

DRAFT 07-10-2025

AGENDA

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“THE BALKANS – FOR PEACE, SECURITY, COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP”

SOFIA, 10 – 11 OCTOBER 2025, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL – BALLROOM

10 OCTOBER 2025 – FRIDAY

09:30 – 10:00 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Welcome coffee

10:00 – 10:30 CONFERENCE OPENING

Dr. Kaloyan Pargov, Chair of the Strategic Institute for National Policies and Ideas

Mr. Atanas Zafirov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Petar Dilov, Minister of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Bulgaria

10:45 – 14:00 PANEL I

Geopolitics and Perspectives for the Balkans and the Four Seas Region (Black Sea, Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, Adriatic Sea) – from Hybrid Confrontations to Understanding and Cooperation.

Moderator: Mr. Chavdar Minchev, Ambassador, Senior advisor of the President of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria (1990 - 1991), Executive Director of NAIR, Member of the Board of SINPI

Mr. George Kremlis, Member of the Board of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO) and Ambassador of the EPLO to Bulgaria, Director of the Institute for Circular Economy and Climate, Honorary Director of the European Commission, Greece

The Role of Greece and Bulgaria in Promoting Stronger Cooperation Mechanisms and Structures in the Broader Region

Dr. Dimitar M. Ivanov, macroeconomist, senior advisor to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria (2002-2007), Managing Director - Europe and Senior Advisor to the Board of Directors of Gerkeen capital Associates, U.S.

Balkan Economic Integration - a Strategic Imperative: Geoeconomic challenges, economic realities and paths forward

Prof. Alexey Gromyko, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of the Institute of Europe, Russian Federation (online)

Political Economy of the Contemporary World: Latest Trends

Ms. Xie Bo, Senior Researcher, China Institute of International Studies, People's Republic of China

The Balkans at crossroads: Challenges and Opportunities

Prof. Dr. Yanko Yanev, Executive Director of the Nuclear Knowledge Management Institute, Vienna

Artificial Intelligence and Nuclear Energy

12:00 – 12:30 COFFEE BREAK

Dr Ioannis Gounaris, Institute for Alternative Policies ENA, Athens, Greece

Re-arming Europe and the Black Sea–Mediterranean Dimension: What Kind of “European Sovereignty”?

Prof. Vasil Prodanov, Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Professor, Doctor of Philosophical Sciences, Bulgaria

Geopolitical Contradictions and Paths to Unity in the Balkans

Prof. Dr. Ali Tekin, Dean of the Faculty of Economy, Administration and Social Sciences, Istanbul Gedik University, Türkiye

The EU Security Paradigm in the Changing World Order: Implications for the Balkan Region

Prof. Nina Sajić, Institute of Political Science at the University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Reimagining the Balkans in a Fragmented World

Dr. Srećko Đukić, Ambassador, Forum for International Relations of the European Movement in Serbia, President of the Association for Cooperation between Serbia and Bulgaria, Belgrade, Serbia

The Western Balkans in Global Changes

Dr. Yaroslav Ivanchenko, President of the Executive Committee, Black Sea Association for Economic Cooperation, Russian Federation

Where the Threat to the Balkans Comes From

Dr. Dragana Trifković, Director General, Centre for Geostrategic Studies, Serbia (recorded statement)

The Balkans Between Multipolarity and Conflict: Scenarios for Geopolitical Restructuring

DISCUSSION

14:00 – 15:00

LUNCH BREAK

15:00 – 17:30

PANEL II

Contemporary Dimensions of the Common Economic Area of the Balkans and the Four Seas Region – as a Key Factor for Global Civilizational Connectivity between East and West and between North and South.

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Nikolay Tsonkov, Director, Science and Exploration Centre for Regional Research, University of National and World Economy

Mr Doncho Barbalov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Industry, Bulgaria

Mr. Ioannis Anastasiadis, Director of EGTC HELICAS, Greece

Presentation of the Results of the Conference “Cross-Border Cooperation in Southeast Europe: Challenges, Problems, Prospects”

Prof. Rumen Draganov, Director of the Institute for Analysis and Forecasting of the Information Environment in Tourism, Bulgaria

Integrated Tourism Routes across the Balkans and the Four Seas

Mr Momcilo Radulovic, President of the European Movement in Montenegro

EU Integration of the Western Balkans in the context of new global challenges

Mr. Anton Ginev, Chair of the Forum for Balkan Transport and Infrastructure, Bulgaria

Modernization of the Ruse–Kaspichan Railway Line: A Strategic Link between the Black Sea and the Danube River

Prof. Grigoris Zarotiadis, macroeconomist, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Member of the Board of Directors of EGTC HELICAS, Greece

Balkans in the Contemporary Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Context: Margin or Bridge?

Vasil Todorov, Vice-President of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bulgaria

Initiative for the establishment of Balkan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Dr Ion Guțu, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova (1996-2002), Chairman of the Association for Unified Moldova, Moldova

Economic Outlook of the Republic of Moldova: Advancing Integration into the Balkan Economy as a Step Towards EU Membership

Mr. Murat Evke, Chair of RUMELİSİAD, Türkiye

The Bridge Between the Balkans and the Turkish Business - RUMELİSİAD

Mr. Shefqet Bukaliu, Albania

Investment Opportunities in Albania

Dr. Tasoula Kyprianidou-Leontidou, Antemis Innovation, Cyprus (recorder statement)

The New Policies and Approaches of the European Union in the Field of Handling Chemicals

Dr Dušan Janjić, Forum for Ethnic Relations, Serbia-Bulgaria Cooperation Association, Serbia

Ethnic relations in the Balkans

DISCUSSION

11 OCTOBER 2025 – SATURDAY

10:30 – 12:30 PANEL III

Closed session for the Members of the Partnership Network Between Balkan NGOs

- Setting up and election of a Permanent Secretariat based in Sofia;
- Adoption of a Final document

Moderator: Mr. Chaydar Minchev, Ambassador, Senior advisor of the President of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria (1990 - 1991), Executive Director of NAIR, Member of the Board of SINPI

12:30 CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

Dr. Kaloyan Pargov, Chair of the Strategic Institute for National Policies and Ideas

FAREWELL COFFEE

***Simultaneous interpretation provided in Bulgarian and English**