



GLOBAL OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DECADE

CONFERENCE REPORT
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ABOUT THE FORUM

Bled Strategic Forum has emerged as an important annual gathering of prominent thinkers from the spheres of politics, industry, and academia from the region and beyond. It has taken place every year since 2006 in the Slovenian resort town of Bled, which is famous around the world for its beautiful alpine lake.



GLOBAL OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT DECADE Main Panel



The world has entered a new decade, which is labelled by many as the Age of Transformation. The international system - as constructed after the Second World War - will likely be almost unrecognisable by 2020 owing to the rise of emerging powers, an increasingly globalised economy and the influence of non-state actors. Unprecedented global economic growth will continue to put pressure on a number of highly strategic resources, including energy, food and water, and demand is projected to outstrip readily available supplies over the next decade or so.

Under the title “**Global Outlook for the Next Decade**”, the Forum tackled some of the main challenges of the decade: the energy transition, the water challenge, re-vitalisation of the economy, and the transformative power of the Internet. The participants also exchanged views on the EU’s role in a multipolar world and on ways to reconnect the Western Balkans and aspired to find answers whether the international system will be up to the challenges and how policymaking can be made more sensitive to global long-term perspectives? Moreover, they discussed the growing energy demands and challenges associated with ensuring stable water supply. The Bled Strategic Forum began with the Main Panel chaired by **Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia**. Taking part in the debate entitled “Global Outlook for the Next Decade” were

Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium; Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of the Arab States; Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India; and Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

At the beginning of the panel, **Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**, delivered a message from **Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations**:

“The Bled Strategic Forum is an excellent opportunity to discuss some of the most pressing issues of our age. Every year, the organizers highlight fascinating and challenging subjects for discussion.

In the past two years, you have debated the impact of climate change on energy security, and the politics of the economic crisis. This year’s topic, ‘The Global Outlook for the Next Decade’, promises to be just as timely and ambitious.

This topic will undoubtedly allow for a dialogue around critical questions such as the state of current economic and financial systems, the challenges to global governance and the changing nature of geopolitical arrangements. It will also cover the availability of resources, including energy, food and water, against a backdrop of population growth and economic development.



These are critical subjects for the United Nations, and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. With only five years remaining until the deadline of 2015, I am convening a summit in New York next month, to mobilize global resources and accelerate progress. I am confident that your discussions will have a positive impact on our efforts, and I look forward to hearing some of your conclusions there.

I wish you fruitful talks and best wishes for your important dialogue.”

On facing the future, **Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium**, said that the most important progress has been achieving full awareness of interdependence (of economies, people, etc.) and the awareness of the need to address global issues together. In his opinion, this interdependence was clearly manifested during the recent global financial crisis. When addressing global issues, optimism should prevail and solutions should not be sought only within nation states. He believes progress has been made in the resolution of global issues, for example in combating poverty. In his opinion, key challenges that can only be addressed globally are the strengthening of world peace, the growing problem of global warming, and the future of global food and water supply. Presently, the question of the imbalance of power in the international community - in international organisations, international financial architecture and

in global governance as a whole – should be addressed, since a shift of balance towards the developing countries is necessary.

He believes Europe plays an important role in an international community faced with new global players. Despite the pressure of globalisation, the EU has preserved its traditional social welfare system, which should be kept since it is morally superior and sets an example for the rest of the world. The EU should enhance its contribution to solving global issues and devote more political energy to the implementation of the European foreign policy and the Lisbon Treaty in order to become a more important global power, Leterme concluded.

Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of the Arab States, emphasised “uncertainty” as the key word of the next decade, referring to economic, security and other areas where uncertainty is prevailing. He highlighted that the economic and financial crisis has afflicted the world very seriously, the effects of which are still being felt. The way it is dealt with reflects the interests of the industrialized part of the world. The developing nations however are not the cause of the problem but also not taking part in the solution. The marginalisation of this huge part of international community therefore calls for new approaches to deal with such problems. According to Moussa, the clash of civilisations is tak-



ing place as a result of a particularly serious, erroneous excitement at both poles, resulting in conflicts and violence. If this crisis of relations between civilisations persists, it will affect all aspects of life and will result in terrorism and violence on a daily basis. He stressed that the issue of non-proliferation should also be properly addressed without double standards.

He furthermore wondered how to preserve and consolidate the international global order? The G-20 is a good organisation, but is not broadly representative. According to Moussa, the UN Security Council should have jurisdiction to address issues of global food and water supply as well as other sources of instability without its members having veto powers. Moussa concluded by saying that the key task of the coming decade will be ensuring that everyone's interests are considered and providing for efficiency in addressing future challenges.

Preet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India, believes the global outlook for the next decade can be summarized in a word as “challenging”. The most immediate challenges in her opinion are sustainable development, energy security, the water challenge and international terrorism, since these affect global development, prosperity and security. Today, the world is connected and interdependence leaves us no choice but to find common solutions for the benefit of mankind. Our natural resources are finite and are being

depleted rapidly. It is imperative that they be utilised judiciously and that the world's dependence on these resources is reduced.

She went on to say that energy is needed for development, which is why it has become imperative for both developed and developing countries to seriously pursue renewable sources of energy. At the same time, efforts should be made to enhance the efficiency of existing energy systems. In India, the National Action Plan on Climate Change was adopted based on a multi-pronged approach. India plans to pool its scientific, technical and managerial talents with sufficient financial resources to develop solar energy as the principal source of energy to power its economy. It has launched an ambitious Solar Mission in January this year and the aim is to deploy 20,000 MW of solar power by 2022.

She believes that water challenge is critically important and India's focus is to increase the efficiency of water use, exploring efficient operations to augment water supply and ensure a more efficient management of water resources. Sewage treatment plants are now mandatory for all industrial and commercial buildings and residential apartments. These measures have helped to bridge the gap between availability and requirement. She stressed that climate change is another major global challenge, stressing that India is prepared



to play its role as a responsible member of the international community and make a contribution to mitigate its impact, which is why it has engaged actively in multilateral negotiations in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. India recently announced it would reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 20–25 per cent by 2020 and committed itself to ensuring that its per capita emissions will never exceed those of the developed countries.

Kaur concluded by stressing that terrorism poses a serious danger to all civilised societies. Terrorists have no religion or faith. They do not belong to any community. No community or religion can or should be blamed for irresponsible and violent acts of a few individuals. In this regard, she believes there is an urgent need to seek the expeditious conclusion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, which has been pending in the UN since 1996.

Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, said that food supply and the eradication of poverty are of crucial importance for his country. Under President Lula da Silva, Brazil is adopting important policies in these areas. According to Patriota, some of the key reasons for today's instability include terrorism, fundamentalism (i.e. Islamic fundamentalism, islamophobia, xenophobia, other types of fundamentalism)

and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is however important not to follow double standards in addressing them. Patriota highlighted that Europe's political voice in the international community is weaker than Brazil would like it to be given that Europe and its welfare system are viewed in Brazil as capitalism with a human face.

Patriota pointed out that the policies of the G-20 will not prove successful if the group isolates itself from the rest of the world, especially the United Nations. He agreed that the main challenge faced by the world today is global governance. Other major challenges that lie ahead are the eradication of poverty, reduction of CO2 emissions and ensuring global peace and security. As an emerging country, Brazil is already contributing its share to the latter by cooperating in peace-keeping operations around the world. Patriota underlined that the international system should be infused with more democracy. Participation in groups with limited membership is not positive, because it creates asymmetry in the international community. He set the Copenhagen Conference as a positive example of participation in the international community.



EU IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

Special Panel

We are at an important time in the EU's history. With the Lisbon Treaty in force, the EU has an opportunity to change the way it leads its foreign policy internally and the way it is perceived by other players in the broader international community. We live in a world of growing complexity with many trans-border threats and challenges, including fragile states, terrorism, organised crime, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats, and many wider issues affecting the security of EU citizens (energy, climate change, the competition for natural resources, and illegal migration). Many of these threats are interlinked and require a collective response.

Although much criticised, the concept of "sovereignty" is still central in the understanding of international relations. The traditional concept of state sovereignty has been challenged and revisited since the very beginning of the integration process in Europe, more than 50 years ago. It can be argued that, with the success of European countries in transforming the concept of sovereignty, the EU became a significant global player. The EU's position in the global arena is evident. Representing a quarter of the world's GNP, around a fifth of all international trade, and being the world's biggest donor of development aid, the EU cannot opt out of the international arena. But although the EU has a global reach, it is difficult to delineate the reach of the

EU and the reach of its individual Member States. We must be aware that in this context, the EU will always lag behind bigger national powers with clearly defined national interests.

The process of establishing the European External Action Service (EEAS) is a test of the EU's foreign policy. This is not only a supporting service for the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, but also the EU's window to a world extending beyond its borders. It is important to note that this is not only a window for the EU to see the world, but also an opportunity and a tool for the EU to present itself to the world. The panel was moderated by **Helga Maria Schmid, Director of the Policy Unit of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union**, who noted that effective multilateralism is the traditional concept of EU operations. The key strategic issue for the EU is therefore to effectively operate as one of the powers in a multipolar world and participate in reforming the existing system.

