



Three Seas
Summit and
Business Forum

SOFIA
BULGARIA

HYBRID EVENT

8th | 9th July 2021



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

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. Joseph Biden, Jr.**, President of the United States of America (video message)
- **H.E. Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, President of Germany
- **H.E. Ms. Kristalina Georgieva**, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
- **H.E. Ms. Kersti Kaljulaid**, President of the Republic of Estonia
- **H.E. Mr. Egils Levits**, President of the Republic of Latvia
- **H.E. Mr. Gitanas Nausėda**, President of the Republic of Lithuania (video message)
- **H.E. Mr. Andrzej Duda**, President of Poland
- **H.E. Mr. Borut Pahor**, President of the Republic of Slovenia
- **Mr. Karel Havlicek**, Deputy Prime Minister, Czech Republic
- **Ms. Veronika Remišová**, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
- **Mr. Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal**, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Austria
- **H.E. Ms. Katerina Sakellaropoulou**, President of the Hellenic Republic

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

17:15 - 19:30 **PANEL ENERGY** (Hall 7)

17:15 - 19:45 **PANEL INNOVATION** (Hall 8)

17:15 - 19:00 **B2B meetings** **B2B Lounge**

SIDE EVENTS

17:15 - 19:00 Meeting of the 3SI Investment Promotion Agencies (Hall 9)

19:30 - 19:45 Evolution of the stock exchanges and institutional support to innovators - fireside chat, part of the Innovation panel (Hall 8)

19:45 - 20:00 Google Impact Challenge recipients announcement (Hall 8)

8th July 17:15 - 19.30

PANEL ENERGY

Hall 7

Keynote speakers

- **Mr. Andrey Zhivkov**, Minister of Energy, Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Piotr Naimski**, Secretary of State for Strategic Energy Infrastructure, Republic of Poland
- **Mr. Andrew Light**, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, USA
- **Mr. Graham Stuart**, Minister for Exports of the UK, UK

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. Andrey Zhivkov**, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Piotr Naimski**, Secretary of State for Strategic Energy Infrastructure, Republic of Poland
- **Mr. Andrew Light**, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, USA
- **Mr. Virgil-Daniel Popescu**, Minister of Energy of Romania
- **Ms. Teodora Georgieva**, Executive Officer, ICGB Ad, Greece
- **Mr. Jörn Schmücker**, Senior Vice President Generation Large Rotating Equipment, Siemens Energy, Germany

Between panels: Presentation of Overgas / Linden Energy

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. Andrey Zhivkov**, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Piotr Naimski**, Secretary of State for Strategic Energy Infrastructure, Republic of Poland
- **Mr. Andrew Light**, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, USA
- **Mr. Olivier Marquette**, President of AmCham Bulgaria and President of AES Bulgaria and Head of Business Development Eurasia, USA
- **Mr. Kurt Donnelly**, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Energy Resources
- **Mr. Yves Le Stunff**, Managing Director Total EP Bulgaria & Total EP Greece

Between panels: Presentation of the Sustainable future for Maritsa East Complex

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. Andrey Zhivkov**, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Piotr Naimski**, Secretary of State for Strategic Energy Infrastructure, Republic of Poland
- **Mr. Andrew Light**, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, USA
- **Ms. Dóra Zombori**, Ministerial Commissioner for International Energy and Climate Relations, Ambassador-at-Large for Energy and Climate
- **Mr. Ivan Pironkov**, Director, Westinghouse Energy Systems LLC- Bulgaria Branch, USA
- **Mr. Tom Mundy**, Chief Commercial Officer, NuScale (SMR), USA

Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business

8th July 17:15 - 19.45

PANEL INNOVATION

Hall 8

Keynote speakers

- **Ms. Mariya Gabriel**, EU Commissioner Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
- **Mr. Kiril Petkov**, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Prof. Nikolai Denkov**, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Andres Sutt**, Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology of the Republic of Estonia (online)
- **Ms. Eglė Markevičiūtė**, Vice-Minister of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania

