

The
Economist

Events



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THE EU-BALKAN SUMMIT

PAVING THE WAY
TO RECOVERY AND GROWTH

OCTOBER 17-18, 2013
SHERATON SOFIA HOTEL BALKAN
SOFIA, BULGARIA



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EVENT:

The EU-Balkan Summit

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Paving the way to recovery and growth

Europe has been preoccupied with financial turmoil due to the global economic crisis and the current sovereign debt crises in the Eurozone. The challenge now lies in how the EU can emerge stronger by reinforcing its economic and monetary policies and by strengthening co-operation and integration among its member states.

Croatia officially joins the EU this year, while **Romania** and **Bulgaria** are both awarded full membership status.

What is the impact of EU membership for these countries?

Albania continued to grow faster than the other countries in the region in 2011, with a slowdown in 2012, owing to weak performance of its core EU markets, Greece and Italy. Despite progress in improving business environments, most countries in the region still face challenges. Countries with proximity to western markets and with stable political outlooks have proceeded faster and more successfully with stabilisation, liberalisation and privatisation.

This full-day summit will explore the road to EU ascension through regional co-operation and development.





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EVENT: Continued

All indications show that amid a vulnerable period of instability, the countries will find themselves at a turning point following the recent economic crisis.

- How will the new political, financial and business landscape in the Balkan region re-shape itself?
- How will their Governments manage to put them back on the road to prosperity?

WE WILL BE PLACING EMPHASIS ON:

- The banking sector
- Attraction of foreign investments
- Energy security and supply in Europe
- Infrastructure, tourism and real estate
- Business climate





EVENT: Continued

Key countries represented at The EU - Balkan Summit:

- **Albania**
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **Bulgaria**
- **Croatia**
- **Greece**
- **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**
- **Montenegro**
- **Romania**
- **Serbia**

Audience:

- **Cabinet Ministers** (i.e. Prime Ministers, Ministers of Energy, Regional Development and Tourism)
- **Representatives from the European Commission** (i.e. High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy, Vice-president of the European Commission)
- **Heads of financial institutions and organisations** (i.e. Bulgarian Industrial Association, Alliance of Romanian Employers' Confederations, Head of Structural Policy Analysis Division OECD)
- **Decision-makers from politics, business, finance and academia** (i.e. Secretary General of Hellenic Bank Association)



Confirmed speakers up to date include:



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Laza **KEKIC**

Regional Director, Europe
Economist Intelligence Unit, UK

Joan **HOEY**

Senior Analyst & Regional Editor, Europe
Economist Intelligence Unit

Rosen **PLEVNELIEV**

President of **Bulgaria**

Plamen **ORESHARSKI**

Prime Minister of **Bulgaria**

Liviu-Nicolae **DRAGNEA**

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Regional Development
and Public Administration
Romania

Branimir **GVOZDENOVIC**

Minister of Sustainable Development
and Tourism of **Montenegro**

Dragomir **STOYEV**

Minister of Economy and Energy
Bulgaria

Dimitris **KOURKOULAS**

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Greece

Alen **LEVERIC**

Deputy Minister of Economy
Croatia

Dimitar **BECHEV**

Head of Sofia Office
European Council on Foreign Relations

Claudio **CESARIO**

CEO, Unicredit Bank **Serbia**

Andreas **MITAFIDIS**

Director, Energy Management Division
Public Power Corporation, Greece

Elio **RUGGERI**

Managing Director, IGI Poseidon, Italy
Chairman BoD, ICGB **Bulgaria**

Peter **SANFEY**

Lead Economist
EBRD

Stamatios **THEODOROPoulos**

Chairman, Hellenic Business Council in Bulgaria
Country Manager, Chipita, Bulgaria

Max **WATSON**

Visiting Fellow, St Anthony's College
Member, SEESOX Steering Committee