



BALKAN SME CONFERENCE – SOFIA 2016

PROGRAMME:

The following information has been put together to assist attendees. Please note: the information is correct at the time of print but is subject to change where there has been insufficient demand or unforeseen circumstances.

23.06.2016 (Thursday) – Sofia Hotel Balkan

08.00 – 09.00 Registration – collection of badges and documents

09.00 – 09.30 Official opening of the Balkan SME Conference – Sofia 2016

Presentation of the official guests by **Mr. Vesselin Halachev** - Chairman of UBC and member of the Board of Directors of the European Small Business Alliance in Brussels

* Welcome speech by **Mr. Tomislav Donchev** – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the European funds and economic policy of the Republic of Bulgaria

* Welcome speech by **Mr. Teodor Stoychev** - Representative of the European Parliament and the European Commission in Bulgaria

* Welcome speech by **Mr. Erhard Busek** – Coordinator of the South-East Co-operation Initiative (SECI), former Vice-Chancellor of Austria

* Welcome speech by **Mr. David Caro** – President of the European Small Business Alliance (ESBA)

* Welcome speech by **Mrs. Daniela Vezieva** – Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria

* Welcome speech by **Mrs. Marieta Zaharieva** – Executive Director of the Bulgarian Small and Medium enterprise Promotion Agency (BSMEPA) to the Minister of Economy

09.30 - 11:00 First panel – “EU funds and programmes – partnerships between the Balkan SMEs, local authorities, universities, research centres, etc.”

* **Overview of the European programmes (Horizon 2020, COSME, Erasmus+, etc.) 2014 - 2020** (over 450 programs with more than 800 subsidies), presented by **Mr. Veselin Halachev** - Chairman of UBC and member of the Board of Directors of the European Small Business Alliance in Brussels

* **EU funding for SMEs and municipalities in the area of security and antiterrorism** - Presentation of **Mrs. Kremena Dimitrova** - Director of Directorate "European funds" at UBC

* **Danube and BalkanMED transnational programmes** - Presentation of **Mrs. Maria DUZOVA** - Director General of DG "Territorial Cooperation Management" of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

* **Partnerships between the Balkan SMEs, local authorities, universities, research centres, etc.** - Presentation of **Mr. Erhard Busek** – Coordinator of the South-East Co-operation Initiative (SECI), former Vice-Chancellor of Austria

Questions and Answers

Moderator: **Mr. Vesselin Halachev**

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 - 13:00 Second panel - Juncker Investment Plan and the financial instruments stimulating the internationalization of the SMEs

* **Juncker Investment Plan and the European Fund for Strategic Investments** with a total budget of € 315 billion - presentation of **Mrs. Aglika Tsvetanova** – European Semester Officer – European Commission, Bulgaria

* **The new financial instruments, operated by the banks** – Presentation of a Bank

* **Leasing for the Balkan SMEs** – Presentation of a leasing company

* **Factoring for the Balkan SMEs** – Presentation of a factoring company

* **Financial instruments for promoting the internationalization of SMEs** - presentation by **Mr. Nikola Stoyanov** - Deputy Executive Director of the Bulgarian Small and Medium enterprise Promotion Agency (BSMEPA) to the Ministry of Economy

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19, “Lavele” str., fl. 3 ; 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

tel +359 895 575744 e-mail: events@ubclubs.eu



* **Investment opportunities for the Balkan SMEs** - Presentation of **Mr. Stamen Yanev** – Executive Director of Invest Bulgaria Agency at the Ministry of Economy of Bulgaria

Questions and Answers

Moderator: **Mr. Mihail Komitski**

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch – networking (additional special reservation needed)

14:30 - 15:45 Third panel – Turning the disadvantages into opportunities: the Balkans – a serious future factor in the European technological and industrial development

* **The Balkans – the new technological and industrial zone of Europe** – Presentation of **Mr. Mitko Dimitrov** – Director of the Economy Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

* **The Balkan Value Chains – an important part of the global ones** – Presentation of **Mrs. Desislava Nikolova** - Chief economist of the Institute for Market Economics

* Presentation of Albania

* Presentation of Greece

* Presentation of Turkey

* Presentation of Romania

* Presentation of Serbia

Questions and Answers

Moderator: **Mrs. Vida Kozar** - Director of Slovenian Chamber of Commerce

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 to 17:30 Fourth Panel - Tourism – the third important and profitable economic sector in Europe; cooperation between the Balkan SMEs and municipalities in the field of tourism

* Presentation of Slovenia

* Presentation of Macedonia

* Presentation of Croatia

* Presentation of Bulgaria

* Presentation of Greece

* Presentation of Italy

* Presentation of Montenegro

Questions and Answers

Moderator: Expert from the Ministry of Tourism

17.30 – 17.45 Closing of the Balkan SME Conference – Sofia 2016

Closing remarks by **Mrs. Marieta Zaharieva** – Executive Director of the Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA)

Closing remarks by **Mrs. Yordanka Fandakova** - Mayor of Sofia

17.45 – 19.00 Cocktail – networking (additional special reservation needed)

Main working languages: **Bulgarian and English** (simultaneous translation included)

If you require this document in an alternative format, please ring +359 895 575744 or e-mail: events@ubclubs.eu