Felipe González Márquez, Former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain and Chair of the Reflection Group, underscored that the financial crisis had a strong impact on the EU primarily because its financial structures were not adapted to globalisation and new technologies. The EU must respond to the crisis and think long term; it must overcome internal



Helga Maria Schmid



Felipe González Márquez

structural problems like demographics and migration, human capital, energy issues and have a clear picture of its role in the world. Although the EU succeeds in adopting a common stance on a certain issue, this does not mean that it has a strategy of how to achieve its goals and promote its interests, which was clearly demonstrated in Copenhagen during climate change talks. He concluded that the Treaty of Lisbon introduces new instruments for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) but fails to include strategies. These are in the domain of the Council, since the office of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is not tasked with the actual implementation of the CFSP but merely its co-ordination.

Dr János Martonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, voiced the opinion that global governance is not possible in the current international system characterised by rapid change, ever increasing unpredictability and insecurity. Bridging the gap between change and response is crucial in this regard and for this purpose semi-formal groups such as the G20 are being established. The EU could become a test lab for building global governance, but should first consolidate internally. The relationship with Russia is a test for the EU's future foreign policy decisions.

Peter Gordon MacKay, Minister of National Defence of Canada, believes NATO is the main forum



of transatlantic cooperation. Mackay emphasised that EU-NATO relations must be managed carefully and the cooperation should go beyond security issues. He highlighted that Canada sees Brazil, China and Russia as central emerging powers, but also finds it essential that the EU is surrounded by strong partners, of which Canada wants to be one.

The EU is not a hard power due to its fragmented defence industry and defence market, said **Nickolay Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria**. He believes the EU is very ineffective in the development of defence technologies and must face reality that the world does not and will not share the same beliefs. The EU's three key advantages in his opinion are freedoms, the ability to bridge differences, and the use of soft power of persuasion and diplomacy. In order to become a global leader, the EU should address the issue of internal

cohesion: tackle new challenges of energy security and common energy policy and continue the enlargement process and remind the Western Balkan countries of their reform pledges. Mladenov concluded that the transatlantic partnership is not only a relationship among partners, but also among allies, which is why strategic partnerships should be established to face contemporary challenges.

Ambassador Mei Zhaorong, Executive Director of China Foundation for International Studies, China, stressed that China expects the EU will turn challenges into opportunities. The EU should implement the necessary reforms and continue its integration process, bearing in mind that big and important developments cannot occur overnight. Mei believes the EU is a major player in global trade and economy, whereas China wishes to be regarded as an equal partner with common interests in ensuring world peace and development. He concluded that a fast-growing China is a great opportunity for the EU and its economy.

Jean-Dominique Giuliani, Company Manager – Chairman of the Board of the Foundation Robert Schuman, France, emphasised that the EU must fulfil certain conditions if it wants to become a key player in the international arena. This is because a multipolar world does not automatically imply a multilateral system, but rather a very competitive system in which many countries compete for influence. He stressed that

the EU must become more of a global player, which is why it needs a strong common policy. It also needs to go beyond the common perception that it can become a global player without military power. In order to become a global player, the EU needs all the instruments required in a multipolar world, which is why it is still a “superpower in the making”. The EU has become accustomed to living under NATO's security umbrella and that is why the concept of EU common defence policy has never truly evolved. The time has come to change this, he concluded.





TRUST (IN) THE BALKANS

Panel A

The conference of Western Balkans leaders “Together for the European Union: the Contribution of the Western Balkans to the European Future”, which took place on 20 March at Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, marked a fresh start in cooperation and the opening of a new chapter in the history of relations in the region. This commitment has been expressed in a declaration adopted unanimously, which states that all participating countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Slovenia) will “provide each other with mutual support and an exchange of experience gained during the integration processes” and that they will “promote good neighbourly relations, through our continuous work on projects of common interest and invest best efforts in addressing open bilateral issues in a European spirit”.

Dealing with current and future challenges effectively requires dialogue and cooperation on an equal footing and, above all, mutual respect and trust. Mutual respect and trust enabled a breakthrough in relations between Slovenia and Croatia and the settling of the border dispute. Unresolved issues are an obstacle to the development of good neighbourly relations and effective regional cooperation. The practice of not discussing issues vital to the every day lives of the people in the region persists. After years of bloodshed, it is time for the region to start resolving open issues and build-

ing relations based on dialogue. This is the only way to focus the necessary activities on the future and develop the region’s credibility vis-à-vis the Euro-Atlantic community in calling for further enlargement of the EU and NATO.

The panel was moderated by **Zoran Thaler, Member of the European Parliament**, who described the Balkans as a region that underwent major change in a short period of time and raised the question of how to avoid the threat posed by “frozen conflicts”. He stated that the arbitration accord between the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia sets a good example for solving open issues in the region and emphasised that maintaining the EU perspective is essential for the stability, security and prosperity of the Balkan countries, which is why the EU should step up its endeavours in this regard.

Gordan Jandroković, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia, recalled the previous Bled Strategic Forums and underlined the progress made in this time in relations between the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia. He highlighted that the arbitration accord between the countries is an important signal for the region on the resolution of problems among neighbours. Major problems in the Balkans should, in his opinion, be referred to the ICJ for resolution. He is moreover convinced that



the EU has a crucial role in promoting stability and that the EU perspective must be within reach for the Balkan countries.

Sven Alkalaj, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasised the importance of dialogue between countries and expressed his opinion that all open bilateral issues must be resolved prior to EU accession. The arbitration accord between Slovenia and Croatia sets a good example for resolving open issues. Bosnia and Herzegovina has open issues with Croatia and Serbia, but no outstanding issues with Montenegro. He believes that a Euro-Atlantic perspective is essential for preserving stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moreover, NATO membership is at this point even more important for Bosnia and Herzegovina due to its security aspect, but BiH also needs encouragement from the EU or it could experience destabilisation. He dwelled on the necessary constitutional reform, saying the present “Dayton Constitution” is weak. He thanked Slovenia and MEP Tanja Fajon personally for her assistance and support during the visa liberalisation negotiations, stressing that visa liberalisation presents an adequate encouragement for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Dr Besim Beqaj, Minister for European Integration of the Republic of Kosovo, underlined that a credible and realistic EU perspective is of crucial importance



Sven Alkalaj



Besim Beqaj

for stability of the Balkans given the extensive pressure exerted by the public in Kosovo. Similarly to other Balkan countries, Kosovo realises that the path to the EU is a lengthy process that requires adequate support from the EU. Beqaj stressed that Kosovo can contribute considerably to the EU with its young people. He expressed a hope that the preconditions for the start of the visa liberalisation dialogue had been met and that Brussels had been acquainted of this. In his concluding remarks, he stressed the importance of regional cooperation as an effective means of ensuring continued dialogue between the countries in the region. He said that despite Kosovo's enormous trade deficit with Serbia and Serbia's blockades at all levels, Kosovo has neither adopted protectionist measures nor blocked Serbian products.

Daniel Serwer, Vice-President of Centers of Innovation, United States Institute of Peace, United States of America, believes that the accession of Balkan countries to the EU does not involve exclusively technical issues but also other factors, including Serbia's influence in the region. He sees two Serbian ambitions: firstly, the EU ambition and secondly, the territorial ambition in Kosovo and perhaps also in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In his opinion, Serbia should be made to admit the acts it committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo. While this would most likely result in the rise of nation-



Daniel Serwer

alist movements in the country, it is a risk that Serbia should accept. In case Serbia does not do so, further EU and US support should be reconsidered. He thinks that the "Dayton Constitution" is in fact a trap, limiting Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is why he called for constitutional reform.



THE WATER CHALLENGE

Panel B

Almost half of the world's population is expected to live in areas of high water stress by 2030 due to climate change, population growth, environmental degradation and growing demand for food and energy. With longer droughts, more frequent extreme weather events and changes in precipitation patterns, global warming affects particularly the water cycle. Climate change will impact on the most vulnerable communities in developing countries, multiplying the effects of poverty, poor governance and political instability.

Water security is essential for reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, water governance is more than just assuring adequate quantity, quality and reliability of water supply for all sectors. It is about sustainable management of water resources, which requires a multi-faceted approach. Water governance combines technical knowledge with social values and political accountability. Water is therefore making its way to the top of the global agenda. With increasing demand for water and growing depletion and degradation of water supplies, water security is becoming as important as energy security. Water scarcity can exacerbate existing political rivalries or promote cooperation for management of cross-boundary water resources. While global action to address water issues is important, regional cooperation and local solutions are essential for bringing about results.

Moderator **R. Andreas Kraemer, Director of the Ecologic Institute, Germany**, presented water as the cross-cutting theme of global challenges of today and linked the issues of human health and safe food supply with ensuring development and the elimination of poverty, environmental protection as well as international peace and security. He highlighted that climate change and altered precipitation patterns cause a reduction in water resources, more frequent droughts, on the one hand, and an overabundance of water with storms and floods on the other. In both cases, humanitarian crises and migration follow, possibly wrecking political stability and causing conflicts. He stressed that dealing with water challenges requires an approach linking different levels of decision-making. Global dialogue on water requires local experience and regional solutions, while science can provide technical solutions accompanied by political dialogue.

Dr Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment, noted that the 20th century was marked by a nine-fold increase in the use of water and an 18-fold increase in the use of fossil fuels. He outlined the EU's efforts to achieve comprehensive water management providing for high water quality, efficient use of natural resources, and adaptation to climate change. The Union is active in several fields,



among them the field of development, in which the goal is to reduce the number of people without access to drinking water and sanitation in the world by half by 2015. The EU Water Initiative is aimed at Sub-Saharan Africa, the Mediterranean, Latin America and the Caribbean, with its main objective being political dialogue aimed at building of appropriate capacities and infrastructure.