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. Kiril Petkov**, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Prof. Nikolai Denkov**, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Michal Kanownik**, President of Digital Poland/CEE Digital Coalition, Poland
- **Mr. Peter Blaškovič**, Chief Executive Officer of the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA)
- **Ms. Eglė Markevičiūtė**, Vice-Minister of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Ms. Geraldine O’Keeffe**, Co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer of Software Group (Bulgaria, Global)
- **Mr. Bojidar Neytchev**, Partner at PwC, Central and Eastern Europe
- **Mr. Mihnea Craciun**, Executive Director, Endeavor Romania
- **Mr. Neils Kalniņš**, Head of 5G Technitory program VAS Electronic Communications Office of Latvia SJSC, Latvia

Evolution of the stock exchanges and institutional support to innovators - fireside chat between the moderator of the Panel and:

- **Assoc. Prof. Manyu Moravenov**, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Bulgarian Stock Exchange
- **Mr. Vladimir Danailov**, Executive Director, Member of the Management Board, Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria
- **Dr. Marek Dietl**, President of the Warsaw Stock Exchange

Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business

19:45 - 20:00

Advancing social innovation: Google Impact Challenge recipients announcement

Hall 8

Presentation by **Ms. Annette Kroeber-Riel**, Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Europe (online) - *Advancing Social Innovation in the Three Seas region*

8th July 17:15 - 19.00

Meeting of the 3SI Investment Promotion Agencies (Hall 9)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

Investment Agencies: Drivers of mutual success for investors and Governments

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

17:15 - 17:25

Opening and Keynote speaker:

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

17:25 - 18:20

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**, **Mr. Kaspars Rožkalns**, Director of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia and representatives from the other IPAs;
- Possibility for cooperation among IPAs in multilateral and cross-border projects, **Mr. Stamen Yanev**, **Mr. Krzysztof Drynda**, President of the Management Board of Polish Investment and Trade Agency (Paih) 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. Celine Chazelas-Baur** and **Ms. Lea Zuber**, Directorate General for Competition, European Commission
- Compatibility and coherence between the EU Projects of Common Interest (PCI) and 3SII projects - **Ms. Celine Chazelas-Baur** and **Ms. Lea Zuber**, Directorate General for Competition, European Commission

18:20 - 18:30

Q&A Session

18:30 - 19:00

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.

19:30 – 21:00 Dinner cocktail (3 floor, Foyer “Center”)

THREE SEAS SOFIA SUMMIT AND BUSINESS FORUM

AGENDA

9th July 2021 (Friday)

9:00 – 10:30 Welcome coffee

9:00 – 9:15 **OPENING REMARKS** (Hall 9)

- **Kiril Petkov**, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Gina M. Raimondo**, Secretary of Commerce of the United States of America (video message)
- **Lilyana Pavlova**, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank

9:15 – 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

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

Speakers:

- **Atanas Pekanov**, Deputy Prime Minister for EU Funds Management, Bulgaria
- **Michelle Czarniak**, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, Washington, DC., USA
- **Joe Philipsz**, Head of 3SIIF Investments, Amber Infrastructure Limited, United Kingdom
- **Richard König**, CEO Enery Development GmbH, Austria
- **Sophia Kassidova**, Head of Strategic Analysis and Development at Bulgarian Development Bank, Bulgaria

Moderated by

- **Iliya Lingorski**, Chief Economist of the Bulgarian Development Bank, Bulgaria

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 (video message)
- **Mr. Georgi Todorov**, Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Andrzej Adamczyk**, Minister of Infrastructure of Poland
- **Mr. Ian Sechter**, Deputy Minister of Transportation Czech Republic (tbc)

ROUND TABLE

Main topic:

- Digital mobility

Key deliverables:

Digitalizing Europe's railways.

The role of aviation in multimodal connectivity for passengers and freight.

Maritime ports and transport megahubs: gateways for multimodality.

Synchromodality and the future of transport and logistics value chain integration.

The challenges of cross-border transport infrastructure development.

Main focus: Enhancing multimodal connectivity for people and freight in the digital era: physical, digital and commercial prerequisites.

