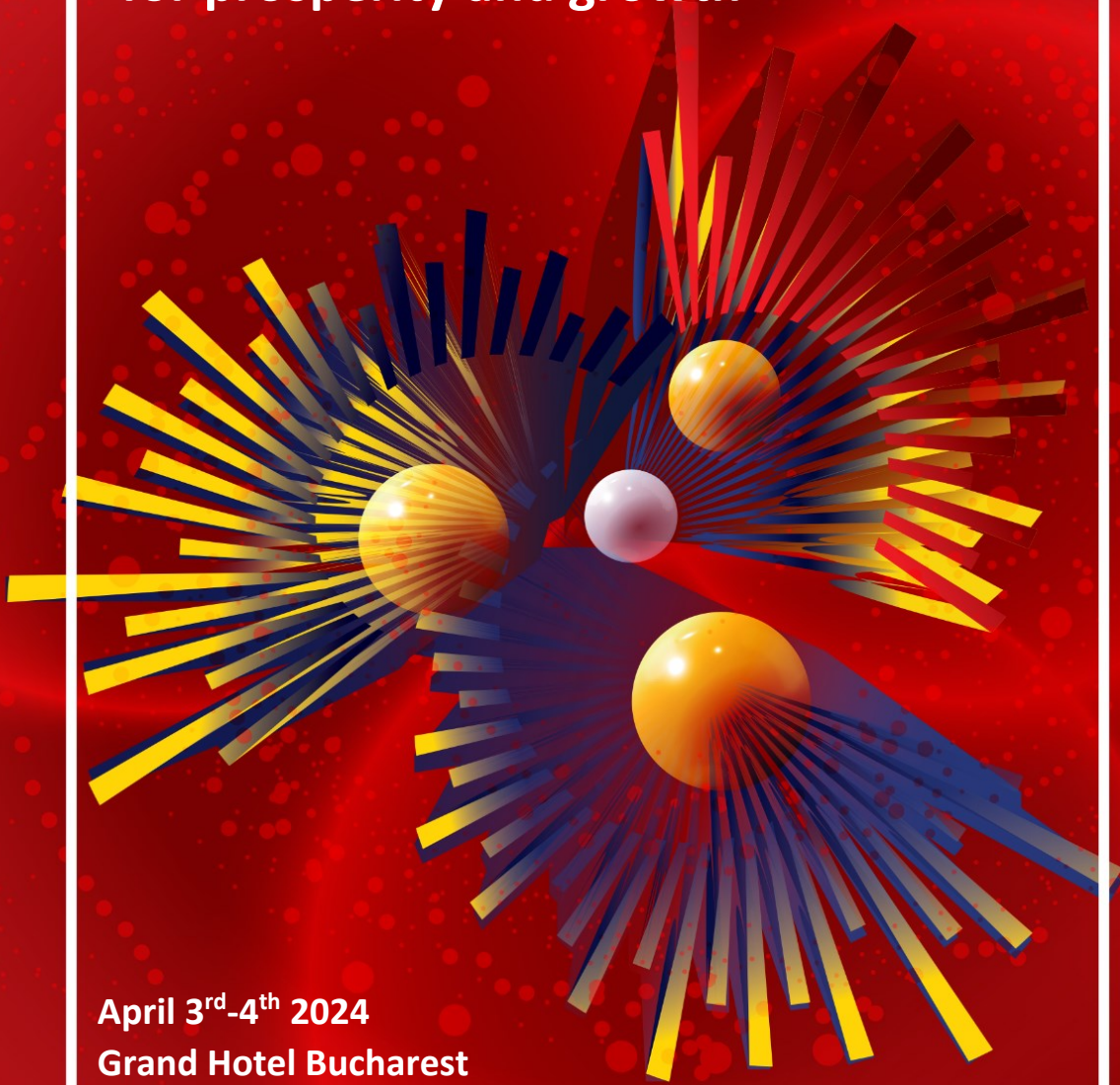


Programme

Fourth Romanian Business & Investment Roundtable

Shaping a new narrative
for prosperity and growth



April 3rd-4th 2024
Grand Hotel Bucharest

Official partner for Romania

Oxygen

With the support of:

ASPEN
INSTITUTE
ROMANIA



hazlis & rivas
Economist Impact Events for Greece,
Cyprus, Malta and south-east Europe

DAY 1 - April 3rd, 2024 - Opening Gala Dinner

18:00	Cocktail – arrival of delegates
18:30	THE ECONOMIST'S FORECAST ON EUROPE'S GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE AND EUROPE'S ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE Joan Hoey, editorial director, The Democracy Index, Europe consultant, The Economist Group
	Opening Session
18:40	ADDRESSING GLOBAL THREATS AT EUROPE'S FRONTLINE: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MULTILATERAL CO-OPERATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A new era of power politics?■ What can we expect about the rules-based international order?■ Romania's and Bulgaria's accession to Schengen: next steps to be taken■ Strengthening cross-border cooperation and integration Alexis Tsipras, president, Committee on the Western Balkans, Council of Europe, fmr prime minister, Greece (acceptance in principle) Guy Verhofstadt, MEP, former prime minister, Belgium Sergei Stanishev, MEP, vice-chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament, fmr prime minister of Bulgaria Traian Hristea, secretary of state for global affairs and diplomatic strategies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania Kathleen Kavalec, US ambassador to Romania
19:10	Discussion
	Opening Gala Dinner
19:30	Official opening keynote address: EUROPE'S STRATEGY FOR UNITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND COHESION: WHERE DOES ROMANIA STAND? Guest of honour and keynote speaker: Ion-Marcel Ciolacu, prime minister of Romania The European perspective: Martin Schulz, former president, European Parliament, chair, Friedrich Ebert Foundation
19:45	Discussion
22:00	End of first day