He explained that the EU Water Framework Directive builds on management of river basins, which is closely related to regional cooperation and deals with sustainable development of agriculture, transport, flood protection and water resource management. Potočnik also explained that the European Commission adopted a White Paper on adapting to climate change which includes recommendations for water management.

Jorge Borges, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and Communities of Cape Verde, said that water represented a perennial problem and limitation for Cape Verde, thus reducing the quality of life of Cape Verdeans. He explained that fresh water is mainly obtained through desalination, which increases the use of fuels and consequently the impact on the environment and climate. Furthermore, high population growth in Cape Verde creates a growing need for food and water, making water capture, recycling of waste water and desalination using renewable energy



sources the country's main challenges. Borges explained that 25 per cent of the demand for energy in Cape Verde is satisfied by wind and solar energy. Nevertheless, he is afraid that climate change will primarily affect developing countries which are already faced with a lack of water.

Dr Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America, emphasised that water is a critical global challenge. By 2025, one third of the world's population will live in areas lacking water. Additional funds for improved water management are therefore needed to improve this outlook. Water is a major security concern, causing conflicts for control over water resources and possibly endangering the existence of states. Adequate water management has positive impact on the quality of life, security, economy, development and health.



Francisco Nunes Correia

Jones stressed that tackling the challenges posed by water requires the use of various sectoral policies and the establishment of partnerships involving the private sector, in addition to technological and scientific solutions. She concluded that water issue is already dealt with in the framework of development cooperation and the Millennium Development Goals, but stressed that water diplomacy must also be strengthened.

Prof Dr Francisco Nunes Correia, Former Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Portuguese Republic and Full Professor at IST - DECivil, Portugal, underlined the key aspects of the water issue, namely that there can be too little or too much water and that salt water is superabundant, whereas fresh water is scarce. Water may provoke conflicts or encourage cooperation, but is in his opinion rarely the main cause of conflict. Nunes Correia believes that water should be considered a common good or the property of all and the right to water entitles everyone to affordable and sufficient water to meet reasonable needs. Water should be conserved and in most cases, the causes of water shortages are not natural conditions or technical capabilities, but social issues and poor management.

Prof Dr Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, Professor at the Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, expects that the current problems stemming from global warming will get worse. The water issue is in



Lučka Kajfež Bogataj

her opinion an increasingly burning issue due to the growing demand for water, particularly in developing countries, where people not only do not have access to drinking water but also cannot afford to buy it. Demand for water has increased by 40 per cent in the last 20 years. Kajfež Bogataj highlighted virtual water as an issue addressed insufficiently. The term refers to water that is needed to grow crops and to provide industrial products that are imported from developing countries, which causes an additional burden on these countries' water resources. Water needs energy and energy production is dependent on water since enormous amounts of water are needed for fuel production. She emphasised the importance of science and development in addressing the water issue and stressed that politics, especially water diplomacy, should also play a part in this process. Kajfež Bogataj concluded that



John H. Matthews

new global rules need to be put in place, since water is a commodity that has a certain price.

Dr John H. Matthews, Lead Freshwater Adaptation Scientist at World Wildlife Fund, United States of America, spoke about the link between the water issue and adaptation to climate change. Providing a number of specific examples of poorly planned infrastructure projects, Matthews illustrated the effects of climate change on the hydrological conditions of water courses, which must be taken into account in the planning of river use, for example when constructing hydroelectric power plants. He highlighted cases where dykes and power plants have been made too large or had otherwise been planned poorly.





THE INTERNET DOES CHANGE EVERYTHING! Panel C

In only two decades, the World Wide Web has become the most powerful information tool since Gutenberg's printing press, but also the most intrusive one. The web has revolutionised our lives. It has brought about an enormous transformation in what information we have at our fingertips. It is extremely empowering: everyone has the freedom to participate in the library of knowledge collected online, to access or create it. Anyone who has historically held control over distribution of information - governments, media, agents - has to reposition in the face of this information "tsunami".

The web is undoubtedly a transformative technology on a par with the printing press, but it is difficult to believe that it will put an end to inequality or eradicate international conflict. As an overwhelmingly commercial space, the Internet is also transforming the meaning of privacy in the 21st century. The web may be fundamentally changing our way of thinking. Our relationship with the web is a synergy: as it matures, so will we. As it draws us into its networks and hyperlinks, we shape them in our global image. It is the most revolutionary evolution that our planet has ever seen.

In her introduction, moderator **Katarina Škoberne, Communicator and Innovator, United Kingdom**, compared the Internet with the invention of the automobile – it has changed how we perceive the world, what used to be distant places are now easily accessible.



Katarina Škoberne



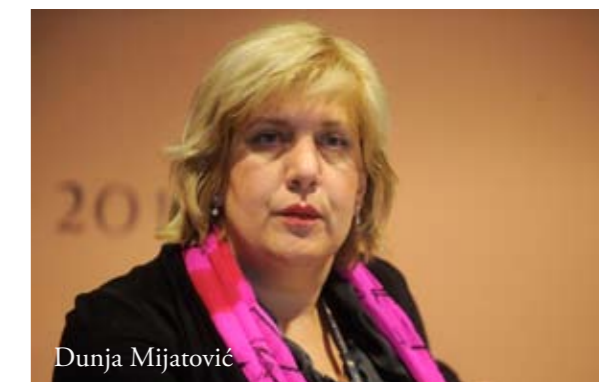
Zoran Vehovar

Zoran Vehovar, Member of the Management Board of Telekom Slovenije, d. d., Slovenia, outlined problems associated with infrastructure for Internet access and the need to invest in technological and development innovation. He believes that the Internet is a luxury. Despite considerable efforts, Internet access has proven difficult to provide across the whole country due to high cost

of construction in areas with low population density. He stated that Internet offers access to information and opens up new possibilities, while at the same time shifting influence in society. The use of the Internet enables cooperation in different fields with a mere click of a mouse button. However, it also raises questions about privacy, copyright and intellectual property.

Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, highlighted the problem of governments trying to restrict the freedom of the media because they feel threatened by the accessibility of information provided by the Internet. Some governments are therefore trying to block or limit Internet access and establish censorship. In some parts, bloggers and other Internet users face prosecution for expressing their opinion on the Internet that does not conform to state policy. Some countries use efforts to fight terrorism and other crime as a pretense for controlling and limiting Internet access.

Prof Dr Žiga Turk, Secretary-General of the Reflection Group, sees the communication revolution as a driving force of social equality. He assessed that various communication technologies have brought about breakthroughs, much like the invention of paper did long ago. Paper was used in several cultures, but its potential was fully realised in Europe with the production of low-cost paper, which enabled many to rise above their social class. Turk concluded that Europe is therefore a



Dunja Mijatović



Žiga Turk

place that can ascribe its success to fast adaptation to new forms of communication, including those brought about by the Internet revolution.

Dr József Györkös, State Secretary at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia, said that Internet use in Slovenia had its roots in various subcultures. He believes that the future innovative information society presents a need for new governance and the introduction of new topics in political decision-making. Moreover, a new digital agenda could be established at the European level – the single market, interoperability, and Internet growth could together provide conditions for faster connections, encourage investments into resources and promote faster change.

At the outset, **David Kennedy, Director of Eurescom, Germany**, stated that the Internet has changed everything and will continue to do so. In some countries, Internet access is a right; however, some countries limit access to free content due to copyright limitations. Kennedy believes the solution lies in regulating rather than blocking access. He outlined the possibility of a new sustainable model for access to information that balances the infrastructure and service providers as well as companies and underlined the subtle difference between the concepts of Internet neutrality and of web management.



József Györkös

In his address **Andrej Nabergoj, Co-founder of Internet Companies: Aventures, Parsek, Httpool, Easyweb and Noovo, Slovenia**, spoke about the most important global websites. In his words, Google provides access to knowledge, whereas Twitter and Facebook are databases of expression where millions of people share their views. They are tools with which it is possible to shape public opinion and influence elections. He explained that US President Obama also led his campaign on Facebook, helping him to raise a large share of his campaign funds from small individual donations made online. He concluded that new applications influence the global economy, while Internet evolution constitutes a highway to the future.



David Kennedy



Andrej Nabergoj



REGIONAL SECURITY
CHALLENGES
AND COOPERATION
IN CENTRAL ASIA
Panel D

Since the five Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan gained their independence in 1991, they have all faced the challenge of building their own political structures. The agenda of reforms needed to establish democratic institutions and market economies has clearly varied in each of the five Central Asian states, reflecting the differences in both national policies and in the distribution of natural and human resources across the region. Differences in national agendas are reflected in the foreign policies of the five states. The landlocked geographic position also makes them heavily dependant on their larger, immediate neighbours - Russia, China - whilst the situation in Afghanistan continues to have an indirect impact on their security and stability. At the same time, however, they are also seeking to develop a broader circle of cooperation, including with the US, EU, NATO and the OSCE.

