

## 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

#### **MOBILIZING CAPITAL FOR GREEN PROJECTS**

**Beta Hall**

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, General Directorate "Budget", European Commission
- Kyriacos Kakouris, Vice President, EIB
- Roger Havenith, Deputy Chief Executive, EIF
- Galina Vincelette, Country Director for the EU, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank
- Kamelia Mineva, CEO, ProCredit Bank
- Krassimira Raycheva, Country Manager Visa, Bulgaria
- Tsanko Arabadjiev, CEO, Bulgarian Development Bank

**10:30 – 11:00** Break

**11:00 – 12:30** Parallel Sessions

**Session 1: THE COST OF GOING GREEN**

## Beta Hall

**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, Chairman of the Investment Fund at "Three Seas"
- Dorin Badea, Member of the Board, Romanian Development Bank
- Greek Development Bank
- Croatia Development Bank
- Desislava Simeonova, CEO, UBB Bank
- Manyu Moravenov Ph.D, CEO, Bulgarian Stock Exchange

## Alpha 2+3

### Session 2: SMART MOBILITY: INDUSTRY INNOVATORS CHANGING (BUSINESS) ENVIRONMENTS

Electrification of the transport: How Fast How Far – 2.0

**Moderator:** Iliya Levkov, Chairman of the Board of EVIC, Executive Director of the Board of IKEM Corp. (tbc)

- Georgi Gvozdeykov, Minister of Transport of Bulgaria
- Industry Stakeholders
- 

## Alpha 1

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

**Moderator:** Martin Vladimirov, Director, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD)

- Ognian Shentov, Chairman, Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD)
- Ambassador Jes Brogaard Nielsen, Ambassador of Denmark to Bulgaria
- Giles Dickson, CEO, Wind Europe
- Delyan Dobrev, Chairman, Energy Committee, National Assembly of Bulgaria
- Dan McGrail, CEO, RenewableUK (tbc)

12:30 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 14:30 Parallel Sessions

## SESSION 4: FIRE CHAT – IMPLEMENTING ESG FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS (5 INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS)

**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  
**ESG in Real Estate:** Sustainable Development and Responsible Property Management

### Beta Hall

**Moderator: Boyan Rashev**

- John C.Havens, IEEE and Planet Positive Chair
- Demian Pintos, CEO, Philip Morris Bulgaria
- Briseida Gjoza, Co-Founder, ConsciESG
- Konstantin Delisivkov, Managing director of Energeo EOOD, Member of Geotechmin Group
- Ellen Wasylina, President and Founder, Trocadero Forum Institute
- Kobi Freedman, CEO and Co-Founder, Findings

## SESSION 5: GREEN SUPPLY CHAINS AND CIRCULAR ECONOMIES

Circular economies and Recycling – best practices from the CEE Region  
Catalyzing net-zero transformation of economies and industries

### Alpha 1

**Moderator: Georgi Stefanov**

- Jeton Raka, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Kosovo
- Heidelberg Materials Devnya (tbc)
- Agropolychim (tbc)
- Dundee Precious Metals
- Gergana Stancheva, Co-Founder and COO, Lam'on

## SESSION 6: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

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

### Alpha 2+3

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

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

- Dr. Georgi Tahov, Minister of Agriculture of Bulgaria.

- Charlina Vitcheva, Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- Mihail Dumitru, Deputy Director-General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development
- Svetlana Boyanova, Chairperson of Institute for AgroStrategies and Innovations
- Clara Aguilera, MEP, S&D
- Simeon Karakolev, Co-chair of the National Sheep Breeding Association

**14:30 - 15:00**      **Coffee break**

**15:00 – 16:30**      **Parallel Sessions**

### **SESSION 7: DECARBONIZING INDUSTRIES – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Solutions to decarbonize the shipping and aviation sector  
Reducing carbon footprint in chemical and cement industry

**Moderator:** Prof. Atanas Georgiev, Dean of FEBA, Sofia University

**Beta**

- Petko Nikolov, Minister of Economy and Industry of Bulgaria
- Artane Rizvanolli, Minister of Economy, Republic of Kosovo
- Ivailo Naydenov, CEO, BFIEC, (Energy Transition Roadmap) (tbc)
- Konstantin Bojinov, HeidelbergCement Group (tbc)
- Aurubis
- Assarel Medet
- Titan, Zlatna Panega Cement AD(tbc)

