

3–4 April 2012, Sofia

VIENNA ECONOMIC TALKS – SOFIA MEETING 2012

„Liberalisation of Markets in the Region South-Eastern Europe“

3–4 April 2012

in cooperation with
the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)



Family Foto with H.E. Mr. Gerhard Reiweger, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Bulgaria, Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva, Dr. Erhard Busek, President of Vienna Economic Forum, H.E. Ms. Liliyana Pavlova, Minister of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria, Dr. Peter Harold, Chairman of the Management Board, HYPO NOE Gruppe Bank AG, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum, Prof. Dr. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, Dr. Michael Angerer, Trade Commissioner of the Republic of Austria

9th Vienna Economic Forum

9TH VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

18–19 November 2012, Palais Niederösterreich, Vienna

For the 9th time, **President Dr. Erhard Busek** and **Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** had the great pleasure to welcome in the wonderful location of Palais Niederösterreich around 480 participants from 36 countries throughout the world.

The motto was „**Quo vadis, Europe? Regional Cooperation for European Integration**“

Topics:

- *Regional Cooperation for European Integration*
- *Growth and Finance – Motors in New Frameworks. Infrastructure and Innovative Locations. The Fresh Wind*
- *The Danube Region – European Challenges. Energy, Transport, Logistics. Social Responsibility*
- *Ministerial Session: Quo vadis, Europe? Exchange of Ideas from the Southeast European Perspective*

Former Vice Chancellor **Dr. Erhard Busek**, **President** of Vienna Economic Forum, and **Secretary General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** were pleased to welcome on the Opening Day of the Forum **H.E. Dr. Johannes Hahn**, **European Commissioner for Regional Policy** as **Speaker of Honour**, **Dr. Georg Pözl**, **CEO of Österreichische Post AG**, and also numerous partners and members of Vienna Economic Forum, with whom Vienna Economic Forum has also a Memorandum of Understanding:

- **Ms. Müjgan Suver**, *President of the EU and Human Rights Platform, Marmara Foundation, Turkey, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*
- **Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis**, *President and Founder, Biopolitics International Organization, Greece, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*
- **Mr. Rudi Guraziu**, *Chief Executive, International Business and Diplomatic Exchange (IBDE), London, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*
- **Amb. Mr. Alain Brian Bergant**, *Secretary General, Bled Strategic Forum, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia*
- **Mr. Alex Munteanu**, *Managing Director Private Equity at Dragon Capital, Chairman, Business Advisory Council (BAC SEE), Thessaloniki, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*

It was a pleasure for **President Dr. Erhard Busek**, and **Secretary General Dr. Elena Kirtcheva**, to congratulate **Dr. Georg Pözl**, **CEO of Österreichische Post AG**, to the **Nomination of Österreichische Post AG** with the „**Vienna Economic Forum Award for the Partner of the Year 2012**“, in the frame of the Opening Ceremony.

A **Memorandum of Understanding** with Strategic Partners of Vienna Economic Forum was signed with:

- **Confederation of the Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria – CEIBG, Sofia**
- **International Business and Diplomatic Exchange – IBDE, London**

On the second day of the Forum **President Dr. Busek** and **Secretary General Dr. Kirtcheva** welcomed **H.E. Dr. Erwin Pröll**, **Governor of Lower Austria** as **Guest of Honour**, who held a **Welcome Statement** in the **First Opening Plenary Session**. It was an honour for Vienna Economic Forum to welcome **H.E. Dr. Maria Fekter**, **Federal Minister of Finance** of the Republic of Austria, with a **Main Statement** on the 9th Vienna Economic Forum as a speaker with the topic „**Growth and Finance – Motors in new Frameworks**“.

In her **Welcome Statement** **Dr. Elena Kirtcheva** underlined the role of the 9th Vienna Economic Forum in the region Southeast Europe and gave an overview on the success story of Vienna Economic Forum. **Dr. Herbert Stepic**, **CEO of Raiffeisen Bank International AG** and **Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum** pointed out the strong role of the banks in the region and underlined the good relations between Austria and Southeast Europe.