Security concerns faced by the five states include a fusion of social disorder, crime, corruption, terrorism, ethnic and civil conflict, border tensions, water and transport disputes, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and trafficking of illegal narcotics and persons. Also, several challenges such as developing regional trading corridors, creating energy networks and systems, and managing rivers and river basins can only be tackled effectively through cooperation at the regional

level. The Central Asian states have tried, with varying success, to bolster their security forces and regional cooperation to deal with these threats and challenges. Kyrgyzstan's instability is having a wider regional impact. It borders on China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Tensions in the area have been high since Kyrgyzstan's President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was ousted in an uprising on 7 April 2010. Fighting between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in southern Kyrgyzstan has left some 400,000 people displaced, according to the UN. For the first time in its modern history, Uzbekistan opened its borders to refugees, as thousands of ethnic Uzbeks sought shelter there. The panel discussion was moderated by **Mjuša Sever, Director of Regional Dialogue.**

In his introduction **Konstantin Zhigalov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, highlighted the region's geopolitical significance and assessed that its political relevance has been drastically reduced in the past decades. He drew a connection between the BRIC countries and the region, since it borders on all the BRIC countries except Brazil. He introduced the idea of a "larger/wider Central Asia", in which he included Afghanistan, emphasising that Afghanistan is an OSCE partner country and borders on three OSCE participating states. He believes this brings the border issue to the foreground and makes



the developments on Afghan borders and in the country relevant for the entire region.

He highlighted that, during its preparations for the OSCE Chairmanship, Kazakhstan decided to highlight the situation in the region, making Afghanistan one of the main priorities. Kazakhstan drew up an Afghanistan Position Paper for discussion among the participating states as the basis for a discussion at the OSCE Summit. Zhigalov stressed that the topics that a country has to tackle when it assumes Chairmanship are hard to predict. As a result, when it defined its priorities for the OSCE, the course of events and the emergence of the crisis in Kyrgyzstan could not be envisaged.

Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, believes that Central Asia will become the most dynamic, problematic and interesting region in the coming period. In the 1990s, only the UN dealt with the region; the EU did not take part. He assessed that the situation has, however, changed: several regional and global powers as well as international organisations are involved today. He stressed that situation in Afghanistan will have the greatest influence on the state of affairs in the region. Because of this, further activities in Afghanistan will have to be especially well thought-through, particularly after disengagement. Kubiš highlighted that the process of decision-making in Afghanistan should be in the



hands of the national authorities and the inclusion of Afghanistan into the concept of a wider Central Asia is reasonable. At the moment, the issue of transferring power to internal forces, including the Taliban, is topical and cannot be avoided.

Kubiš emphasized that the developments in Kyrgyzstan are mainly the result of a dysfunctional state stemming from the level of governance and control held by the transitional government. The question is whether a moderate government in Kyrgyzstan will be able to stabilise this state in which the people and the local population are often forgotten. He outlined the possibility that, at some point, the people will be fed up with the corrupt regime.

As regards the functioning of international organisations in the region, Kubiš underlined that the UN has been present from the very beginning. He was pleased that the UN established the Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy, which in its two-year existence has proven very useful. Kubiš went on to say that Kazakhstan is the first Central Asian and first post-Soviet country to chair the OSCE and also the first country working to meet OSCE standards. Its chairmanship is far from perfect, but it gives it important experience about managing political processes. He also stressed that the EU's attitude towards the region is improving and expressed hope that the Lisbon Treaty will provide instruments that will en-



able the EU to achieve its ambitions for external action. Subregional organisations are important as well, given that the region lacks positive regional cooperation between regional organisations, he concluded.

Dr Boris Frlec, Ambassador, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Referendum Observation Mission in Kyrgyz Republic, presented the situation in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan just before the constitutional referendum. He explained the decision of ODIHR about not sending short-term election observers to the country since the transitional government was not able to control the situation and there was no one in the country to provide security to 50 short-term observers. He believes it is difficult to determine the cause of the unrests in the south of the country. In his opinion, the division into clans is implicitly and effectively influencing the functioning of the state. Frlec stressed that to assess the conflict as a merely ethnic conflict between Uzbeks and the Kyrgyz people is a big mistake, since it involves a battle for goods and survival, while trafficking in drugs and arms also plays an important role.

Frlec highlighted that the constitutional referendum was successful and the neighbouring countries with autocratic regimes were not satisfied with this result. The Russian Federation namely stated that Kyrgyzstan needs unquestioned authority to establish order in the country.

In relation to the functioning of international organisations in the region, Frlec said that all of them established cooperation on the ground, which was assessed as well-coordinated and positive. The real problem was that certain territories in the south were physically impossible to reach. Furthermore, he emphasized that the population no longer respects the police, since the process of establishing trust in authorities has to be carried out step by step. He concluded that Kyrgyzstan urgently needs both international financial and expert assistance.

Goran Svilanović, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, presented OSCE's economic and environmental dimension in Kyrgyzstan and in the region. He explained that the OSCE is present on the ground and will remain present in the future as well. He assessed Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the OSCE as successful, particularly because it managed to reach a consensus on the organisation of an OSCE Summit — this alone is enough for a positive assessment after eleven years of no OSCE Summit.

The OSCE is present in all countries of the region; it also fights corruption and deals with the issue of nuclear waste. Svilanović emphasised the issue of migration and transport. In his opinion, the region urgently needs a “business bridge” between China and the EU. Among the areas of activity, he outlined the issue of building contacts between people, a problem in the region that



directly involves the issue of knowledge and the education system. Education is crucial and every country's characteristics have to be taken into account. He commended Kazakhstan for its efforts to establish a regional youth centre. In comparison to the Western Balkans, a common goal of all countries needs to be found.

Alain Déletroz, Vice President (Europe) at the International Crisis Group, Belgium, examined the upcoming challenges of the region. In the coming ten years, there will be changes in Uzbekistan's and Kazakhstan's leadership, which will be very important for both countries. In Kazakhstan, the process will be partly democratic, whereas in Uzbekistan, outbreaks of violence cannot be excluded. He believes regional cooperation in Central Asia is difficult, since the countries do not wish to cooperate despite existing arrangements. As an example, he mentioned the crossing of the border between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and the occasional and unannounced closing of Uzbekistan's border. This has a direct impact on trade, since Tajikistan cannot export anything in that direction.

Déletroz believes the countries of the region could understand each other if they wanted to. They lived under the same regime and speak the same language. Therefore they could make good use of these advantages and establish cooperation. In his opinion, Kyrgyzstan is a ticking time bomb in the region, greatly influenced by

money obtained from drug trafficking from Afghanistan. The weakest country of the region is consequently destroying other systems. He expressed disappointment over a lack of political will by the OSCE and the countries in the region to take measures, as well as over a lack of political will of both major powers, the US and the Russian Federation, which have military bases in the country. The region could in his opinion prosper by opening up to foreign markets such as China, which takes the region very seriously, since it settled the border issues immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union. China also managed to do something that no diplomatic service had ever been able to do before: it signed an agreement with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan on the construction of a gas pipeline, which will be opened soon. In this context, Kazakhstan has the greatest advantage since many of its people were educated in China and thus know it very well. Déletroz concluded that China has the biggest potential for being able to influence the region. The Russian Federation however has the historical advantage and should know how to play the “soft power” card and take advantage of its traditional influence in the region.



TRANSITION TO NEW ENERGY

Panel E

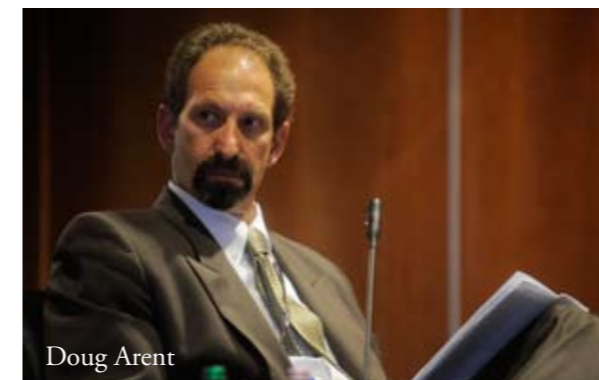
World energy demand is expected to increase by 40 per cent by 2030. An important share in this increase will take place in developing countries, particularly in China and India. At present, fossil fuels provide for over 70 per cent of the world's total energy demand and future energy needs are expected to be met predominantly by greater use of fossil fuels. Oil consumption is projected to increase from 85 million barrels per day in 2008 to 105 million by 2030. Emissions from fossil fuel combustion are considered a primary cause of climate change. Scientific estimates show that global emissions must peak by 2015 and decline afterwards in order to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius. The global economy needs to be restructured to achieve economic growth while reducing carbon emissions.

Low carbon growth may only be achieved with a transition from fossil fuels to a renewable energy-based economy. Apart from environmental sustainability, there are other advantages in using renewable energy. Unlike the finite and unevenly distributed deposits of fossil fuels, renewable energy offers an approach to long-term energy security in which energy resources are diversified, reducing dependence on energy imports. New technologies can also generate economic growth and create new jobs, particularly in times of economic crisis.

The panel was moderated by **Stephen Tindale, Associate Fellow at the Centre for European Reform, United**



Stephen Tindale



Doug Arent

Kingdom. He believes that energy security is a crucial issue and renewable energy sources are therefore part of the answer, since fossil fuels are problematic in terms of air pollution. Tindale highlighted that not all new forms of energy are as desirable as solar, wind or hydro energy are.

Dr Doug Arent, Executive Director of the new Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis, United States of America, stressed that energy policy is much more complex today than in the past, which must be taken in account when crafting policies. Energy can not be considered on its own but in connection to health and food as well as other policies. Achieving this is very challenging for politicians. The policies to address the issue of the transition to new, alternative energy have been embraced by more than 85 countries. He highlighted that these policies are nevertheless very broad and differ greatly among countries.

