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Agenda

The Three Seas Initiative Business Forum

***** Under the High Patronage of the President of Romania *****

*****Co-organized by the Presidential Administration of Romania and the Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with the Atlantic Council of the United States and the National University for Political Science and Administration of Romania *****

17 September, 2018

14:30- 15:30 **Registration and welcome coffee**

16:00- 16:15 **Opening of the Business Forum**

Mr. Mihai Daraban, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania

H.E. Mr. Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania

16:15- 17:30 **Plenary session – “The 3SI in a challenging international context”**

The development of Central and South-East Europe’s regional energy, digital and transport infrastructure and connectivity is key to completing the vision of an integrated, cohesive and undivided European Union. By contributing to Euro-Atlantic prosperity and economic resilience, the 3SI will better enable Europe to address complex challenges emanating from its immediate region and beyond, as well as from an accelerating global geopolitical realignment economic volatility. These evolutions question the values we stand for and affect our overall security and prosperity. The 3SI comes as an effective tool to reinforce the EU, the transatlantic link and the ability of our community of democracies to effectively respond to the challenges and opportunities of this age.



Invited speakers:

H.E. Mr. Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania

H.E. Mrs. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of the Republic of Croatia

H.E. Mr. Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland

High level representatives of the European Commission and US institutions

Moderator: General James L. Jones, Interim Chairman of the Atlantic Council of the United States and former US Commander of US European Command (*confirmed*)

Signing of the Joint Statement on the creation of the Network of the Chambers of Commerce of the 3SI

17:30- 19:30 Cocktail

18 September, 2018

Note: The working language of the Forum is English.

08:30-9.30 Registration of participants

09:30-10:45 Thematic Sectorial Panels - Priority projects to be presented to participants

A key objective of the 3SI Summit in Bucharest is the development and high level political endorsement of a short list of priority regional interconnection projects in the Initiative's main fields of interest – transport, infrastructure, digitalization and



energy. These projects answer the needs and priorities of participating states, which generated and proposed them, and are most relevant to the region and its development, thereby substantially contributing to achieving the 3SI's main goal of facilitating higher interconnectivity in the region and between it and the rest of Europe.

The three sectorial panels on each of these infrastructure realms are dedicated to the presentation of the priority interconnection projects and will discuss how to mobilize political support and financing necessary for their implementation.

- In parallel -

Transport Interconnections in the 3SI region

The development of modern transport infrastructure is critical for economic growth and regional, European and international trade. It facilitates the efficient movement of goods and services and the access to global value chains. Effective transportation infrastructure will contribute to the levelling out of regional imbalances within the 3SI region and across Europe.

Developing Central and South-Est Europe's regional transportation infrastructure is a priority. Central and South-Est Europe's cross border transport projects are more than simple transport routes. They are genuine economic corridors that promise to generate countless commercial initiatives. They are investment opportunities that will benefit the entire European Union. They are synchronized with existing transport projects launched within the EU connectivity cooperation frameworks.

What progress has been made and what needs to be done to generate the political and financial support necessary to drive forward the 3SI priority transport projects?

Invited speakers:

- Mr. Lucian Şova, Minister of Transport, Romania (*confirmed*)



- Mr. Andrzej Adamaczyk, Minister of Infrastructure and Construction, Republic of Poland
- Ms. Maja Bakran Marcich, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission (*confirmed*)
- Mrs. Charlotte Ruhe, Managing Director, EBRD (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Roland Werner, Head of Government Affairs & Public Policy, CEE Region, Uber (*confirmed*)

Moderator: Sorin Bușe, former Minister of Transport, Romania

Energy Interconnections in the 3SI region

3SI objectives include integrating the oil, gas and electricity networks of the region's countries, deepening the linkages of those networks to those of a wider Europe, and ensuring the region's access to global energy markets. These are critical to the completion of the European Energy Union. They will prompt Europe-wide economic growth and strengthen Europe's energy security.

What must be done to further develop Central and South-East Europe's energy infrastructure? What projects stand among the most important regional energy connectors in Central and South-East Europe and what must be done to politically and programmatically drive forward these regional energy infrastructure projects in the 3SI region?

Invited speakers:

- Representative of the EU COM on Energy issues
- Mr. Ion Sterian, Director General, TRANSGAZ, Romania (*confirmed*)
- Ms. Barbara Dorić, Ph. D, Managing Director of LNG Croatia LLC (*confirmed*)



- Ms. Yelda Güven, Director for Eurasia, Exxon Mobile, Washington DC Office
- Mr. Răzvan Nicolescu, former Minister for Energy – Romania, senior consultant, Deloitte Romania (*confirmed*)

Moderator: Amb. Richard Morningstar, Founding Director and Chairman, Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council of the United States (*confirmed*)

Digital Interconnections in the 3SI region

Digital connectivity is an increasingly important – and very dynamic – driver of economic growth. Digital technologies enhance efficiency, reduce costs and enable more efficient engagement of customers and business partners.

