

CLIMBING HIGHER: EUROPE'S NEW STRATEGY FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH

(as of 4 October 2024)

DAY 1: Friday, 4 October

12:00 – 13:30 LUNCH

VENUE: RESTAURANT, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

13:30 – 14:10 OFFICIAL WELCOME AND FRAMING

VENUE: GERLACH BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

Opening remarks by:

RÓBERT VASS, President and Founder, GLOBSEC

Followed by introductory remarks by Co-chairs of the Tatra Summit 2024 outlining the course of conference discussions on the most pressing challenges.

MATHIAS CORMANN, Secretary-General, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

THIERRY DÉAU, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Meridiam

GORDON BAJNAI, Partner and Chairman of the Global Advisory Board, Campbell Lutyens

Led by: **MAITHREYI SEETHARAMAN**, Founder, Facultas Media

14:10 – 15:10 NAVIGATING GLOBAL ECONOMIC SHIFTS: TRADE, INFLATION, AND GROWTH

VENUE: GERLACH BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

FORMAT: PANEL DISCUSSION

Recent economic trends across Europe reveal a challenging landscape shaped by inflation, monetary tightening, and shifting global dynamics. While Europe's economic outlook is stabilizing, countries are under pressure to reduce spending and raise taxes to manage rising debt, demographic shifts, and defense costs. The ongoing disconnect between improving macroeconomic data and household financial strain highlights the need for coordinated fiscal policies and international cooperation to prevent stagnation, protect key sectors like energy and manufacturing, and address supply chain disruptions, particularly in the context of the Ukraine conflict. With European countries facing pressure to manage rising debt and defense costs, what specific fiscal policies should be prioritized to ensure long-term economic stability without undermining growth? What measures should be implemented by policymakers to mitigate the risks of economic stagnation while managing inflation, and how can international cooperation help in this regard? How has the conflict in Ukraine reshaped Europe's energy security and trade dynamics, and what long-term strategies should countries adopt to mitigate the impact on supply chains and economic growth? How can international cooperation, particularly within the EU and with global partners, be leveraged to realign supply chains, especially in critical sectors such as energy and semiconductors, and ensure resilience against future disruptions?

Speakers:

SINIŠA MALI, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Serbia

PETER KAŽIMÍR, Governor, National Bank of Slovakia

ALEXANDER KAVA, Deputy Minister of Finance of Ukraine

LUKASZ JANUSZEWSKI, Member of the Management Board, Raiffeisen Bank International

Led by: **STEVE CLEMONS**, Contributing Editor, The National Interest

15:10 – 15:40 COFFEE BREAK

15:40 – 16:40 FUTURE-PROOFING EUROPE: BOOSTING COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH

VENUE: GERLACH BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

FORMAT: PANEL DISCUSSION

In an era defined by rapid technological advancements and shifting geopolitical landscapes, the European Union faces critical challenges and at the same time unprecedented opportunities in enhancing productivity growth and maintaining global competitiveness. As Ursula von der Leyen noted in her speech on 18 July 2024, safeguarding and boosting the EU's competitiveness on the global stage is essential to ensuring long-term economic resilience and prosperity. What concrete steps can be taken to accelerate productivity growth, especially in key sectors where the EU lags behind global competitors? How effective has the EU Single Market been in promoting economic integration and competitiveness, and what improvements are necessary to maintain Europe's global economic standing? How can education and skills development contribute to productivity growth and equip workers with the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow, particularly in an AI-driven economy? How can AI drive economic growth and enhance productivity across various industries in the EU? What adjustments are needed in EU policies and regulations to support sustainable economic growth, maintain global competitiveness, and promote technological leadership?