Arent wondered about the real possibility for transition to a low carbon economy in a state of increasing energy demand. In his opinion, these policies must be durable, consistent and flexible, but also transparent, which means predictable. Subsidies on competing technologies should be reduced so that competition is made fair. He also pointed out that technology innovation contributes to the use of renewables in transportation. In his opinion, this is the nexus that we now see across

sectors, particularly in the electrification of transportation. He believes that there are strong synergies between the 'good renewables', but the energy infrastructure is extremely long lived and capital intensive. This transition to new energy paradigm (from liquid fuels) has to take place relative to all of the policy goals that we put in place and share collectively. But it will take a long time and we should not be overly optimistic, but also not overly impatient.

Ulrich Benterbusch, Director of Global Energy Dialogue, International Energy Agency, initially highlighted that the 'Global Energy Dialogue' is a good example of how the IEA is reaching out to developing countries in order to help and support the necessary changes in the field of energy. The question of what kind of technology is needed for a revolution in the way we produce and consume energy is of great importance, since we want the world to stay on a sustainable path. He explained that if the world continued to use energy the way it does now, energy consumption will rise by 85% until 2050, causing a global temperature increase of 6 degrees Celsius. He stressed that this is clearly not sustainable, but the good news is that there are alternatives and they are implementable.

Benterbusch went on to say that an alternative scenario to halve the emissions by 2050 and keep the temperature increase in the range of 2–3 degrees is possible. This

would also greatly benefit energy security. To achieve this, the power sector should be decarbonised and renewables will have to account for 52% of all production by 2050. In the transportation sector that means that we need to foster the introduction of electric vehicles to replace fuel-burning vehicles. He concluded that a policy framework is important and OECD countries should be in the lead, although without the contribution of the developing countries the scenario is not attainable.

Dr Andrea Castronovo, President of BMW Group Central Eastern Europe, Germany, talked about his company, for which transition to a new energy means fostering a mobile future and a relationship with the environment. He said BMW's core value is sustainability and explained that the automotive industry's share in the total CO2 emissions is 5%. Moreover, the BMW group has been able to achieve a 25% cut in the CO2 emission of its cars in the last ten years and it has been the only car maker to reach the self-imposed target reduction. The Group also plans a further reduction of 25% by 2025.

Castronovo furthermore declared that 5% accounts to sustainability in driving pleasure. BMW has been awarded as the most sustainable company in the automobile industry by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. It also strives to produce cars in a more efficient way: it has lowered water consumption in car production, uses



Ulrich Benterbusch



Andrea Castronovo

underground water to cool its offices in some locations and biomass to heat and provide energy to their plants in the US. He mentioned the concept of Efficient Dynamics, which is an innovation that only in 2008 reduced the quantity of fuel needed for a 2 year energy consumption of a city like Geneva. He concluded that it makes sense to have cars run on electricity when this electricity is not produced by coal, otherwise it is better if they run on petrol or diesel.

Dr Uroš Merc, President and Chief Executive Officer of BISOL, d.o.o., Slovenia, highlighted that it is a general misconception that solar energy is not very important because it is expensive. He explained that in November 2007, the European Commission proposed a Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan including the setting up of a Solar Europe Initiative (SEI), to be defined by the European Photovoltaic (PV) Industry. The biggest players of the photovoltaic industry in Europe were gathered to determine the objectives and priorities of the policy, technology and communication fields defined by the PV Industry. They tried to determine the potential capacity of the market, the main tasks, and the goals the industry wants to achieve.

There are different price levels for different electricity consumers around the EU. With strong price decreases of PV technology in recent years and increased elec-



Uroš Merc



Plínio M. Nastari

tricity prices across Europe, PV markets are approaching this key measure of competitiveness known as grid parity. With every doubling of production, the costs of solar energy drop by 22%. He therefore believes a point will soon be achieved when production of solar energy will become cheaper than electricity from the grid (the network system). That point will be reached at different times in different countries, he added. He stressed that all renewable energy sources should be developed simultaneously, but their goal is for solar to account for 12% of all production, something that the grid can well accept. There is also no technology breakthrough necessary, he concluded.

Dr Plínio M. Nastari, President and Founder of DATAGRO, Brazil, discussed the role of bio fuels, which he said had received some bad publicity because of confusion about ethanol and other sources. Production of ethanol is nevertheless expanding very quickly: in the last decade, it has achieved growth levels of almost 40% per year, making it more important today than sugars. However, more than 77% of ethanol production is still concentrated in the US and Brazil. In the latter, ethanol has substituted almost 50% of petrol. Still, people elsewhere do not realise its potential and transformative power.

He explained that production of cane ethanol has grown three-fold in the past 35 years and still has the capacity

to double in 10 to 15 years. The revenues from cane processing are ethanol, power and sugar. And this power is renewable, very clean and can be used for transportation. Ethanol is not only meant for transportation uses, since the achievements of cane ethanol in Brazil have been tremendous, also economically wise. He believes that the bed press for ethanol is the result of myths regarding bio fuels, misinformation and the lack of regulation. Bio fuels should be considered a potential new source of energy. He hopes other countries will realise this, leading to diversification of production to places outside of Brazil and the US.



RECONNECTING BALKANS: BUSINESS, ENERGY, TRANSPORT Panel F

It goes without saying that modern infrastructure is crucial to the development and prosperity of the Western Balkans. It is essential for free and efficient flow of goods, energy, trade and people. Because of the limited size of each Western Balkan country and the fragmentation of the economic space in the region, there is no other option but to embark on intense regional cooperation as the only realistic path to development. The Western Balkans, in its position between Europe and Asia, has always been a transit area - on maps, it is crossed by pan-European transport corridor X, but in reality the region still represents a black spot for modern transport connections, energy infrastructure and business cooperation. The numbers, on the other hand, speak for themselves: the EU is the region's top trading partner, exporting EUR 32.5 billion of goods to the Western Balkans in 2008 and importing EUR 14 billion in the same period. The Western Balkan countries make up the best "compensation market" for the EU. The panel was moderated by **Tim Judah, Balkans Correspondent for The Economist, United Kingdom.**

The panel was opened by **Jana Hudernik, Head of Strategic Planning at Keter Group, Slovenia.** The company is specialised in the construction of biogas power plants, which are an excellent investment in the future and the company is therefore setting new standards for energy production from biodegradable waste. Accord-



Tim Judah

ing to international experts, numerous innovations and improvements have perfected the process of green energy production from biomass and put biogas power plants in the vanguard at the global level, she explained. Hudernik asserted that Keter Group is planning the production of bioethanol for its next project, since biogas power plants enable passive production of green energy without greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, the company is seeking to transfer its knowledge to the countries of the Western Balkans and has launched pilot projects involving the construction of biogas power plants in Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia. She concluded that the Keter Group strongly believes in the development of green energy as well as in the great development potential of the Western Balkans.

Peter Reiniger, Managing Director for Central and South Eastern Europe, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, believes that the future of the region depends on its ability to reconnect. The EBRD and its partners will continue to play an important role in the development of transport, railway, energy and municipal infrastructure in the countries of the Western Balkans. In his opinion the prime motor is accession to the EU, which will bring about the harmonisation of legislation in these countries. Reiniger went on to say that the countries of the Western Balkans are all too afraid to open the energy sector to private capital



Jana Hudernik



Peter Reiniger

and foreign investments due to the underlying fear that this would compromise energy security. However, they are highly interested in the construction of European railway corridors, while the energy sector is in need of improved competitiveness and better energy efficiency. In conclusion, he called for the connection of financial systems, promotion of local companies, and foreign direct and cross-border investment.

Prof Dr Mojmir Mrak, Full Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, asserted that the coming years will see a lack of public funding for all projects of establishing connections between the countries of the Western Balkans, since the countries will not be able to raise these funds on financial markets under favourable terms. He emphasised that due to the crisis, the economic situation in these countries is not the brightest and that high national debts are becoming unsustainable. This begs the question about how projects will be financed in the futures. He concluded that the solution lies in assistance from international financial institutions as well as the region's willingness to allow foreign direct investment to flow into certain sectors, foremost the energy sector.

Dr Patrick Vlačič, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Slovenia, underlined the significance of the Brdo Process launched by Slovenia in cooperation with Croatia, whose aim is to promote closer regional coopera-



tion. He explained that in this part of Europe no joint infrastructure projects have been carried out due to past problems between the countries. Transport ministers from the countries involved in the Brdo Process held their first regional meeting on 6 July 2010 in Zagreb, adopting a joint statement in which they expressed a commitment to developing transport infrastructure in the region in line with EU infrastructure demands. He sees a positive sign in the recent agreement among the Slovenian, Serbian and Croatian railways on the establishment of a joint railway company and Serbia's interest in cooperation of the countries of the region in transport, infrastructure projects and energy with an emphasis on the 10th Pan-European Corridor connecting the German and Turkish markets. Other countries have also expressed interest in cooperation, including Italy, Bulgaria and some other countries of the Western Balkans, Vlačič announced.

He believes that Slovenia made a mistake in the past by allocating the majority of public funds intended for infrastructure to the construction of motorways, which could also have been built through public-private partnerships. On the other, it failed to invest in railways, causing the Slovenian railway system to become outdated. Now, the renovation of railway infrastructure will be both costly and lengthy. It will require extensive funding, mostly from public sources. In view of this, the



country is looking to attract foreign strategic partners, he concluded.

Prof Dr Nikola Rajaković, State Secretary at the Ministry of Mining and Energy of the Republic of Serbia, said that reconnecting the Balkans requires a shift in the paradigm of these countries, whose recent history has been marked by disintegration rather than integration. He underlined the possibilities in the field of strengthening cross-border energy connections (electricity grids and gas lines) and believes that opening of regional markets requires new electricity grids in all countries of the region.