DAY 2 - April 4th, 2024 - Conference Sessions

08:30	Registration and refreshments
08:50	Welcome remarks by the conference chair: Joan Hoey , editorial director, The Democracy Index, Europe consultant, The Economist Group
09:00	FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR EUROPE IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF HEIGHTENED UNCERTAINTY <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The financial outlook for SE Europe▪ Necessary reforms for a more resilient growth model▪ Unlocking potential in the new business landscape through restructuring Keynote address: Marcel-Ioan Bolos , minister of finance, Romania Mateusz Szczurek , lead economist for central and south-eastern EU countries, EBRD, former minister of finance, Poland Judith Shapiro , senior lecturer, department of economics, London School of Economics (LSE) Representative, CITR (Name to be advised)
09:20	Discussion
09:40	OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT & GROWTH IN ROMANIA AND THE WIDER REGION <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sharing insight with the international institutions▪ Financing strategic sectors through private equity instruments▪ The investor's point of view Anna Akhalkatsi , country manager for Romania and Hungary, The World Bank Johan Meyer , senior vice president, co-lead portfolio manager, Fondul Proprietatea co-CEO, Franklin Templeton Investment Management, Romania Andrei Cionca , CEO and co-founder, Impetum Group Stefan Kraus , chief operating officer, member of the executive committee, Henley & Partners
10:00	Discussion

10:20

**RE-INDUSTRIALISING EUROPE: STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH
AMID GLOBAL TRADE UNCERTAINTIES**

- Policy framework for industrial development
- Romania's industrial sector: an evaluation

Ştefan-Radu Oprea, minister of economy, Romania

Alin Andries, secretary of state, Ministry of Finance, Romania

Nikos Papathanasiou, VP public policy & economic research, Philip Morris International

10:35

Discussion

10:50

Break

11:15

Setting the stage:

WHY EUROPE NEEDS INNOVATION TO STAY COMPETITIVE

- Where do Europe and especially SE Europe stand?
- Leveraging tech to close the productivity gap

David Born, director, Roland Berger Institute

TECHNOLOGY: WITNESSING A GREAT TRANSITION

- How are AI, innovation and digitalisation altering the business landscape?
- How does digitalisation affect regional and social inequalities?
- Investing in technology: Romania as a case study
- Tech disruption and geopolitical divisions

Bogdan-Gruia Ivan, minister of research, innovation and digitalisation, Romania

Achilleas Kanaris, CEO, Vodafone Romania

Iwona Sikora, senior vice-president and general manager, EMEA, Iron Mountain

Kostas Loukas, EMEA regional general manager, Government, Microsoft (acceptance in principle)

11:45

Discussion

12:05

HOW CAN ROMANIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATE GROWTH IN TIMES OF GROWING CONFLICT?

- Assessing the consequences of the war in Ukraine
- The significance of concession agreements and PPPs
- Europe's comparative advantages in the context of global antagonisms
- EU's eastern partners: How can the EU increase its presence in the region?

Sorin-Mihai Grindeanu, minister of transport and infrastructure, Romania

Andrei Tsekov, minister of regional development and public works, Bulgaria

Nikolaos Tachiaos, deputy minister of infrastructure and transport, Greece (via connection)

Vicky Loizou, secretary general of private investments and public private partnerships (GSPI & PPPs), Ministry of Development, Greece

The business perspective:

Alexandros Exarchou, chairman of the BoD & CEO, Aktor Group

12:30

Discussion

12:45

CAN ENERGY SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY GO HAND IN HAND?

- Green transition: challenges and complications
- Romania's contribution to Europe's energy security
- The role of hydrocarbons
- Which energy infrastructure projects are critical for the region?

Sebastian-Ioan Burduja, minister of energy, Romania

Matthew Baldwin, deputy director-general, DG Energy, European Commission (via connection)

Boyana Achovski, secretary general, Gas Infrastructure Europe

Alessio Menegazzo, CEO & country manager, PPC Romania

Representative, RomGaz (name to be advised)

Angelos Syrigos, associate professor, International Law & Foreign Policy, Panteion University, MP, Hellenic Parliament

13:15

Discussion

13:35

CLIMATE CHANGE: TIME FOR ACTION

Guest of Honour and Keynote Speaker:

Sir David King, chair, Climate Crisis Advisory Group, UK, fmr permanent special representative for climate change

SECURING A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- Environmental policy and regulation for the green economy and sustainable development
- ESG for business leadership: challenges and opportunities

* **Mircea Fechet**, minister of environment, waters and forests

Cătălina Marga, chief financial officer, RetuRO

13:50

Discussion

14:05	Official closing session INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SE EUROPE IN TIMES OF GEOPOLITICAL TURMOIL <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Finding the opportunities■ Strategy for business ventures■ Enhancing connectivity and logistics■ The Mare to Mare project and its regional impact <p>Pilar Solano, head of department, lending operations in central and south eastern Europe, EIB Victoria Zinchuk, director for Romania, EBRD Ramona Jurubiță, vice-president, FIC Romania Natalia Bejan, general director, Invest Moldova Agency George Kremliș, chair, Espoo convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, ambassador, European Public Law Organization, Bulgaria</p>
14:35	Discussion
14:50	Networking luncheon
16:00	End of conference

**Awaiting confirmation*

Date of draft: March 19th, 2024

This programme belongs to Economist Impact SE Europe Events and is still under development.

No part may be reproduced without the written authorisation of the organisers. Speakers mentioned herein have confirmed their participation, apart from those that appear with an asterisk.