Speakers:

MATHIAS CORMANN, Secretary-General, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

MARGRETHE VESTAGER, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for the Europe fit for Digital Age and Commissioner for Competition

JAKUB JAWOROWSKI, Minister of State Assets of Poland

KYRIACOS KAKOURIS, Vice-President, European Investment Bank

MARK HICKEN, Senior Vice-President & Managing Director, Mid-Sized Markets, Johnson & Johnson

Led by: **MAITHREYI SEETHARAMAN**, Founder, Facultas Media

16:40 – 17:00 BREAK**17:00 – 18:00 REFORM AND REBUILD: UKRAINE'S PATH TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND EU INTEGRATION**VENUE: GERLACH BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS
FORMAT: BREAK-OUT SESSION

As Ukraine stabilizes its economy with international macro-financial assistance, how can it align with the EU's emerging re-industrialization agenda? With the new European Commission and growing momentum for a "New Industry Deal," highlighted by recent reports from Enrico Letta (April 2024) and Mario Draghi (September 2024), the EU plans to significantly increase investment in industrial competitiveness. How can Ukraine benefit from the EU's push for re-industrialization and participate in this transformation? What strategies can ensure coordinated and effective support from international donors? How can Ukraine balance immediate economic recovery with long-term growth and modernization? What reforms are essential for Ukraine's EU integration, particularly in governance and the financial sector? How can private sector investments complement international aid in driving Ukraine's recovery and modernization?

Kick-off Speakers:

OLEKSANDR KORNIYENKO, First Deputy Chairman, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
DANUŠE NERUDOVÁ, Member of the Committee on Budgets, European Parliament
NATALIE JARESKO, Former Minister of Finance of Ukraine

Led by: **ALENA KUDZKO**, Vice-President for Policy and Programming, GLOBSEC**16:45 – 18:00 ENERGIZING TOMORROW: FUTURE OF GREEN ENERGY AND SMART GRIDS**VENUE: KRIVÁŇ BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS
FORMAT: PRESENTATION FOLLOWED BY A BREAK-OUT SESSION

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and environmental challenges, energy stands at the forefront as a critical enabler of economic growth and a major transformative force. Intermittent renewable energy sources—mainly solar and wind—are not only reducing carbon footprints but also unlocking new economic opportunities and enhancing energy security. Modernizing energy grids to accommodate these green energy sources and emphasizing the importance of smart grid technology in optimizing energy distribution is pivotal in driving sustainable development and growth. Does the utilization of renewables increase economic growth compared to using fossil fuels? What are the cost implications of modernizing energy grids to support renewable energy integration, and how can these costs be managed or mitigated? Who should bear the responsibility for financing the modernization of these grids? What is the potential of smart grid technology optimizing energy distribution and consumption, and what are its potential benefits and challenges? What strategies can be implemented to enhance the efficiency of existing grid infrastructures?

GLOBSEC Report on Energy Grids delivered by:

JÁN MYKHALCHYK HRADICKÝ, External Research Fellow, GLOBSEC

Kick-off speakers:

KAMIL ŠAŠKO, State Secretary for Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
CASIAN NIȚULESCU, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Energy of Romania
SÉBASTIEN TREYER, Executive Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations
LÍVIA VAŠÁKOVÁ, Director Corporate Development and Public Affairs, ZSE

Led by: **MARIA TADEO**, European Correspondent & Journalist**18:00 – 18:30 COFFEE BREAK****18:20 – 19:30 FISCAL IMPACT OF DISEASES**VENUE: JUNIOR SUITE 15, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS
FORMAT: WORKING ROUNDTABLE, UPON SEPARATE INVITATION ONLY

For over a decade, disease fiscal models have been used to assess the fiscal impact of healthcare investments. The CEE FISCAL Index addresses a critical gap between economic and clinical data, which limits comprehensive fiscal analysis of healthcare systems. Bridging this gap is essential for informed policymaking, resource allocation, and long-term economic stability. This session, drawing on insights from Slovakia, multiple myeloma cases, and the Index, highlights the value of smart healthcare investments through disease fiscal modeling. These models enable stakeholders to forecast the economic returns of healthcare interventions, aligning outcomes with productivity and public health improvements. The CEE and Baltic regions, with their transition economies and demographic challenges, are well-positioned to lead in healthcare innovation, offering insights into how smart fiscal strategies can drive economic growth and improve healthcare systems. The session will explore data harmonization, the value of innovation, investment strategies, and the potential of these regions in shaping sustainable healthcare models.