PROGRAM

18 NOVEMBER 2012

LOCATION

Palais Niederösterreich, Herrngasse 13, 1010 Vienna

5:30 p.m. **ADMISSION and REGISTRATION**6:20 p.m. **FAMILY PHOTO** (by invitation)6:30 p.m. **OFFICIAL OPENING of the 9th Vienna Economic Forum**

Moderation

Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, *Member of the Board,
Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum*

Opening speeches

Dr. Erhard BUSEK, *President of Vienna Economic Forum,
Former Vice Chancellor of the Republic of Austria*
Dr. Georg PÖLZL, *CEO, Österreichische Post AG*

Speaker of Honour

H.E. Dr. Johannes HAHN, *European Commissioner for Regional Policy*

Statements

Ms. Mijgan SUVER, *President of the EU and Human Rights Platform,
Marmara Foundation, Turkey, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*
Prof. Agni VLAVIANOS ARVANITIS, *President and Founder, Biopolitics International
Organization, Greece, Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*
Mr. Rudi GURAZIU, *Chief Executive, International
Business and Diplomatic Exchange (IBDE), London,
Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*
Amb. Mr. Alain Brian BERGANT, *Secretary General, Bled Strategic Forum, Strategic
Partner of Vienna Economic Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia*
Mr. Alex MUNTEANU, *Managing Director Private Equity at Dragon Capital, Chairman,
Business Advisory Council (BAC SEE), Strategic Partner of Vienna Economic Forum*

**SIGNING CEREMONY of a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between Vienna Economic Forum and Strategic Partners
and**

**ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM –
Nomination of PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2012**

7:30 p.m. **WELCOME COCKTAIL**
for the participants at the 9th Vienna Economic Forum hosted by
the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and Österreichische Post AG

19 NOVEMBER 2012

LOCATION

Palais Niederösterreich, Herrngasse 13, 1010 Vienna

8:00–9:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION and COFFEE**
hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and Baren Batterie GmbH

8:30–8:45 a.m. **FAMILY PHOTO** (by invitation)

9:00–10:15 a.m. **FIRST OPENING PLENARY SESSION**

**QUO VADIS, EUROPE?
REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.**

Moderation and Opening

Amb. Dr. Elena KIRTICHEVA, *Member of the Board,
Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum*

Welcome Statement

H.E. Dr. Erwin PRÖLL, *Governor of the Province of Lower Austria*

Introductory Statements

Ms. Bernadette GIERLINGER, *Vice Minister, Economic Policy and European Integration,
Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth of Austria*

Dr. Erhard BUSEK, *President of Vienna Economic Forum,
Former Vice Chancellor of the Republic of Austria*

Main Statements

Mr. Emmanuel FOREST, *CEO, BOUYGUES Europe, Belgium,
Member of Vienna Economic Forum*
H.E. Mr. Besim BEQAJ, *Minister of Economic Development of Kosovo*
Amb. Mr. Evgenij IVANOV, *Executive Director,
The Confederation of the Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria (CEIBG)*
Mr. Thomas HANEDER, *Partner, TPA HORWATH, Member of Vienna Economic Forum*
Mr. Matjaz RAKOVEC, *President of the Management Board, Triglav Insurance Company,
Ltd, Slovenia*
Mr. Zarko PRIMORAC, *Member of the Supervisory Board,
HRVATSKA ELEKTROPRIVREDA d.d., Croatia*

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

10:15–10:45 a.m. **NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK**
hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

10:45 a.m.–
12:30 p.m.**SECOND PLENARY SESSION****GROWTH AND FINANCE – MOTORS IN NEW FRAMEWORKS.
INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATIVE LOCATIONS. THE FRESH WIND.****Moderation**

Mr. Alois STEINBICHLER, Director of the Board, Kommunalkredit Austria,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Main Statement

H.E. Dr. Maria FEKTER, Federal Minister of Finance of the Republic of Austria

Statements

Dr. Friedhelm BOSCHERT, CEO SBERBANK Europe AG,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Claus J. RAIDL, President, Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Mr. Haris IHTIJAREVIC, Chairman of the Management Board,
Banking Agency of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms. Marina BLEIBTREU-HAHN, Project Manager,
FAA Holding GmbH, Austria

Dr. Roland FALB, Managing Partner, Roland Berger Strategy Consultants

Dr. Peter HAROLD, Chairman of the Management Board, HYPO NOE Gruppe Bank AG,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Gabriel LANSKY, Partner, Lansky, Ganzger + partner,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. Vladimir CUPIC, Chairman of the Executive Board, Hypo Alpe Adria Bank a.d.
Beograd, Serbia

Ms. Kori UDOVICKI, President, Center for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES)
Belgrade, Serbia

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

12:30–1:30 p.m.

