

Programme

The Western Balkans Summit 2024

Unleashing the region's potential

June 11th 2024

Emerald Hotel, Pristina, Kosovo



09:10 Registration – Welcome coffee

09:50 Welcome remarks by the conference chairperson

THE ECONOMIST'S OUTLOOK ON THE WESTERN BALKANS

- How is the region affected by the geopolitical turmoil?

Alasdair Ross, countries editor, The Economist -The World Ahead 2024

10:00 **CAN THE WESTERN BALKANS PROVIDE AN OPTIMISTIC PERSPECTIVE FOR EUROPE'S SECURITY AND COHESION?**

- Strengthening democracy, security and stability in the Western Balkans
- Kosovo's Vision for Regional Stability and Prosperity
- Insights on NATO's role and future challenges

Official Opening

Albin Kurti, prime minister, Kosovo

Matteo Renzi, former prime minister, Italy

Lord George Robertson, former secretary-general, NATO

10:30 Discussion

10:45 **UNLEASHING THE WESTERN BALKANS POTENTIAL: THE US PERSPECTIVE**

The Economist in dialogue with

Jeffrey M. Hovenier, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **DRIVING STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**

- Strengthening economic and financial stability through Euro-Atlantic Integration
- EU Growth Plan: new opportunities and challenges
- Facilitating the European integration process in the Western Balkans
- Political risks challenging stability and development in the Western Balkans

Tomáš Szunyog, ambassador, head of EU Office in Kosovo/EU special representative

Peter Tabak, lead regional economist for the Western Balkans, EBRD

Visar Perani, country officer for Kosovo and North Macedonia, International Finance Corporation, The World Bank Group

Joost Kuhlmann, economic adviser, DG ECFIN, European Commission

Domagoj Juricic, political risk management senior consultant, MKPS, Croatia, fmr chief of staff to the president of Croatia

12:10 Discussion

12:30

**ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY:
INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY SOLUTIONS, AND FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES**

- Building sustainable infrastructure: transport and environment needs
- Sustainable energy solutions: driving innovation and efficiency in Kosovo
- Implementing reforms and adjustments for sustainable growth
- Large infrastructure/transportation projects in the pipeline: The EIB's role
- The importance of e-mobility in the business landscape

Setting the stage:

Adam Schluessler, head of office to Romeo FRANZ MEP, chair of the delegation for relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, European Parliament

Liburn Aliu, minister of environment, spatial planning and infrastructure, Kosovo

Artane Rizvanolli, minister of economy, Kosovo

Massimiliano Paolucci, country manager for Kosovo & North Macedonia, The World Bank

Sergiy Maslichenko, regional head of Kosovo, EBRD

Branko Čevriz, loan officer and portfolio manager for Western Balkans and Turkey, EIB

Ståle Hagen, project director trains and trams, Yes-EU Group

13:10

Discussion

13:35

Networking Luncheon

14:45

WHY EUROPE NEEDS INNOVATION TO STAY COMPETITIVE

Setting the stage:

David Born, director, Roland Berger Institute, Germany

14:55

**CATALYSING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION:
IT, MANUFACTURING, AGRICULTURE, AND DIGITALISATION**

- Modernising agriculture: food processing in the digital era and green practices
- Innovative Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Water Management
- Digital transformation strategies, emerging technologies and trends
- Innovating manufacturing: advancing industry practices
- Industrial progress and Innovation: catalysts for business excellence

Setting the stage

Strengthening FDI and export readiness: strategies for private sector growth

Luan Dalipi, chief of staff to the Prime Minister of Kosovo

Faton Peci, minister of agriculture, forestry and rural development, Kosovo

Rozeta Hajdari, minister of industry, entrepreneurship and trade, Kosovo

Dimosthenis Anagnostopoulos, secretary-general for information systems and digital governance, Ministry of Digital Governance, Greece (via connection)

Bernhard Roeger, agriculture and hypochlorite solutions expert

15:35

Discussion

16:00 POWER OF DATA IN BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

- **Current trends, challenges and opportunities**
- **Identifying actionable paths forward**
- **How data-driven decision-making is revolutionising business strategies**
- **Business planning to drive efficiency, innovation, and competitive advantage**

Shpend Ahmeti, managing partner, Data4X

Toni Balažič, CEO, Panvita, fmr chairman of the BoD, Mercator, fmr CEO, Fructal

16:15 Discussion

16:30 End of conference

19:45 Arrival of guests – cocktail reception

20:00 PRIVE DINNER

Hosted by Prime Minister Albin Kurti in honour of the speakers and selected guests

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