Presentation of CEE Fiscal Index delivered by:

PROF. RÓBERT BABELA, Associate Fellow, GLOBSEC

18:30 – 19:00 AI AND EUROPE'S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION: INNOVATION, DIGITALIZATION, AND GROWTHVENUE: LOBBY BAR, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS
FORMAT: FIRE-SIDE CHAT

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming everyday life, from how we work and communicate to how industries operate and grow. Join Olga Nowicka, EU Policy & Partnerships Lead at OpenAI, to explore the economic and societal implications of AI in Europe's digital transformation. What are the opportunities and challenges in integrating AI into daily life while ensuring privacy, security, and ethical use? How will AI shape the future of work, education, and public services across Europe?

OLGA NOWICKA, EU Policy & Partnerships Lead, Open AILed by: **ALENA KUDZKO**, Vice-President for Policy and Programming, GLOBSEC**19:15 – 20:00 NETWORKING****20:00 – 21:30 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT 2024 AWARD DINNER**VENUE: GRAND RESTAURANT, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS
UPON SEPARATE INVITATION ONLY**GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT 2024 TRADITIONAL DINNER**VENUE: KOLIBA PATRIA, ŠTRBSKÉ PLESO
UPON SEPARATE INVITATION ONLY**21:30 – 24:00 COCKTAIL**

VENUE: LOBBY, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

*Musical performance by Martin Valihora and band***Day 2: Saturday, 5 October****08:30 – 10:00 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES: TATRA SUMMIT LAKE WALK AND ADAM'S RUN***Start your day off with a fresh 5km run surrounded by beautiful nature of High Tatras***QUALI-TEA NETWORKING**

VENUE: LOBBY, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

*Join our networking session in the lobby where an assortment of teas will be served***10:00 – 11:00 CEE HER****AI POWER PLAY: EUROPE'S COMPETITIVE EDGE IN A GLOBAL TECH RACE**VENUE: GERLACH BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS
FORMAT: BREAK-OUT SESSION

As the world races ahead with artificial intelligence, a key enabler of productivity growth, Europe faces a crucial crossroad in redefining its economic competitiveness. Where does Europe stand in the global AI landscape compared to the United States and China? What unique achievements and strategies set these regions apart, and what can Europe learn from them? What kinds of AI regulations can balance innovation with ethical responsibility? With new European legislation and the G7 Code of Conduct on the scene, what regulatory frameworks will best protect society while fostering technological progress? How can Europe strengthen its competitive edge while ensuring a future that is both technologically advanced and ethically sound?

*Kick-off Speakers:***MARGRETHE VESTAGER**, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for the Europe fit for Digital Age and Commissioner for Competition**KATRINA MULLIGAN**, Head of National Security Policy and Partnerships, OpenAI**SABINE HERLITSCHKA**, CEO, Infineon Technologies AustriaLed by: **SALLY BUNDOCK**, News Presenter, BBC**10:00 – 11:15 PARTNERSHIPS FOR FUTURE: INVESTING IN CEE'S PROGRESS**VENUE: KRIVÁŇ BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS
FORMAT: BREAK OUT SESSION

As Europe seeks to enhance its strategic autonomy and competitiveness, public-private collaborations (PPCs) in infrastructure financing are becoming increasingly crucial, particularly in Central and Eastern European countries. Ursula von der Leyen's vision for a stronger Europe underscores the need for substantial investments in key sectors by leveraging both public and private capital. What role can the newly proposed EU structures, such as European Competitiveness Fund, play in advancing the PPCs? What strategies for fostering effective public-private collaborations can transform the CEE region and align with Europe's broader strategic objectives? How can PPCs drive infrastructure development in the CEE region, focusing on mobilizing private capital through

institutions like the European Investment Bank (EIB) to support sustainable growth? How can CEE countries structure PPCs to avoid their inclusion in public debt while still ensuring that essential infrastructure projects are funded and delivered effectively?