LUNCH BUFFET

hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and SOPHARMA A. D.

1:30–3:15 p.m.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION**THE DANUBE REGION – EUROPEAN CHALLENGES.
ENERGY, TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.****Moderation and Statement**

Dr. Erhard BUSEK, President of Vienna Economic Forum,
Former Vice Chancellor of the Republic of Austria

Introductory Statements

Dr. Karsten BENZ, CCO, Austrian Airlines AG,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

DI Peter UMUNDUM, Member of the Board,
Österreichische Post AG, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Panelists

Dr. Hannes AMETSREITER, CEO, Telekom Austria Group, Member of the Board of Vienna
Economic Forum Dr. Franz WOHLFAHRT, President of the Board of Directors,
NOVOMATIC AG, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Mr. İlker AYCI, President, The Investment Support and Promotion
Agency of Turkey (ISPAT)

DI Dr. Günther RABENSTEINER, Member of the Board, Verbund,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Cristian DIACONESCU, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania,

Presidential Adviser, Chief of the Presidential Chancellery of the President of Romania

Dr. Farid SIGARI-MAJD, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP,
Member of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Johann SOLIGRUBER, Representation of the European Commission in Austria,
Head of political department

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

3:15–3:45 p.m.

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum and DenizBank AG

4:00–5:30 p.m.

MINISTERIAL SESSION**QUO VADIS, EUROPE?****EXCHANGE OF IDEAS FROM THE SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE.****Moderation and Statement**

Dr. Herbert STEPIC, CEO, Raiffeisen Bank International AG,
Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

Keynote Speaker

H.E. Mr. Werner FAYMANN, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria,
Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

Statements

H.E. Mr. Igor LUKSIC, Prime Minister of Montenegro, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Mr. Vjekoslav BEVANDA, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and
Herzegovina, Patron of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Mr. Neven MIMICA, Deputy Prime Minister for Home, Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia
 H.E. Ms. Mimoza KUSARI-LILA, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry of Kosovo
 Mr. Goran SVILANOVIC, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Q AND A SESSION

with the Audience (led by the Moderator)

5:30 p.m.

CONCLUSION

PERSPECTIVES after the 9th VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

Dr. Erhard BUSEK, President of Vienna Economic Forum,
 Former Vice Chancellor of the Republic of Austria

ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY OF VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

5:45 p.m.

END of the 9th VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM

Followed by

COCKTAIL for all participants at the 9th VEF
 hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

7:30 p.m.

GALA DINNER (by invitation)

hosted by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum
 in the Federation of Austrian Industries, Founding Member of Vienna Economic Forum

PHOTO GALLERY



Official Opening of the
 9th Vienna Economic Forum in
 Palais Niederösterreich



Dr. Erhard Busek, President of
 Vienna Economic Forum,
 H.E. Dr. Johannes Hahn, European
 Commissioner for Regional Policy,
 Dr. Georg Pölzl, CEO of
 Österreichische Post AG, Secretary
 General Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva



H.E. Dr. Johannes Hahn,
European Commissioner for Regional Policy



Secretary General Amb.
Dr. Elena Kirtcheva



Dr. Erhard Busek,
Former Vice Chancellor of the
Republic of Austria, President of
Vienna Economic Forum



Ms. Mijgan Suver, President of the
EU and Human Rights Platform,
Marmara Foundation, Turkey,
Strategic Partner of Vienna
Economic Forum



Prof. Agni Viavianos Arvanitis,
President and Founder, Biopolitics
International Organization,
Greece, Strategic Partner of Vienna
Economic Forum