of Margrethe Vestager's cabinet and expert on State aid policy;
- Compatibility and coherence between the EU Projects of Common Interest (PCI) and 3SII projects - **Ms. Yizhou Ren**, member of Margrethe Vestager's cabinet and expert on State aid policy and PCI, EU
- **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