Presentation delivered by:
Vladimír Vaňo, Fellow, GLOBSEC

Kick off speakers:

Tomáš Taraba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
Kyriacos Kakouris, Vice-President, European Investment Bank
Thierry Déau, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Meridiam
Maciej Witucki, President, Polish Confederation Lewiatan
Gordon Bajnai, Partner and Chairman of the Global Advisory Board, Campbell Lutyens

Led by: **Vazil Hudák**, Member of the JP Morgan Advisory Council, EMEA

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

VENUE: LOBBY, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

11:30 – 12:30 DRIVING FORWARD: HOW WILL KEY INDUSTRIES POWER EUROPEAN ECONOMIES?

VENUE: GERLACH BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS
FORMAT: BREAK OUT SESSION

The automotive industry stands as a cornerstone of European economic prosperity, but it also serves as a driver of technological advancement in the region. As one of Europe's strategic industries, it plays a critical role in shaping the region's economic landscape, fostering innovation, and ensuring competitive advantage on the global stage. In the context of the European Green Deal, the sector is also central to Europe's ambitions for a sustainable and green economy. How can the EU's policies, environmental regulations, and trade agreements steer the European strategic industries' future trajectory? How do supply chain disruptions, shifting consumer preferences, and the transition to green energy influence the industries' performance? What will the shift to electric vehicles, autonomous driving and smart manufacturing do with the automotive sector's impact on regional economic growth? How can the automotive industry's transformation contribute to Europe's broader goals of sustainability, economic resilience, and leadership in strategic sectors?

Kick off speakers:

VLADIMÍR ŠIMOŇÁK, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
BEATA JAVORCIK, Chief Economist, EBRD
VLADIMÍR DLOUHÝ, President, Eurochambres
GLENN SCHMIDT, Vice-President for Government Relations, BMW
PAVEL CYRANI, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors, ČEZ

Led by: **JAMES KANTER**, Founder and Editor, EU Scream

11:45 – 13:00 BLUEPRINT FOR PROSPERITY: CENTRAL EUROPE'S STRATEGY FOR COMPETITIVE RESILIENCE

VENUE: KRIVÁŇ BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS
FORMAT: PRESENTATION FOLLOWED BY A BREAK-OUT SESSION

In the upcoming years, the competitive edge of Central European countries will face significant new pressures. To safeguard and enhance the region's competitiveness, it is vital for policymakers and businesses alike to foster a business environment that drives economic growth, attracts investment, and ensures long-term sustainability - benefiting both the region and the entire EU. How prepared are Central European countries to tackle the rapidly evolving demands of the labour market, aging populations, skill deficits, AI advancements, digitalization, geopolitical risks, and climate change? What key factors will shape the region's competitiveness in light of these challenges? How ready are the region's labour markets for these major shifts, can they attract, cultivate, and keep talent locally? What policies are needed at the national level and at the level of the EU to enhance international cooperation in this regard?

Presentation delivered by:

ŠTEFAN KIŠŠ, Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

Kick-off Speakers:

MAREK MORA, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Czech Republic
OLIVER RÖPKE, President, European Economic and Social Committee
KARLHEINZ KOPF, Secretary General, Austrian Economic Chambers

Led by: **JAN MACHÁČEK**, Advisor on Foreign Policy to the President of Czechia

12:30 – 14:00 LUNCH

VENUE: RESTAURANT, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

15:00 – 19:00 INFORMAL PROGRAMME

Join us for a delightful adventure starting with a scenic bus ride from Štrbské Pleso to Starý Smokovec, followed by an exciting funicular journey to Hrebienok. Enjoy a leisurely one-hour walk in the surroundings or simply relax at the Hrebienok Mountain Hotel, taking in the stunning views and informal atmosphere.

