



Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



Under the patronage of

His Excellency President of the Republic of Latvia Mr Andris Bērziņš

As of 15 May 2015

3rd Eastern Partnership Business Forum COOPERATION ACROSS BORDERS: EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AND BEYOND

Thursday, 21 May 2015

Venue: Radisson Blu "Latvija" Hotel, 55 Elizabetes Street, Riga, Latvia

Working language: Latvian with simultaneous interpretation to English, French, German and Russian

The 3rd Eastern Partnership Business Forum will focus on promoting new opportunities for strengthening business links between the EU and the six Eastern European partner countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine also in the context of cooperation with other countries interested in the region

Strategic Partners:



In cooperation with:



WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2015

14:00 – 18:00 REGISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF IDENTIFICATION BADGES

VENUE: RADISSON BLU "LATVIJA" HOTEL

ADDRESS: 55 ELIZABETES STREET, RIGA, LATVIA

THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2015

08:00 – 09:00 REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE

Venue: Radisson Blu "Latvija" Hotel, Hall Omega

Address: 55 Elizabetes Street, Riga, Latvia

09:00 – 09:30 EU PRESIDENCY WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE FORUM

Moderator: **Ms Jacki DAVIS**, Journalist

Keynote address:

H. E. President of Republic of Latvia Mr Andris BĒRZIŅŠ

Mr Vitālijs GAVRILOVS, President, Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK) and Vice-President of BUSINESSEUROPE; Co-Chair of National Tripartite Cooperation Council of Latvia

Mr Werner HOYER, President, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Mr Jacek P. KRAWCZYK, President, Employers' Group, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

09:30 – 10:30 PLENARY DISCUSSION 1: “Political and Economic Perspectives of the Eastern Partnership”

Venue: Hall Omega

Discussions are focused on progress and prospects of cooperation between the European Union and Eastern European partner countries, the role of Association Agreements including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA) in support of political and economic cooperation, as well as opportunities provided for business cooperation in terms of trade and investments across borders. The role of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in promoting regional integration through the Eastern Partnership as well as the views of the Latvian Presidency on the added value of Eastern Partnership for business cooperation, trade and investment and support instruments are highlighted during the plenary.

Moderator: **Ms Jacki DAVIS**, Journalist

Panellists:

Ms Dana REIZNIECE-OZOLA, Minister of Economy, Republic of Latvia

Mr Johannes HAHN, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Mr Alexander ZABOROVSKIY, First Deputy Minister of Economy, Republic of Belarus

Mr Markus J. BEYRER, Director General, BUSINESSEUROPE

Mr Elgua MELADZE, President, Georgian Employers' Association (GEA)

Prof. Dr. Rainer LINDNER, Managing Director, German Business Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (Ost-Ausschuss)

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE

10:30 – 11:00 PRESS CONFERENCE

Venue: Hall Alfa

11:00 – 12:00 PLENARY DISCUSSION 2: “Business Environment and Role of Business Associations”

Venue: Hall Omega

Discussions are focused on a comparison of the investment and business environment in EU Member States and Eastern European partner countries, focusing on the role of a safe and predictable business environment as an essential condition for local and foreign investment and the role of employers' and business organisations in the process of decision making and managing reforms. Panellists discuss different EU programmes and instruments which have the aim to strengthen relations between EU and EaP business organisations, sharing best practises and stimulating partnerships. Business recommendations for decision makers, reflecting different perspectives, both of the EU and the Eastern European partners are discussed during the plenary.

Moderator: **Ms Jacki DAVIS**, Journalist

Panellists:

Ms Līga MENĢELSONE, Director General, Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK)

Mr Andris OZOLS, Director of Investment and Development Agency of Latvia

Mr Gagik MAKARYAN, President, Republican Union of Employers of Armenia (RUEA)

Mr Anatoliy KINAKH, President, Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (USPP)

Mr Arnaldo ABRUZZINI, Secretary General, EUROCHAMBRES

Mr Gediminas RAINYS, Director General, Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists (LPK)

12:00 – 13:15 LUNCH

Parallel sessions 1 and 2

13:15 – 14:15

13:15 – 14:15 PARALLEL SESSION 1: “Role of Banks in Providing Access to Finance for Business”

Venue: Hall Alfa

Discussions focus on the role of modern banking and access to finance as a catalyst for entrepreneurship activity. Panellists will highlight the role of various financial Instruments available to support entrepreneurship activities in Eastern European partner countries, in particular the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA) Facility for SMEs. Business recommendations for decision makers, reflecting different perspectives, both of the EU and Eastern European partner countries are discussed during the session.

