



SOFIA FORUM | FOR THE BALKANS

The Balkans in the Globalized World

Fostering the Region's European Agenda

8 – 9 June 2012 Sofia (Bulgaria)

Working Language: English

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Conference Location: Hotel Sheraton Sofia

A conference organized by



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



CENTRE FOR LIBERAL
STRATEGIES

In cooperation with

B | T | D The Balkan Trust
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Programme

Friday, 8 June 2012

Hotel Sheraton Sofia, Royal Hall II and III

12:00 – 14:00 Registration

14.00 – 14:30 Welcome *(on the record)*

Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister of Bulgaria

Craig Kennedy, President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (USA)

Sandra Breka, Head of Department, Robert Bosch Foundation (Germany)

14:45 – 16:15 The EU's Global Agenda: What Place for the Balkans? *(on the record)*

Nickolay Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Bulgaria)

Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Sweden)

Vesna Pusić, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Croatia)

Ivan Krastev, Chairman, Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria)

Moderator: **Boyko Vassilev**, Producer and Moderator of the weekly Panorama news talk show on Bulgarian National Television (Bulgaria)

16:15 – 16:45 Coffee Break

16:45 – 18:15 The Crisis in the EU and the Future of Integration: Is Multispeed Europe the Only Way Forward for Enlargement? *(on the record)*

Dušan Reljić, Senior Research Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Germany)

Ivan Vejvoda, Vice President, Programs, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (Serbia)

Teuta Arifi, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs (Macedonia)

Gerald Knaus, Chairman, European Stability Initiative (Austria)

Moderator: **Tim Judah**, Balkans Correspondent, The Economist (UK)

19:00 – 21:00 Dinner Keynote Address *(off the record, closed to press, by invitation only)*

Hotel Sheraton Sofia, Serdica Hall

Rosen Plevneliev, President of Bulgaria

21:00 Parallel Night Owl Sessions *(off the record, closed to press)*

Session 1: Democratization and the Risks of Ethnicization of Politics: From the Balkans to the Middle East and North Africa

Hotel Sheraton Sofia, Royal Hall I

Petrit Selimi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (Kosovo)

Said Sadek, Professor of Political Sociology, American University in Cairo (Egypt)



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Ognyan Minchev, Executive Director, Institute for Regional and International Studies (Bulgaria)

Anas El Gomati, Political Activist and Founder of the Sadeq Institute (Libya)

Moderator: **Sonja Licht**, President, Belgrade Fund of Political Excellence (Serbia)

Session 2: Economic Diversification: Development Challenges from the Balkans to the Middle East and North Africa

Hotel Sheraton Sofia, Sredetz Hall

Aleksandar Pejović, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Chief EU Negotiator (Montenegro)

Vladimir Gligorov, Economist, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (Austria)

Samir El Daher, Advisor for Economic Affairs and Development to the Prime Minister (Lebanon)

Marin Lessenski, Policy Analyst, European Policies Initiative, and Expert, European Policies and Civic Participation Program, Open Society Institute – Sofia (Bulgaria)

Moderator: **Maha Yahya**, Regional Advisor, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Lebanon)

Saturday, 9 June 2012

Hotel Sheraton Sofia, Royal Hall II and III

9:30 – 11:00 Converging or Diverging Agenda of the EU and the US in Europe's Neighbourhood? (on the record)

Nikolaus Graf Lambsdorff, Special Envoy for South-Eastern Europe, Turkey and the EFTA States at the Federal Foreign Office (Germany)

Philip T. Reeker, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State (USA)

Franco Frattini, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs (Italy)

Suat Kiniklioğlu, Member of Parliament, Former Spokesman, Foreign Affairs Committee (Turkey)

Moderator: **Rayna Gavrilova**, Deputy Director International Operations, Open Society Foundations New York (Bulgaria)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 Towards a New Growth Model in the Balkans: How Does the Global Storm Affect Local Economies? (on the record)

Georgy Ganev, Economist and Program Director for Economic Research, Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria)

Laza Kekić, Regional Director, Central and Eastern Europe, and Director, Country Forecasting Services, Economist Intelligence Unit (Serbia)

Tzvetan Lazhanski, Advisory Board of Devin AD (Bulgaria)

Elvin Guri, CEO of River Styxx Capital (Albania/ Bulgaria)

Moderator: **Dimitar Bechev**, Senior Policy Fellow and Head, European Council on Foreign Relations, Sofia Office (Bulgaria)



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13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

Middle Eastern Culinary Day at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*optional*)
2, Al. Jendov Str., 1113 Sofia

14:30 – 16:00 New Age? Youth and Europe's Future (*on the record*)

Srdjan Bogosavljević, Director, Ipsos Strategic Marketing (Serbia)

Slobodan Đinović, Co-Founder, Centre for Applied Non Violent Actions and Strategies, and CEO, Orion Telekom (Serbia)

Jan Zlatan Kulenović, Executive Director, Youth Information Agency (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Rana Birden Çorbacıoğlu, Executive Director, Global Relations Forum (Turkey)

Moderator: **Vessela Tcherneva**, Spokesperson to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bulgaria)

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00 The Balkans' Way Ahead (*on the record*)

Sinan Ülgen, Chairman, Center for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies, and Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Europe (Turkey)

Robert Cooper, Counsellor, European External Action Service

Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs (Slovakia)

Milica Delević, Director, European Integration Office, Government of the Republic of Serbia

Moderator: **Minna Järvenpää**, International Advocacy Director, Open Society Foundations (Finland)

20:00 Dinner Keynote Address (*on the record*)

Anna Ibrisagić, Member of the European Parliament (Sweden)

23:00 Studio 5 Live Music Club

Performance by Theodosii Spasov, Famous Bulgarian Kaval Player and Composer

Sunday, 10 June 2012

Departure