

GROWTH AND RESILIENCE IN CESEE IN A MORE FRAGMENTED WORLD

29 – 30 MAY 2025, HOTEL DUBROVNIK PALACE, DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MAY 29, 2025, THURSDAY

19:00 – 19:45 **CONCERT at the Rector's Palace**

20:00 – 22:00 **WELCOME DINNER on the Palm Terrace of the Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik**

Welcome:

Boris Vujčić, Governor, Croatian National Bank

Dinner Speech • Non bene pro toto libertas venditur auro

Valdis Dombrovskis, Commissioner, European Commission

MAY 30, 2025, FRIDAY

8:30 – 9:00 **REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE**

9:00 – 9:30 **INTRODUCTORY AND OPENING REMARKS**

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

Boris Vujčić, Governor, Croatian National Bank

OPENING REMARKS:

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

9:30 – 10:30 **SESSION I • POLICY ROUNDTABLE
GROWTH AND RESILIENCE IN A MORE FRAGMENTED WORLD:
MACROECONOMIC POLICIES FOR CESEE**

Macroeconomic policies in Europe have demonstrated that they can respond effectively to large shocks such as the pandemic, global supply chain disruptions, and surges in energy prices. However, they have also left a legacy of considerably reduced fiscal space. Policymakers thus need to focus on rebuilding fiscal space – not least in view of the structural challenges discussed in the first two panels – and on preserving the resilience of macroeconomic frameworks to future shocks, including those related to global trade fragmentation, geopolitical tensions, and climate related issues.

Key questions:

- (i) How can the already strained fiscal positions best support future growth and macroeconomic resilience, particularly in the context of increasing demands for financing climate and military-related needs? How do the new fiscal rules fit in this picture – i.e. to what extent do the new fiscal rules have the potential to strike the right balance between rebuilding fiscal space and supporting growth? What are the key tradeoffs in public spending?
- (ii) What are the lessons of recent inflation shocks for central banks in CESEE? Which signals for tightening and easing—in terms of both timing and extent of policy action—need central banks pay attention to? Which policy combinations have proved effective in this inflation cycle?

Moderator: Ali Aslan, International TV Presenter and Journalist

Panelists:

1. **Kristalina Georgieva**, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
2. **Valdis Dombrovskis**, Commissioner, European Commission
3. **Mihály Varga**, Governor, Magyar Nemzeti Bank
4. **Klemen Boštjančič**, Minister, Ministry of Finance, Slovenia

Round table discussion with Q&As from the audience

10:30 – 11:10 COFFEE BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO

11:10 – 12:30 SESSION II • NAVIGATING FRAGMENTATION: THE ROLE OF CESEE IN THE SINGLE MARKET

The CESEE region has benefitted substantially from becoming an integral part of Europe's Single Market. But over the last decade economic and productivity growth have slowed. Now, economic and political fragmentation is altering trade and investment flows, has raised energy costs, and is weakening CESEE's manufacturing base. The panel will discuss the future role of CESEE in Europe's economy and reforms needed to adapt to economic fragmentation, including finishing the Single Market agenda.

Key questions:

- (i) What is CESEE's current place in the Single Market? How is fragmentation affecting it?
- (ii) What is CESEE's business model in a European economy of the future?
- (iii) Which reforms at the EU level could boost growth and productivity in the region? How would a deeper savings and investment union make a difference? What energy sector reforms can help CESEE?

Moderator: Sasha Vakulina, Business Editor, Euronews

Panelists:

1. **Paweł Karbownik**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Finance, Poland
2. **Zsolt Darvas**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel
3. **Debora Revoltella**, Chief Economist, European Investment Bank
4. **Ivailo Izvorski**, Chief Economist, World Bank Group

Round table discussion with Q&As from the audience

12:30 – 14:30 LUNCH

Special Address • Innovation and Sustainability: Foundations for a Competitive European Economy

Teresa Czerwińska, Vice-President, European Investment Bank

14:30 – 15:15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS • EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME POLICIES IN AN ERA OF AI

Anton Korinek, Professor, University of Virginia

15:15 – 15:40 COFFEE BREAK

15:40 – 17:00 SESSION III • ENHANCING DYNAMISM IN CESEE THROUGH DOMESTIC STRUCTURAL REFORMS

Video Message:

Marta Kos, Commissioner, European Commission

After the 2004 EU expansion, new member states from CESEE thrived for several years thanks to substantial structural reforms and a boost in investment. Since then, progress on removing regulatory barriers, strengthening institutions and infrastructure, and opening services markets has slowed. The panel will discuss the largest structural reform gaps, potential benefits, and reform priority areas.

Key questions:

- (i) Which domestic reforms would be most efficient in boosting dynamism of CESEE economies?
- (ii) Which reforms at the EU level would help create synergies with structural reform implementation in CESEE?
- (iii) What is needed to make structural reforms politically and operationally feasible?

Moderator: Mladen Sirovica, Journalist, HRT

Panelists:

1. **Alfred Kammer**, Director, International Monetary Fund
2. **Beata Javorcik**, Chief Economist, EBRD
3. **Tomáš Holub**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, Czech Republic
4. **Chiara Criscuolo**, Principal Economist, IFC

Round table discussion with Q&As from the audience

17:00 – 17:15 CLOSING REMARKS

Boris Vujčić, Governor, Croatian National Bank

19:30 – 22:00 DINNER