### **SESSION 8: 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.

**Alpha 1**

**Moderator:** Mariya Hristova, EIT RIS Policy Council

- Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė, CEO of AgriFood Lithuania
- Igor Rombaut, CEO, agroCO2 (tbc)
- Matija Zulj, CEO & Founder at AGRIVI
- Christina Deligianni, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Verimpect
- Max Gurvits, Managing Partner, Vitosha Venture Partners
- Victor Penev, Founder and CEO, Edamam
- Ilia Iordanov, Co-Founder ONDO Smart Farming Solutions

**Alpha 2+3**

## **SESSION 9: KEY PRIORITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

**FIRE 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**

### **Panel Discussion**

- Mariya Gabriel (tbc)
- Beata Dashinska-Muzychka, Chairman of the Investment Fund at "Three Seas"
- Dimitar Enchev - CWP (tbc)

### **Networking Reception**

**16:30 – 17:30**

Informal networking to foster collaboration and discussion among participants

## **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

## Beta Hall

### THE EASTERN EUROPEAN AGENDA IN COP 29: LEADING THE CLEAN TECH TRANSITION

#### WHAT IS AHEAD FOR THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL:

#### FIRE CHAT WITH Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, VP of the EU Commission responsible for the Green Deal and Sergej Stanishev, MEP

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

- Petar Dimitrov, Minister of Environment, Bulgaria
- Tomáš Taraba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic
- Yalchin Rafiyev, Lead Negotiator for COP29 Azerbaijan and Deputy Foreign Minister
- Kurt Vandenberg, Director-General – Directorate-General Climate Action (DG CLIMA)
- Charlina Vitcheva, Director General, DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- Andrew Light, Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, US
- Sasha Bezuhanova, Founder, Move.bg
- Daniele Violetti, Senior Director, Programmes Coordination, UNFCCC

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Parallel Sessions

#### SESSION 1: 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

## Beta Hall

**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
- Petar Fildishev, Director of Natural Gas Trading, MET Energy Bulgaria
- Teodora Georgieva, CEO, ICGB

- Vadim Ceban, CEO, Moldova Gaz
- Romanian Petrol Association
- Bulgarian Petrol Association

## **SESSION 2: 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)**

Examining the Potential of Small Modular Reactors for More Flexible and Scalable Nuclear Energy Solutions. (Side Event Discussing the Challenges and opportunities in deploying SMRs.)

Alpha 1

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

- Westinghouse
- Mr. Tsanko Bachiyiski, Chairman of Nuclear Regulatory Agency (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, CEO, BulAtom
- Ivan Hinovski, Chair of the Chamber of Energy Communities in Bulgaria

## **SESSION 3: 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

Alpha 2+3

**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, H@ Croatian Association for Development of Hydrogen Fuel Cells

- Elenko Bojkov, Deputy-Minister of Energy (2022-2023)
- OMV/FPPG
- CWP

**12:30 - 13:00**    **Lunch**

**13:00 – 14:30**    **Parallel Sessions**

**SESSION 4: ENERGY TRANSFORMATION – NAVIGATING THE FUTURE LANDSCAPE**

The Big Energy Transformation: Opportunities and Challenges in CEE Region (ministerial panel)

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

**Beta Hall**

- Vladimir Malinov, Minister of Energy, Bulgaria
- Minister of Energy, Romania (tbc)
- Victor Parlicov, Minister of Energy, Moldova
- Matthew Baldwin, Deputy Director-General, Energy Directorate-General (ENER)
- Karel Kral, CEO, Electrohold Bulgaria Group
- Rob Dobbins, Head of International Relations and Asset Management of OMV Petrom

**Alpha 1**

**B2B Meeting**

**SESSION 5: SMART CITIES: INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**Discussion with the Sofia, Tirana and Pristina Mayors** 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

**Alpha 2+3**

**Moderator:** Adriana Sabeva, Co-founder of Gradoscope and founder of Imp-Act Agency

- Vassil Terziev, Mayor of Sofia
- Erion Veliaj, Mayor of Tirana
- Perparim Rama, Mayor of Pristina