Moderator: **Ms Charlotte RUHE**, Director for Small Business Support, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Rapporteur: **Mr Dimitris DIMITRIADIS**, National Confederation of Hellenic Commerce; Member, Employers’ Group, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Panellists:

Mr Mārtiņš BIČEVSKIS, President, Latvian Association of Commercial Banks

Mr Heinz OLBERS, Director, Eastern Neighbours and Central Asia Department, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Mr Francis MALIGE, Managing Director for Eastern Europe and Caucasus European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Mr Gerhard SCHUMANN-HITZLER, Director for Neighbourhood East, Directorate General European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

Mr Oleksii MIROSHNYCHENKO, Executive Vice-President, Federation of Employers of Ukraine

Parallel sessions 1 and 2

13:15-14:15

13:15 – 14:15 PARALLEL SESSION 2: “Transport and Logistics Infrastructure – New Investment and Development Opportunities”

Venue: Hall Omega

Discussions focus on the modernisation of transport and logistics infrastructure as a major bonding element and new investment and development opportunities in the field of transport and transit in support of cross-border cooperation. Panellists highlight various instruments and tools for development of transport and logistics as a link between European Union and eastern European partner countries, extension of the TEN-T network to the Eastern European partner countries, as well as existing and potential transit routes between regions. Business recommendations for decision makers, reflecting different perspectives, both of the EU and eastern European partner countries are discussed during the session.

Moderator: **Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gebhard HAFER**, Professor for Logistic and Supply Chain Management; Rektor, Akademie für Betriebswirtschaftliche Weiterbildung GmbH

Rapporteur: **Mr Jan SIMONS**, Chairman, Transport and Maritime Arbitration via the Netherlands (TAMARA); Member, Employers’ Group, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Panellists:

Mr Andris LIEPIŅŠ, Chairman of the Board, RIGA International Airport (tbc)

Mr Volodymyr DEMENKO, Director General, „Levada Cargo”

Mr George DOBORJGINIDZE, Managing Director, Agilix LLC

Mr Virginijus JESTREMSKAS, Director, Development Department, AB Lithuanian Railways

Mr Guntars JANSONS, Head of the Department of Development Planning, SJSC *Latvijas dzelzceļš*

Mr Donald MISHAXHIU, Senior Banker for Transport, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Parallel sessions 3 and 4

14:30-15:30

14:30 – 15:30 PARALLEL SESSION 3: “Changing Business Operations within a Growing Digital Economy”

Panel discussion hosted by „Lattelecom”

Venue: Hall Omega

Discussions focus on changing business operations within a growing digital economy as well as challenge and opportunities of the European Union and Eastern European Partner countries. Panellists highlight the digital transformation of business operations in the EU in the era of the digital economy, harmonisation of Eastern Partnership digital markets, as well as various existing platforms enhancing support to business and successful examples of digital business promotion, such as eLogistics and eCustoms. Business recommendations for decision makers, reflecting different perspectives, both of the EU and eastern European partner countries are discussed during the session.