In his introduction, **Ambassador Vojko Volk, Former Western Balkan Coordinator at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb,** stressed that the EU and the United States show relatively little interest in the situation in the Western Balkans. Cooperation among countries of the region should be boosted by joint projects, primarily in the economic, transport and energy fields. With this in mind, Slovenia was the initiator of the Western Balkans Conference at Brdo pri Kranju, where the leaders of the countries of the region (in the absence of Serbian representatives) adopted a declaration for strengthening of regional cooperation thereby launching what is known as the Brdo Process. He highlighted that the countries



are already cooperating successfully and reconnecting in some other fields (sports, electricity grids), and that politicians will eventually have to follow. In conclusion, he said that the countries have to decide for themselves how quickly they want change to occur and what kind of future they are striving for.

Aleš Hauc, Director-General of Pošta Slovenije d.o.o., Slovenia, said that the postal sector in Europe is developing rapidly and the same applies to the region of the Western Balkans. In line with its strategy, Pošta Slovenije is entering foreign markets and expanding the range of products on offer in the region of the Western Balkans, where it has managed to launch numerous successful joint projects.



INNOVATION ON
THE REBOUND FROM
THE ECONOMIC CRISIS
Night Owl Session
Co-organised with the OECD

As the world slowly pulls out of the most severe economic crisis since the Great Depression, questions concerning a strong and sustainable recovery arise. It is already clear that the convalescence of the most advanced economies will not be as vigorous as that of emerging and developing economies. The fact that full recovery and long-term growth call for an innovative society applies to all. Research and innovation not only help to create more jobs, but also increase prosperity and the quality of life in general. By investing smart, governments can mitigate the effects of the crisis, boost recovery and thus enable strong and sustainable growth. Furthermore, the government and the public sector are important players, not only as rule-makers and service providers, but also as active innovators. After all, innovation is a key concept in achieving growth and addressing global challenges such as climate change, health, food security, and economic development.

Unfortunately, crisis and innovation are often conflicting terms. It seems that research and development (R&D) has become a luxury: during the recession, R&D expenditures were among the first to be cut, venture capital became rare and FDI shrank significantly. It is up to the main players now (governments, enterprises and institutions) to take full advantage of the situation by investing in innovation. And who will best use the potential of innovation in the current situation? The European In-



Maja Grgič

novation Scoreboard shows that the innovation gap between developed economies such as the US, Japan and the EU, and the rising superpowers, namely China and India, is closing. Furthermore, the EU's catching-up with the world's top innovative economies has recently flattened out despite persistent attempts to make Europe more dynamic and competitive. The non-pervasive state of the EU's "innovation fitness" is also demonstrated by the fact that the world's top innovative companies still lag behind the US and Japan. The panel was moderated by **Maja Grgič, Journalist at Delo, Slovenia.**

In his opening address, **Ambassador Richard A. Boucher, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD**, noted that in time of crisis it is very important to select carefully what and where to invest. Education should be the top priority, as it represents a good long-term investment, followed by carefully selected infrastructure, active labour market, and innovation strategies. He stressed that an innovation-based economy must be founded on carefully chosen investments, positive reforms and strong support for innovation.

Andrew Wyckoff, Director for Science, Technology and Industry at the OECD, highlighted the dramatic changes in the innovation environment. Innovation is becoming increasingly open and shared with different partners. We are witnessing changes in the innovative environment topography, with China, India and Brazil



Richard A. Boucher



Andrew Wyckoff



Janez Škrabec



Marko Jaklič

coming to the forefront, and cooperation being facilitated by information and communication technologies. Wyckoff emphasised the need for careful organisation of innovation structures, promotion of competitiveness and the channelling of ideas towards cheaper operation.

Janez Škrabec, Director of RIKO d.o.o., Slovenia, pointed to green technologies (eco-friendly, energy-rich, natural materials) as one possible way out of the crisis. The central role in this will be played by SMEs, which must take risks and be prepared for gradual growth. He wondered how countries could compete with China? He believes that Slovenia, as a small country, must seize its advantages, such as cultural dialogue, mobility, democracy, creativity, and knowledge. RIKO aims to create a globally innovative and industrialised product which would also be recognised by international strategic partners.

Dr Marko Jaklič, Chairman of the Expert Council for Science and Technology of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and Full Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, Full Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, believes that the main challenge during a global recession is to properly manage innovation related supply and demand. Innovation in his opinion changes society, however, the nature of the

innovation environment itself has changed entirely. In the coming years, the US and China will remain world leaders in innovation aimed at the convergence of new technologies and advanced science as well as the convergence of people who are collaborating in open innovation systems. He concluded that there is a need for supporting newcomers in this field, who are more radical innovators. He stressed that in the new globalised world, localities still matter since they can attract creative innovation.



SELECTED KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS



Welcome Address

Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, stressed in his welcome address that the world has entered a new millennium and completed its first decennial. "How to proceed?" he asked. In his opinion it is hard to imagine that the issue of globalisation has only been at the forefront of discussion for the past twenty years. He believes that today we are fully aware that the world is no longer a series of disparate parts, which was clearly demonstrated during the recent economic crisis.

Žbogar considers that the role of the state has not been lessened. On the contrary, the wisdom of eminent statesmen can be used to effect the necessary reorganisation of the existing structures, which puts great responsibility upon decision makers at the highest levels. He listed some of the many challenges of today's and future world: war, famine, various diseases and epidemics, organised crime, violence in dangerous urban areas, the tumultuous climate, the overexploitation of land, food crisis, water challenge. He wondered what could be done by the eminent participants who gathered at the Bled Strategic Forum and what influence can they have. Žbogar believes that they must not lose sight of opportunities that the twenty first century is offering and that Bled Strategic Forum offers the chance to use diverse experience and knowledge to address these challenges.





Address by the Guest of Honour

Dr Danilo Türk, President of the Republic of Slovenia

Dr Danilo Türk, President of the Republic of Slovenia, emphasized that Bled Strategic Forum is a special event in Slovenia since it brings together thinkers and decision-makers from Slovenia and from the world to discuss some of the most important and most pressing issues of today. He reflected upon the previous year's Forum titled "The Politics of the Crisis" where the questions of politics of the crisis were at the centre of discussions. Türk stressed that at the time they believed the crisis brings opportunities. And among the optimistic thoughts was also the thought of the then nearing summit on global warming in Copenhagen and the expectations which were spread about the changes and reforms of the international financial system. In his opinion it can be clearly seen that many of those expectations have not materialised. Copenhagen summit was only a partial success and financial reforms, including the reform of the quota system of the International Monetary Fund, have not yet occurred. Türk asked how is the world going to cope with this and how to make sure that the given answers are credible and realistic. He mentioned the two upcoming summits on the Millennium Development Goals and biodiversity and voiced his aspirations they will produce agreements which will generate real progress.

Türk then expressed his hope in the collective brainpower of people gathered at the Forum and their in-

tellectual honesty, which is a starting point in any discussion about the global outlook for the next decade. Additionally, he also stressed that imagination is another quality, seriously needed at this point in history to find solutions for the future. He paraphrased Timothy Williams, Oxford University professor, who explained how imagination represents an important ingredient of scientific and every other thinking and described the initiative of Brazil and Turkey on dealing with the nuclear issue of Iran, which gave rise to hope that met with realistic and well-meaning challenges. Türk furthermore reflected upon the issue of Afghanistan, where it should be taken into consideration that when moving a military force to a distant country a strategist has to have an idea how to exit a situation. However, without strategy there is no exit, because leaving a country in chaos is not an exit and certainly is not a strategy. Türk believes that today it is a high time to seriously consider the exit strategy for Afghanistan with a carefully thought-through system of measures to ensure that the ultimate result is stable and sustainable, involving all neighbour states and some other players. To be sure that such an agreement might be possible in the foreseeable future is a challenge for intellectuals and policy-makers in the audience, he added.

Türk in his conclusion tackled the challenge of the European Union to be a global player, an issue that also

requires imagination focused on a concept of partnerships. He emphasized that EU has to develop its partnerships with other players properly in order to be a significant and effective global player. New, fresh ideas are needed in his opinion, most importantly in relation to Russia, a major actor of the Eurasian area and global affairs.



Speech by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia

Borut Pahor, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia

Borut Pahor, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, assessed that financial crisis has sharpened all problems inherited from the previous century and wondered whether humanity will be able to overcome these problems. The international community has in the second half of the century developed new mechanisms to protect peace, stability and security but there are no guarantees for life in peace, said Pahor. He stressed that it is important to consider the short term future of increasingly interdependent and connected world. The crisis has aggravated the existing conflicts and calls for relatively uniform and consistent response by the international community. He believes that we can only witness a very limited success of joint anti-crisis policies within the EU. Unique characteristic of this crisis is that economy has never been so global. Since success of the joint policies is very limited, national governments are turning back to independent actions. This is in his opinion not necessarily a bad thing as long as they do not grow into security conflicts. He underlined that if Slovenia had failed at finding a bilateral solution with neighbouring Croatia, the economic and social tensions in both countries would influence the whole Western Balkans and could grow into a security issue.