- Nadya Dankinova, CEO, Fund FLAG
- OMVP/FPPG

14:30- 15:00

Coffee Break

15:00- 16:30

Parallel Sessions

**SESSION 6: EU Security Blueprint: Prioritizing Ukraine's Development and Resilience**

SUSTAINABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE CEE REGION

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

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

Beta Hall

- Rossen Plevneliev, President of Bulgaria (2012-2017)
- George Kremlis, Chair Bureau Espoo Convention, UNECE
- 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 of UkrainInvest

**Keynote: HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal - pre-recorded video**

**DAY 3 - 28.06.2024**

08:00 – 09:00

Terrace Coffee Morning – Networking Gathering

09:00 – 09:10

Official Opening

Beta Hall

Welcome address by Rumen Radev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria

09:10 – 10:30

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

10:30 - 10:45

- Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights
- Ivailo Ivanov, Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria
- Oliver Röpke, President of European Economic and Social Committee

10:45 - 11:00

- Tsvetanka Mintcheva, CEO and Chairperson of the Management Board of UniCredit Bulbank

Coffee Break

**prof. Martin Vechev, the Architect of INSAIT**

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

**Keynotes Plenary**

**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
- Svetoslava Georgieva, Chair of the EIC Fund Board
- Jason King, CEO, Yettel

11:00 – 12:30

**Beta Hall**

**Fire Chat: Innovation Horizons: Exploring CEE's Path to Global Competitiveness with Marc Lemaitre, Director-General for Research and Innovation (RTD), European Commission and Svilen Rangelov, Co-Founder and CEO, Dronamics**

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

11:00 – 12:30

Parallel Sessions

**SESSION 1: INNOVATION IN MEDICINE AND HEALTHCARE**

The Future of Telehealth: Explore the latest advancements in telemedicine, its impact on healthcare accessibility, and the challenges and opportunities it presents.

AI in Healthcare: Explore the role of artificial intelligence in diagnostics, personalized medicine, and decision support systems, and discuss ethical considerations and challenges.

**Alpha 2+3**

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

- Dr. Boiko Penkov, Deputy Minister of Healthcare (tbc)
- Angel Angelov, CEO, Acibadem Clinic (tbc)
- Pavel Naydenov, CEO, SOLA
- Novartis (tbc)
- Prof. Radka Kuneva, Medical University Sofia (tbc)
- Prof. Silvia Ilieva, Director of the GATE Institute at the SU (tbc)
- Roche (tbc)
- Dr. Tanya Andreeva (tbc)
- Micar21, AI drug discovery factory (tbc)

**12:30 – 13:00**    **Lunch**

**13:00 – 14:30**    **Parallel Sessions**

#### **SESSION 2: 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

**Beta Hall**

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

- Valentin Mundrov, Minister of e-government of Bulgaria
- Krzysztof Gawkowski, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Affairs of Poland (tbc)
- Dario Zoric, Regional Digitalisation Lead, CEE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
- Information Services Bulgaria(tbc)

**Alpha 1**

**SESSION 3: Special B2G MEETING**

#### **SESSION 4: EDUCATION AND INNOVATION**

**Alpha 2+3**

**Keynote Speech: 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 (tbc)

- Galin Tsokov, Minister of Education of Bulgaria
- Dr Igor Papič, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Slovenia
- Evgenia Peeva, CEO, SoftUni Buditel

**14:30 – 15:00**      **Coffee Break**

**15:00 – 16:30**      **Parallel Sessions**

**SESSION 5: FIRE CHAT INVESTORS - FOUNDERS:  
HOW TO BOOST INNOVATION & FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH FEMALE  
LEADERSHIP**

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

**Beta Hall**

- Svetoslava Georgieva, Chair of the EIC Fund Board
- Celine Sandberg, CEO & founder at Agoprene
- Mariya Hristova, EIT RIS Policy Council
- Anne-Charlotte Joubert, Founding member of the EU Female Founders

**FIRE CHAT: 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?

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

**Alpha 2+3**

- Pavel Lisev, CEO and Management Board Member, FMFIB
- Prof. Melodena Stephens, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Management “AI in UAE - the governance and investment perspective”
- Alfredo Soria, CEE Director, Plug and Play
- Andres Leon-Geyer PhD, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru “XR, AI and education. The experience of South America”
- Marisa Zalaback, AI Ethicist and Educational Psychologist
- Georgi Kirov, CEO and Founder, Crisp Labs

**16:30 – 16:00**

**OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE EVENT**