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

Speakers:

- **Mr. Stefano Maio**, Business Development Manager, Balkans, Bechtel Civil Infrastructure, USA
- **Mr. Marcin Horała**, Government Plenipotentiary for the Solidarity Transport Hub, Poland
- **Mr. Iavor Pantaleev**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bulgarian National Freight Forwarding Association
- **Mr. Dimitrij Zadel**, President of the Management Board of the Port of Koper, Slovenia
- **Ms. Ivet Vidinova**, Director Business Development Dronamics
- **Mr. Martin Gauss**, CEO of AirBaltic, Latvia (video message)

Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business

Working Language: English

National Palace of Culture, 1 Bulgaria Sq., Sofia

9th July 10:30 - 12.30

PANEL DIGITALIZATION

Hall 8

Keynote speakers

- **Mr. Assen Vassilev**, Minister of Finance, Bulgaria
- **Mr. Lorand Arpad Fulop**, Deputy Secretary of State, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, Romania
- **Mr. Stephen Anderson**, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, USA (video message)

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:

- **Mr. Assen Vassilev**, Minister of Finance, Bulgaria
- **Ms. Isabella Groegor-Cechowicz**, Vice-President, Sales PS, EMEA, Amazon Web Services, USA
- **Ms. Magdalena Dziewguc**, Country Manager, Google Cloud Poland
- **Mr. Michal Potoczek**, CEO, Operator Chmury Krajowej, Domestic Cloud Provider, Poland
- **Mr. Artur Chmielewski**, Head of Business Development, IS-Wireless, Poland
- **Mr. Razvan Atim**, General Manager Eastern Europe, UiPath, Romania
- **Mr. Raycho Raychev**, CEO and Founder, EnduroSat, Bulgaria
- **Mr. Madis Sassiad**, Board Member, GoSwift, Estonia

Closing remarks

- **Ms. Margrethe Vestager**, Executive Vice-President, European Commission

Participants - Representatives of the 3SI Governments and Business

SIDE EVENTS

10:30 - 12:30 **MEETING OF THE 3SI CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** (Hall 1.4)

11:00 - 13:00 **MEETING OF THE 3SI RESEARCH & INNOVATION AGENCIES** (Hall 9)

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: **Dr. Krasen Stanchev**, *Sofia University, the Institute for Market Economics*

Speakers:

- **Mr. Tsvetan Simeonov**, President of BCCI, Bulgaria
- Transport: **Ms. Olga Wassilewska**, CEO, MW LOGISTICA OOD, Bulgaria
- Energy: **Mr. Plamen Pavlov**, Bulgarian Gas Association
- **Mr. Aigars Rostovskis**, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Latvia
- **Mr. Rimas Varkulevičius**, Association of Lithuania Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, Lithuania
- **Mr. Mihai Daraban**, CCI of Romania (video message)
- **Ms. Eleonora Ivanova**, Bulgarian – Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **Mr. Tim Kurth**, President of the German-Bulgarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Aurubis Bulgaria
- **Ms. Ulrike Straka**, Austrian Federal Chamber, Advantage Austria, Austria
- **Mr. Ivan Barbaric**, Croatian Chamber of Economy, Croatia
- **Mr. Radek Jakubský**, Czech Chamber of Commerce
- **Mr. László Bódi**, Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hungary
- **Dr. Rossen Tkatchenko**, Hungarian-Bulgarian CCI

9th July 11:00 - 13.00
Meeting of the 3SI Research & Innovation Agencies
(Hall 9)

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

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

Moderator: **Teodor Sedlarski**, *PhD, Professor in Economics at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski*

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

- **Mr. Robert Repnik**, Director of the Slovenian Research Agency, Slovenia
- **Ms. Irena Martinović-Klarić**, Ph.D., Director of the Croatian Science Foundation, Croatia
- **Ms. Agnieszka Ratajczak**, Director, Office of International Cooperation, National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Poland
- **Mr. Mark Arunas**, Project Manager, Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology, Lithuania
- **Mr. Meelis Kitsing**, Rector of Estonian Business School
- **Mr. Artur Bobovnický**, Director Innovations and International Affairs, Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
- **Mr. Zoltán Birkner**, President of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office, Hungary

PART I

Presentations of good practices and existing models for developing research and innovation

PART II

Discussion „Common priorities with potential opportunities for cooperation”

PART III

Conclusion - A Joint Statement of the commitment of all research and innovation interested parties to develop an exemplary network for practical efforts on the initiatives of common interest.

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

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch cocktail (3 floor, Foyer “Center”)