Currently, 9 out of 12 countries in the 3SI area rank below the EU average on the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) that tracks the evolution of EU member states in digital competitiveness. Therefore, digitization is a must for European businesses and economies as a whole and the Three Seas region must improve its digital performance and close the gap between the most and the least digital countries.

How can telecom infrastructure contribute to the expansion of innovative businesses and to the development of the digital economy in the Central and South-East Europe and facilitate the region's integration into the wider European market? What are priority investments in the region based on the European Commission's Strategy for the Digital Single Market? How can 3SI participating states leapfrog and adopt a last-generation telecom and digital infrastructure? How can the urban-rural digital divide be reduced in the region? What measures must be taken to make the digital economy and society more inclusive? What political and programmatic steps need to be taken to implement the priority digitization/telecom infrastructure projects?

Invited speakers:

- Representative of the European Investment Bank – *TBD*



- Mr. Roberto Viola, Director General, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission (*confirmed*)
- Ms. Izabela Albrycht, Chair, The Kosciuszko Institute, The European Cybersecurity Forum – CYBERSEC Organising Committee, Republic of Poland (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Florin Talpeș, CEO, BitDefender, Romania
- Estonian Representative – *TBD*

Moderator: Amb. Sorin Ducaru, Chairman of the Scientific Council of the New Strategy Center, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute, former NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges

10:45- 11:00 Coffee break

11:00- 13:30 **B2B&B2G meetings Part 1 (focus on the three priority fields - energy, transport and digital)**

- *In parallel* -

11:00- 12:15 **Policy panels**

- *In parallel* -

“Strategic implications of the Three Seas Initiative in the fields of transport, energy and digitalisation”

Although the 3SI is an economic oriented initiative, its impact in the region and within EU as a whole is no doubt strategic.

Beyond civil and economic use, current and new transportation corridors must be robust enough to ensure enhanced military mobility as well.



In the field of energy, there is a need to create favorable conditions for a truly integrated energy market, a strong component of the EU Energy Union, free from negative external political influences.

In the digital field, the economic and infrastructural development of the new digital economy will ultimately lead to the strengthening of the defensive capabilities in the field of cybersecurity and smart defense.

How does transportation, energy, and digital infrastructure shape not only the economic growth, but also the resilience of the 3SI region and its standing within Europe and within the global economy? What are the strategic advantages and implications of these interconnections?

Invited speakers:

- Mr. Edward Lucas, Senior Vice President, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) (*confirmed*)
- Prof. Leszek Jesień, Ph. D, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Central Europe Energy Partners, AISBL, Belgium (*confirmed*)
- General Phil Breedlove, USAF (RET), Distinguished Professor, The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, Georgia Tech
- Mr. Iulian Fota, Romanian analyst and security expert, former Presidential Advisor for National Security (*confirmed*)

Moderator: Mr. Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President for Programs and Strategy, Atlantic Council of the United States (*confirmed*)

“The regional opportunities of cooperation in the defense industry”

The Three Seas defense industries face a world featuring geopolitical assertiveness and more complex threats of symmetrical and asymmetrical type, from state and



non-state actors. At the same time, these industries also constitute a significant defense capacity, including a mix of established and emergent defense industries. How can the 3SI defense industry most effectively serve the interests of the transatlantic community and prosper? Increasing defensive capabilities is not just about buying the latest technology, but also about having a profound understanding about how defensive systems work together and identifying gaps in the strategic approaches.

The panel will explore the current and emergent military requirements that should drive defense industrial activity in the region and discuss how to enhance the defense technology industrial base in the Three Seas region, how to foster greater cooperation with U.S. and other European defense industries, and how to eliminate obstacles to that cooperation. The panel will explore 3SI defense procurement and research & development opportunities relevant to multinational defense industrial collaboration, as well as the contribution of the latter to the overall development of the 3SI region.

Invited speakers:

- General Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, Chief of General Staff, Romanian Army
- Mr. Giedrimas Jeglinskas, Vice-Minister of Defense for Procurement, Republic of Lithuania (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Steve Mathias, Vice President for Global Military Business Development, Bell Helicopter (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Didier Philippe, Vice President MBDA (*confirmed*)

Moderator: Mr. Eric Stewart, AMRO (*confirmed*)

“The potential for cooperation with neighbouring countries of the 3SI region”
(Plenary Hall)



To complete the vision of a Europe whole and free, the 3SI must look regionally beyond the EU countries and address the infrastructural integration of Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. How can and should the 3SI address these regions so as to contribute to the implementation/substantiation of EU's relevant policies and complement ongoing initiatives focused on the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries? How can we maximize the 3SI's potential to enhance the attractiveness of the European and Euro-Atlantic perspectives for the countries in these regions?