Moderator: **Mr Kristo LEHTONEN**, Director, Government Relations, Finland and Technologies, NOKIA;
Chairman of the BUSINESSEUROPE Taskforce and Digital Economy

Rapporteur: **Mr Vassilis KOPANAS**, Representative, European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG Connect), European Commission

Panellists:

Mr Juris GULBIS, CEO, JSC Lattelecom

Mr Vladimir BASKO, Director General, The Scientific and Technological Association INFOPARK

Mr Hayk CHOBANYAN, Deputy CEO, Union of Information Technology Enterprises of Armenia

Mr Paul MOFFATT, Senior Counsel, Legal Transition, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Mr Joost van IERSEL, Member, Employers' Group, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC); President, Section for Economic and Monetary Union and Economic and Social Cohesion (ECO) of the EESC

Mr Alexey KOLB, Owner, Kolb Group

15:30 – 16:00 COFFEE

Parallel sessions 3 and 4

14:30-15:30

14:30 – 15:30 PARALLEL SESSION 4: “Energy Resources: A Driver Or Challenge For Business Development?”

Panel discussion hosted by „Latvenergo”

Venue: Hall Alfa

Energy supply, energy costs, energy efficiency: which role do energy resources play today in business operations? And which role should they play in order to attract investment? What is the potential of energy resources and energy transport corridors in the region? What can be done to enhance energy security, to guarantee affordability for business and to increase competitiveness in a sustainable fashion? Panellists provide business recommendations for decision makers while reflecting the different perspectives, both of the EU and Eastern partner countries on the one hand and of the public and the private sector on the other hand.

Moderator: **Mr Sean MACKLE**, Director for Trade and Economic Policy, FertilizersEurope

Rapporteur: **Mr Stephane BUFFETAUT**, Member, Employers' Group European Economic and Social Committee (EESC); President, Section for Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and Information Society (TEN) of the EESC

Panellists:

Mr Jiri BURIANEK, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions (tbc)

Dr Peter P. BALAS, Head of Support Group for Ukraine (SGUA), European Commission (tbc)

Mr Radoslav DUDOLENSKI, CEO Hydrolea

Mr Aleksi MIKABERIDZE, Founder/C.E.O, Amigo Geosolar Ltd

Mr Matteo MAZZONI, Director of Research, NE Nomisma Energia

Ms Thea KHITARISHVILI, Senior Manager, Caspian and Black Sea programme, Europe, Middle East and Africa Division, Office of Global Energy Policy, International Energy Agency

15:30 – 16:00 COFFEE

16:00 – 17:00 PLENARY DISCUSSION 3: “Doing Business Within and Beyond The Region”

Venue: Hall Omega

Discussions focus on doing business within the global trading system and prospects of cooperation in the wider region in the context of Association Agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs). Panellists focus on promotion of economic cooperation, investment and trade across borders in the neighbourhood and with other regions and economies of the scale. Business recommendations for decision makers, reflecting different perspectives, both of the EU and Eastern European partner countries are discussed during the plenary.

Moderator: **Ms Jacki DAVIS**, Journalist

Panellists:

Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM, European Commissioner for Trade

Mr Aivaras ABROMAVICIUS, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine (tbc)

Mr Wilhelm MOLTERER, Vice President, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Mr Markus J. BEYRER, Director General, BUSINESSEUROPE

Mr Hendrik BOURGEOIS, Counsel for Europe, Head of Government Affairs & Policy for Europe, General Electric (GE)

17:00 – 17:45 REPORT FROM SESSIONS and PRESENTATION OF BUSINESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION MAKERS TO THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP POLITICAL SUMMIT

Venue: Hall Omega

Discussions focus on key challenges and opportunities and next steps to promote business cooperation across borders in the Eastern Partnership and beyond. The closing session highlight outcomes of discussions and business recommendations for decision makers, reflecting different perspectives, both of the EU and the Eastern European partner countries which were made throughout the different sessions.

Moderator: **Ms Jacki DAVIS**, Journalist

Panellists:

Mr Vitālijs GAVRILOVS, President of Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK)

Mr Markus J. BEYRER, Director General, BUSINESSEUROPE

Mr László BARANYAY, Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Mr Jacek P. KRAWCZYK, President, Employers' Group, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

18:00 RECEPTION FOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS FORUM
Venue: Hall 1

12:00 – 17:00 BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS (B2B) MEETINGS

Venue: Beta

Dedicated Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings will be organised by the Latvian Investment and Development Agency (LIAA) at the Business Forum venue.