Pahor believes that while the world is experiencing a global crisis the international community lacks adequate mechanisms to put in place effective common anti-crisis policies. In the near future he expects to witness endeavours of individual governments for economic recovery when instead common mechanisms should be strengthened and new ones developed. In his opinion there is a problem of two different concepts of development; the concept of sustainable development advocated by the modern world and the concept of the fast growing economies which put no greater attention to social development aspect or climate change aspect but only focus on the economic growth. Slovenia supports the European model, one of sustainable development and wishes to inspire dialogue and the relationship, not just economic but also political to deal with these two concepts. A proper solution is needed to avoid conflicts and decision makers have a very dramatic role to inspire the dialogue. He concluded that Strategic Forum Bled offers a very good spot to exchange views about what is good and bad for the humanity. What is needed is also a small dose of optimism since problems can not be faced with fear.





Keynote speaker at dinner

General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.), former U.S. Secretary of State (2001-2005)

At the outset of his address, **former US Secretary of State Colin L. Powell** expressed his thanks for the invitation to the Bled Strategic Forum; in his opinion, the past four years have rendered it one of the most visible forums, addressing topical international issues as well as the situation in the Western Balkans. He congratulated Slovenia on internal and foreign policy achievements and expressed his appreciation for its active role in the region of the Western Balkans. Regardless of its small size, Slovenia plays an important role on the international stage and is a member of international organisations, including NATO, the OECD and the EU.

In his address he reminisced about how he started his military career as a 21-year-old lieutenant. He described the situation in the former Soviet Union and China in detail, their different ideologies and the underlying morose and depressive atmosphere in the two countries. The temperate policy of containment avoided new world wars and successfully solved regional conflicts (the Korean War), halting their further escalation. He also recalled Ronald Reagan's administration, when he was the President's National Security Advisor, and the period 1989–1993, when he was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. According to Powell, the fall of the Iron Curtain marked the end of the Cold War and heralded Europe's liberty and prosperity. The fall of the Berlin Wall twenty years ago brought about a different era that required the US foreign policy to adjust. Old enemies became new allies; we began sharing the same in-

terests and goals, including democracy, human rights and integration.

Powell recalled the year 2004. In his capacity as the Secretary of State, in Washington, the depository of the Washington Treaty, he received instruments of accession to NATO from seven heads of states, including the Slovenian Prime Minister. In that time, Europe treaded an outstanding path in EU enlargement and the introduction of the single currency. As one of the greatest achievements of the united Europe, Powell underlined the creation of the Schengen Area. He congratulated Slovenia for the progress made from its independence to its EU Council presidency and thanked for its active role in the region of the Western Balkans.

Among topical subjects and challenges that the world is faced with today, Powell stressed terrorism. He remarked that in his opinion, terrorism is a lesser threat than for example the Cold War, because terrorists do not kill people and knock down buildings with the purpose to kill or destroy, but rather to terrorise and undermine the trust that the society system is able to stop them. He stressed that terrorists despite all their activity cannot take away our values such as freedom and democracy.

In the context of regional conflicts, Powell highlighted Iraq, where a withdrawal of Allied Forces is under way. He pointed out the commitments made to Iraq by the international community and called upon countries to give the Iraqi people an opportunity to form a coalition govern-

ment without impediments. He underlined that Iraq is a lesson in democracy; as a result, we must be patient. The new government will have to assume responsibility to ensure security in the country.

In his opinion, Afghanistan is a more problematic case; it is a country that requires our assistance. Prior to the withdrawal of foreign armed forces members, the country needs to be politically, economically and socially stabilised for the hand-over of power and successful governance. He thanked Slovenia for its cooperation in Afghanistan. Its modest but important contribution is key in the light of active cooperation in the international community's endeavours for the country's stabilisation.

He continued by placing emphasis on the issue of the Iranian and North Korean nuclear programmes. He said that the two countries rather insist on their nuclear weapons than foster social and economic development of their people. He believes that the countries would be better off cooperating with the international community.

He touched upon the situation in the Middle East and expressed hope that the coming direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians reach progress and an agreement that will enable a peaceful coexistence of both countries.

He also mentioned environmental issues and expressed his belief that the United States should assume the leading role in solving the issue of climate change, because he believes that changes in this field are necessary.

He called for greater optimism in resolving issues. Problems should be viewed from the positive aspect; we should learn from the past. If the world was capable to successfully overcome the nuclear crisis during the Cold War, than we are able to solve existing problems as well, he believes. He is convinced that the driving force of the future resides in the creation of wealth, which encourages general progress. The key to assuring stability in the world is a stable global economy and the creation of new jobs needed to achieve human dignity. He placed stress on the issue of poverty. Its elimination requires stable economic systems, based on democratic values. He underlined the power of new technologies and the Internet as key elements of the future, pointed out the role of the energy sector, touched upon the importance of an adequate immigration policy of developed countries, faced with a low birth rate and underlined the necessity for a stronger intergenerational connection.

The coming century will see a faster economic development and several global challenges. The Bled Strategic Forum and other similar forums are of great importance for the development of dialogue and new ideas as well as responding to challenges. In his outline of the present situation in the world, he said that the world is no longer governed by superpowers, but is rather based on a partnership characterized by interdependence. Small countries such as Slovenia will play an increasingly important role in this world.



Keynote address at lunch

Dr Ljubica Jelusič, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia

Dr Ljubica Jelusič, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia, wondered what it would be like to put all the experience of the Bled Strategic Forum's participants together and help at least one failed state to recover. She stressed the importance of optimism regarding the economic crisis and recovery, which was mentioned by Prime Minister Pahor and very well described in General Powel's speech. He described 50 years of growing optimism but she nevertheless missed the mentioning of citizens of the poor world in his speech, those people that did not have the possibility to live the same peace as citizens of developed world. She therefore asked who is able to explain to these people what does the optimism stand for. Jelusič believes that most probably only the peacekeepers and other people, being deployed to these countries by international organizations every year. They are trying to stop armed conflicts and trace standards of peace, consequently bringing some form of optimism to this part of the world. But how to proceed from this type of peace that is assured from military and policemen, she asked. Peace is not the opposite of war, she continued, it is a creation of better standards of living, education, water supply.

The second dilemma that caught her attention during the discussions at the Bled Strategic Forum was the problem of social disintegration within our societies and disintegration on a global scale. She believes that we have answers to stop social disintegration and mentioned Dr Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, who devoted her work to educate people what climate change will bring in the future, Tanja Fajon, Slovenian MEP and rapporteur on visa liberalisation for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania, who works for the young people to have the possibility to travel to foreign countries and Mjuša Sever, who is teaching women in Afghanistan about what democracy is. She stressed there are probably many more ladies at the Forum and in the world who are showing us the way how to do it. They know that the biggest potential is in those countries to which we would like to export our ideas and they also know that the biggest potential are women, concluded Jelusič.





Closing remarks

Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

In his closing remarks Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, highlighted that the conference offered many intensive discussions and innovative ideas as well as many great opportunities for meeting new people and hearing different standpoints.

Žbogar devoted his closing remarks to wrap all the panels of the Forum. With regard to the Main Panel “Global Outlook for the Next Decade” panellists in his opinion agreed that the international cooperation should be strengthened in order to effectively adapt the global society to challenges and issues ahead. Furthermore, the importance of stronger political integration was also the focus of the Special Panel “EU in a Multipolar World” about the future role of the EU. To achieve this, courage of national capitals is strongly needed for EU to play a more active role in global society.

In the Night Owl Session “Innovation on the Rebound from the Economic Crisis” panellists agreed that innovation is crucial for a successful exit from economic downturn. They stressed the importance of research and development but also of the education. Well chosen investments play a major role in economic recovery, asserted Žbogar. He continued with the Panel A titled “Trust (in) the Balkans” in which panellists confirmed that strong political will is necessary for strengthening

the trust in the region and they also demonstrated consciousness about the role of good neighbourly relations for the development of the region and its European future.

Žbogar believes that the topic of water challenge is very complex since it covers different fields of global challenges, from human security to sustainable development. Interdisciplinary approach is therefore vital for more efficient global water management as well as the establishment of new policies. With regard to Panel C titled “The Internet does Change Everything!” Žbogar outlined that only the pace of these changes differs across the globe and that the interactive debate revealed the importance of education and critical thinking for the leaders of the future. In view of “Regional Security Challenges and Cooperation in Central Asia” he stated that the importance of this region will increase due to its vast natural resource, however, lack of attention hinders EU in its dealing with issues in the region. Regarding “Transition to New Energy” panellists were in agreement that the increased demand for energy will require innovative solutions and that creation of a low-carbon economy is essential for reducing carbon emissions as well as for assuring long term energy security. For green economy to become reality, innovations and technology must be matched by political incentives. With relation to “Reconnecting Bal-

kans: Business, Energy, Transport” Žbogar stated that this was another panel focusing on the importance of bridging the distances between the states. If the Trust panel talked about bringing people closer in symbolic way, this panel has spoken about bringing them closer in a concrete way.

At the end he thanked all the panellists, speakers and moderators for wide range of differing points of views and ideas to think about. He sincerely hopes that it will be possible to use some of these great ideas in the future endeavours.