Invited speakers:

- Mrs. Ana Birchall, Vice-Prime-Minister for Romania's Strategic Partnerships' Implementation – ***key-note speaker*** (*confirmed*)
- Ms. Zorana Mihajlovic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Republic of Serbia
- Prof. Dr. Kocho Angjushev, Vice-Prime-Minister for Economic Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia
- Mr. Chiril Gaburici, Minister of Economy and Infrastructure, Republic of Moldova
- Minister of Economy, Georgia
- Mr. Damian Gjijnuri, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Republic of Albania
- Ms. Dragica Seculic, Minister of Economy, Montenegro
- Mr. Mirko Šarovic, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina (***confirmed***)
- Mr. Ismir Jusko, Minister of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina



- Mr. Mihailo Titarciuk, Vice-Minister for Economic Development and Tourism, Ukraine (*confirmed*)

Moderator: Mr. David Koranyi, Senior Fellow, Energy Diplomacy, Atlantic Council of the United States (*confirmed*)

12:15-13:30 **Policy panels**

- *In parallel* -

“The 3SI as catalyst towards the cohesion and convergence of the EU as a whole.”

Stronger economic growth in Central and South-East Europe, which is the main goal of the 3SI, would help bridge the development gap within the EU, leading to greater economic convergence. It would help relieve some of the social and political tensions caused by existing economic disparities, thereby strengthening the Union’s cohesion and resilience. How can the 3SI complement and reinforce the EU’s development of a single European economy? How can the fact that the 3SI region includes the fastest growing economies in the EU be used to this purpose? How can the priority projects of the 3SI be more effectively promoted within the European Union?

Invited speakers:

- Mrs. Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Development (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Lazăr Comănescu, former Minister of Foreign Affairs – Romania, member of the Scientific Council, New Strategy Center (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Arvils Aseradens, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economy, Republic of Latvia



- Ms. Beata Daszynska-Muzyczka, President of the Management Board, Polish Development Bank

Moderator: Mr. Dan Cărbunaru, Director, CaleaEuropeană.ro (*confirmed*)

“Shared values. Democratization and Rule of Law as fundamental conditions for sustainable economic growth”

Democratic principles and the rule of law are foundation blocks of the western community of nations. They are critical to the development of resilient and efficient economies. The business environment needs predictable, stable countries, committed towards maintaining and strengthening the rule of law and justice systems. How does the current state of the rule of law and democracy in Central and South-East Europe influence the region’s sustainable economic future?

Invited speakers:

- Mr. Michael Ignatieff, President and Rector, Central European University
- Ms. Andreana Baeva Motusic, President, European Business Association Zagreb, Member of the Governing Board of IDEMO Institute for Democracy, Republic of Croatia (*confirmed*)
- The Honorable Paula Dobriansky, Atlantic Council Board of Directors, Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, former Under Secretary for Global Affairs, US (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Andrei Țârnea, Romanian foreign policy analyst and expert, Member of Aspen Institute Romania

Moderator: Mr. Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President for Programs and Strategy, Atlantic Council of the United States (*confirmed*)



“The contribution of the 3SI to strengthening the transatlantic link”

A Europe that is economically robust, socially cohesive and politically united will reinforce the power of the Transatlantic Community. One of the core objectives of the Three Seas Initiative is to become the Central and South-East Europe’s contribution to strengthening the transatlantic link. An increased US economic presence in Central and South-East Europe would provide a catalyst for strengthened cooperation in the region and would bring added value to the EU-US strategic partnership. How can the 3SI best contribute to transatlantic economic growth, security, solidarity and unity?

Invited speakers:

- The Honorable Ellen Tauscher, Vice Chair, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security and Director, Atlantic Council of the United States (*confirmed*)
- Amb. Ratoslav Kacer, Chairman of the Board, GlobSec, Slovakia (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Michal Baranowski, Director, Warsaw Office, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Vygaudas Usackas, Director of the Institute of Europe KTU, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador to US, former EU Ambassador to Moscow (*confirmed*)

Moderator: Dr. Valentin Naumescu, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of European Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca (*confirmed*)

13:30 -14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00 **Plenary session - High potential drivers of growth and innovation in the 3SI region**

How can the governments of the Three Seas region generate an environment that attracts technological innovation? What regional policies and infrastructure are



needed to activate the region's potential to serve as a driver of entrepreneurship and as an incubator and accelerator of 21st century business and startups? How can the region become an innovation leader in priority fields such as artificial intelligence, block chain, cybersecurity, e-health and digital governance? How can 3SI participating states gain a stronger voice in the EU by supporting digitization and innovation in the region? How can 3SI participating states develop and consolidate a network of Digital Innovation Hubs?

Invited speakers:

- Mr. Ștefan-Radu Oprea, Minister for Business Environment, Trade and Entrepreneurship, Romania
- Mr. Vladimír Dlouhý, President of the Czech Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Marek Kłoczko, Vice-President of the Polish Chamber of Commerce (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Marius Tirca, co-founder UiPath (the first and most successful Romanian Unicorn start-up)

Moderator: Mr. Dan Nechita, co-founder SmartEverythingEverywhere (*confirmed*), and Mr. Matthew Karnitschnig, Chief Europe correspondent, POLITICO

16.00 - 16.15 Coffee break

16.15-17.30 **B2B&B2G meetings (focus on SMEs, young entrepreneurship, new technologies, business incubators)**

- *In parallel* -

Policy panels

“The future of the 3SI and the potential for cooperation with other stakeholders outside the geographic scope of the 3SI”



As an initiative driven by economic need and opportunity, the 3SI is a mean to foster economic collaboration and connectivity with regions beyond Central and South-East Europe. What are the potentials of international collaboration in the 3SI infrastructure projects? What factors will international energy, telecom and transport, as well as investment firms use to assess the profitability and risks of 3SI projects? How can the 3SI more effectively attract investment from beyond its participating countries?

Invited speakers:

- Mr. Teodor Meleşcanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania – **key-note speaker** (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Ray Washburne, President & CEO, Overseas Private Investment Bank (OPIC-USA)
- Mr. Iulian Chifu, President, Centre for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning, former Presidential Advisor (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Igor Munteanu, Director, IDIS “Viitorul”, Republic of Moldova (*confirmed*)

Moderator: Mr. Frederick Kempe, President and Chief Executive Officer, Atlantic Council of the Unites States (*confirmed*)

“Making the difference. 3SI and B9: synergic complementarity”

The Bucharest 9 is a vehicle used to advance, through coordinated action, Central and South-East Europe’s security and defense interests and the role of the states of the region within NATO, especially as far as the Eastern Flank of the Alliance is concerned, and within the security dimension of the European Union. The 3SI is a catalyst for the region’s economic development, through higher interconnectivity. How can the two initiatives complement and reinforce each other, on their specific respective tracks, in order to reach their common goal of enhancing Central and



South-East Europe's security and prosperity, thereby strengthening both the EU and NATO?

Invited speakers:

- Amb. Ștefan Tinca, Director General for Political Affairs, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Slawomir Debski, Director, Polish Institute of International Affairs (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Dan Fried, Distinguished Fellow, Future Europe Initiative and Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council of the United States (*confirmed*)
- Dr. Raimundas Lopata, Professor at the Institute for International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University (*confirmed*)

Moderator: Ms. Alina Inayeh, Director, Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, German Marshall Fund Romania

“Increasing the role of civil society in the 3SI region and beyond”

Civil society organizations play an increasingly important role in fostering regional dialogue and cooperation. Their activities facilitate collaboration at the bilateral level and across regions, and even across Europe. Civil society has an enormous potential to add to the momentum, impact and scope of the Three Seas Initiative.

This session will highlight the synergies of 3SI with current international and regional efforts to promote sustainable development; explore how civil society can identify and leverage cross border complementarities to foster support for and increase the effectiveness of 3SI projects and discuss how civil society can help extend the integrative reach of 3SI beyond its current geographic scope. The topics addressed will be framed also from the perspective of the upcoming Romanian Presidency of the European Union Council (1st Semester 2019).



Invited speakers:

- Mr. Gordan Bosanac, President of the Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity (CROSOL - Croatia) (*confirmed*)
- Ms. Natalia Budescu, Executive Director, Association for Cross-border Cooperation in the Lower Danube Euro-region (*confirmed*)
- Mr. Sergiy Gerasymchuk, Deputy Head of Board, Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism" (*confirmed*)
- Professor Dr. Remus Pricopie, Rector, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)

Moderator: Mr. Ștefan Cibian, President of the Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND

17.30- 18.00 **Conclusions**

- Mrs. Ana Birchall, Vice-Prime-Minister for Romania's Strategic Partnerships' Implementation (*confirmed*)
- General James L. Jones, Interim Chairman of the Atlantic Council of the United States and former US Commander of US European Command (*confirmed*)

Moderator: Mr. Ian Brzezinski, Senior Fellow, Transatlantic Security Initiative, Atlantic Council of the United States (*confirmed*)