PROGRAMME

Sunday, 29 August

15:00-15:30 Opening of the Bled Strategic Forum

Welcome Address:

H. E. Mr Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Mayor's Welcome:

Mr Janez Fajfar, Mayor of Bled

Address by the Guest of Honour:

H. E. Dr Danilo Türk, President of the Republic of Slovenia

Speech by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia:

H. E. Mr Borut Pahor, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia

Moderated by:

Ms Miriam Možgan, Secretary General of the Bled Strategic Forum

Festival Hall Bled, Cesta svobode 11, Bled

15:30-17:30 Main Panel

“Global Outlook for the Next Decade”

Chaired by:

H. E. Mr Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Message from:

Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered by Mr Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Followed by the statements of:

1. H. E. Mr Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium
2. H. E. Mr Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of the Arab States
3. H. E. Ms Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India

4. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Festival Hall Bled, Cesta svobode 11, Bled

17:30-19:15 Special Panel:

“EU in a Multipolar World”

Moderated by:

Ms Helga Maria Schmid, Director of the Policy Unit of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

Panelists:

1. The Honourable Peter Gordon MacKay, Minister of National Defence of Canada
2. H. E. Dr János Martonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary
3. H. E. Mr Nickolay Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
4. Mr Felipe González Márquez, Former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain and Chair of the Reflection Group
5. Mr Jean-Dominique Giuliani, Company Manager – Chairman of the Board of the Foundation Robert Schuman, France
6. Ambassador Mei Zhaorong, Executive Director of China Foundation for International Studies, China

Festival Hall Bled, Cesta svobode 11, Bled

19:30-22:00 Dinner by invitation only

Keynote speaker:

General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.), former U.S. Secretary of State (2001-2005)

Grand Hotel Toplice, Cesta svobode 12, Bled

19:30-22:00 Networking reception

Festival Hall Bled, Cesta svobode 11, Bled

22:15-00:00 Night Owl Session: “Innovation on the Rebound from the Economic Crisis” Co-organised with the OECD

Moderated by:

Ms Maja Grgič, Journalist at Delo, Slovenia

Keynote speaker:

Ambassador Richard A. Boucher, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD

Panelists:

1. Mr Andrew Wyckoff, Director for Science, Technology and Industry at the OECD
2. Dr Marko Jaklič, Chairman of the Expert Council for Science and Technology of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and Full Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
3. Mr Janez Škrabec, Director of Riko d.o.o., Slovenia
Jupiter Hall, Ground Floor, Golf Hotel Bled, Bled

Monday, 30 August

09:00-11:00 Parallel Panels A/B

Panel A: “Trust (in) the Balkans”

Moderated by:

Mr Zoran Thaler, Member of the European Parliament

Panelists:

1. H. E. Mr Sven Alkalaj, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. H. E. Mr Gordan Jandrovkić, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia
3. Dr Besim Beqaj, Minister for European Integration of the Republic of Kosovo
4. Mr Daniel Serwer, Vice-President of Centers of Innovation, United States Institute of Peace, United States of America
Jupiter Hall, Ground Floor, Golf Hotel Bled, Bled

Panel B: “The Water Challenge”

Moderated by:

Mr R. Andreas Kraemer, Director of the Ecologic Institute, Germany

Panelists:

1. Dr Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment
2. Mr Jorge Borges, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and Communities of Cape Verde
3. Dr Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, United States of America
4. Prof Dr Francisco Nunes Correia, Former Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Portuguese Republic and Full Professor at IST - DECivil, Portugal
5. Prof Dr Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, Professor at the Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
6. Dr John H. Matthews, Lead Freshwater Adaptation Scientist at World Wildlife Fund, United States of America
Jupiter Hall, Ground Floor, Golf Hotel Bled, Bled

11:15-13:15 Parallel Panels C/D

Panel C: “The Internet does Change Everything!”

Moderated by:

Ms Katarina Škoberne, Communicator and Innovator, United Kingdom

Panelists:

1. Dr József Györkös, State Secretary at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia
2. Ms Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

3. Mr Andrej Nabergoj, Co-founder of Internet Companies: Aventures, Parsek, Httpool, Easyweb and Noovo, Slovenia
4. Prof Dr Žiga Turk, Secretary-General of the Reflection Group
5. Mr David Kennedy, Director of Eurescom, Germany
5. Mr Zoran Vehovar, Member of the Management Board of Telekom Slovenije, d. d., Slovenia

Jupiter Hall, Ground Floor, Golf Hotel Bled, Bled

Panel D: “Regional Security Challenges and Cooperation in Central Asia”

Moderated by:

Mrs Mjuša Sever, Director of Regional Dialogue

Panelists:

1. Mr Konstantin Zhigalov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
2. Mr Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
3. Mr Goran Svilanović, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
4. Dr Boris Frlec, Ambassador, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Referendum Observation Mission in Kyrgyz Republic
5. Mr Alain Déléroz, Vice President (Europe) at the International Crisis Group, Belgium
Jupiter Hall, Ground Floor, Golf Hotel Bled, Bled

13:30-15:00 Keynote address and Lunch

Keynote address:

Dr Ljubica Jelušič, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia
Golf Restaurant, Ground Floor, Golf Hotel Bled, Bled



15:30-17:30 Parallel Panels E/F

Panel E: “Transition to New Energy”

Moderated by:

Mr Stephen Tindale, Associate Fellow at the Centre for European Reform, United Kingdom

Panelists:

1. Dr Doug Arent, Executive Director of the new Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis, United States of America
 2. Mr Ulrich Benterbusch, Director of Global Energy Dialogue, International Energy Agency
 3. Dr Andrea Castronovo, President of BMW Group Central Eastern Europe, Germany
 4. Dr Uroš Merc, President and Chief Executive Officer of BISOL, d.o.o., Slovenia
 5. Dr Plínio M. Nastari, President and Founder of DATAGRO, Brazil
- Jupiter Hall, Ground Floor, Golf Hotel Bled, Bled*

Panel F: “Reconnecting Balkans: Business, Energy, Transport”

Moderated by:

Mr Tim Judah, Balkans Correspondent for The Economist, United Kingdom

Panelists:

1. Dr Patrick Vlačič, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Slovenia
2. Prof Dr Nikola Rajaković, State Secretary at the Ministry of Mining and Energy of the Republic of Serbia
3. H. E. Mr Vojko Volk, Former Western Balkan Coordinator at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb

4. Mr Aleš Hauc, Director-General of Pošta Slovenije d.o.o., Slovenia
 5. Mr Peter Reiniger, Managing Director for Central and South Eastern Europe, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 6. Ms Jana Hudernik, Head of Strategic Planning at Keter Group, Slovenia
 7. Prof Dr Mojmir Mrak, Full Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Jupiter Hall, Ground Floor, Golf Hotel Bled, Bled*

17:30-17:45 Closing of the Bled Strategic Forum

Closing remarks by:

H. E. Mr Samuel Žbogar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Jupiter Hall, Ground Floor, Golf Hotel Bled, Bled



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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia is responsible for implementing Slovenian foreign policy and tasks assigned with the Foreign Affairs Law (Ur.l. RS, 45/2001) as well as other acts and regulations. With its expert opinions, the Ministry participates in the planning, procedures and preparation of foreign policy matters of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as the adopting of positions by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

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Power Market Operation

Power market operation is a public utility service that implements activities stipulated by the Energy Act for participants from the power market field.

Balance Scheme Management
Balance Scheme record management which includes Balance Groups and Subgroups and Balance Scheme record publication. Conduct of Balance Scheme accession procedure.

Recording of closed contracts and operational forecasts
Recording of closed contracts concluded among Balance Scheme Members which form the basis for the calculation of market plans and for the imbalance settlement, and recording of operational forecasts for the supply and consumption of energy for the Balance Scheme Members.

Imbalance Settlement
Clearing of Balance Groups within which the realisation of supply and consumption of energy is compared to forecasted market plans of Balance Groups and within which the imbalances of Balance Groups are calculated.

Beside the amount of imbalances, the financial values of imbalances are also included. It includes annual recalculation of the imbalance settlement.

Balancing Market
In the near future the established balancing market will contribute greatly to the provision of a more secure and transparent supply of the Slovenian electricity system since it reduces the use of system services to ensure continuous supply of sufficient reserve capacity.

Accounting and Financial Settlement of Imbalances
As a Clearing agent, Borzen implements clearing and financial settlement for the costs of imbalances of imbalance settlement.

Centre for RES/CHP Support

Implementation and management of the feed-in support scheme for electricity from renewable energy sources (RES) and highly efficient cogeneration of heat and power (CHP)

Providing support in the manner of payment of financial (operating) premium with separate sale of electricity or guaranteed purchase of electricity. Management of the Registry of support scheme participants, conclusion of agreements on provision of support and payment of support. Management of transitional period of the old support scheme.

Acceptance and selling of purchased energy on the organised electricity market
Selling of electricity acquired from support scheme participants (guaranteed purchase).

Clearing and financial settlement of services of the Centre for support
Implementation of clearing and financial settlement for support scheme participants on a monthly basis.

National Guarantees of Origin Registry
Maintenance of the national Guarantees of Origin Registry which is important for providing transparency of the origin of electricity.

The "Guarantees of origin exchange" is an additional functionality of the Registry.

Information portal for wood biomass
An application for trading with wood biomass products is available to users where they can also find different information on this renewable source of energy.

Other activities connected with the Centre for RES/CHP support
Guaranteeing the security of electricity supply based on usage of domestic primary energy sources, ensuring an adequate level of installed capacity for the production of electricity and programmes for efficient use and savings of electricity.

Professional training classes and workshops from the energy field

Their special attention is paid predominantly to subjects connected with energy markets and renewable sources of energy.

Participation in important projects in the field of Slovenian and international energy sector Issuing regulations upon public authorisation

Rules for the operation of the organised electricity market, Rules for the operation of the Centre for support and Rules for implementing balancing electricity market.

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