19:30 – 21:30 BUFFET DINNER

VENUE: GRAND RESTAURANT, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

Dinner accompanied by Slovak traditional music performance, Slovak traditional food served in buffet style, stand-by tables. Afterwards, drinks and wine being served in the Restaurant, keeping the informal atmosphere

21:00 - 22:30 CSERNUS WINE TASTING

VENUE: LOBBY, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

Karol Csernus, together with his son, Karol Jr., runs their family winery and vineyards located in the southern part of the Central Slovak wine region, above the village of Vinica, south of the beautiful volcanic mountain Stráž. Their wines are characterized by the taste and aroma of nature's unique gifts, enriched by the minerality derived from the soil. The family has been producing wine for many generations, preserving their long-standing tradition. They have lived in the village of Vinica for more than 400 years.

Day 3: Sunday, 6 October**9:00 – 10:15 R&D REVOLUTION: ELEVATING INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE REGION**

VENUE: GERLACH BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

FORMAT: BREAK-OUT SESSION

As the EU falls behind its major competitors in R&D, integrating data, knowledge, and innovation into the single market could significantly boost Europe's tech ecosystem and overall competitiveness. How can Europe develop its own technologies and industries to compete globally in AI, data processing, quantum computing, biotech, and robotics? Would increasing EU R&D funding from 3% to 4% of GDP make a significant impact? How can bank financing better support R&D initiatives and enhance Europe's global competitiveness? Given that schemes like Horizon don't seem to yield the desired effect, what additional strategies and policies could help drive Europe's leadership in global innovation? Focusing on the CEE region, particularly the countries along the Danube, these areas tend to be less innovation-driven and require more effort and support to reach the level of the EU-15. What are some tangible actions that can help build a unique value proposition for stakeholders in the Danube Tech Valley? How can raising awareness of successful start-ups and businesses contribute to the long-term success of this region? What role does innovation play in achieving the Danube Tech Valley's objectives, and how can R&D effectively drive this innovation?

*Kick-off Speakers:***TOMÁŠ DRUCKER**, Minister of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic**DAVID BRIDGES**, Vice-President for the Enterprise Innovation Institute, Georgia Institute of Technology**SABINE HERLITSCHKA**, CEO, Infineon Technologies Austria**JENNY HASU**, Manager, Relations, Microelectronics and Quantum, VTT**WILHELM MOLTERER**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, GLOBSEC*Led by:* **KATARÍNA CSEFALVAYOVÁ**, DTVI Executive Lead, GLOBSEC**9:00 – 10:15 CAPITAL CONNECTIONS: ENHANCING CEE FINANCING**

VENUE: KRIVÁŇ BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

FORMAT: BREAK-OUT SESSION

The fragmentation of European capital markets, especially in the CEE region, limits access to growth and seed capital. How can commercial banks address these challenges by improving financing options in times of high interest rates? What specific policies or incentives could encourage commercial banks to increase their financing in the region? How can commercial banks leverage technology to enhance efficiency and improve customer experience amidst economic volatility? How can collaboration between commercial banks and other financial institutions improve capital market integration in Europe?

*Kick-off Speakers:***JIRÍ VALENTA**, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Czech Republic**DAVOR ZORIČIĆ**, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance of Croatia**NATALIE JARESKO**, Former Minister of Finance of Ukraine**OLHA VASYLEVSKA-SMAHLIUK**, Member of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine**ANDREI RADULESCU**, Member of the Bretton Woods Committee and a Senior Researcher at the Institute for World Economy, Romanian Academy*Led by:* **SUSAN WALTON**, Senior Advisor, Overseas Development Institute**10:15 – 10:30 GOODBYE**

VENUE: GERLACH BALLROOM, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS

*Closing Remarks by:***Vazil Hudák**, Member of the JP Morgan Advisory Council, EMEA**10:30 – 11:30 BRUNCH**

VENUE: LOBBY, GRAND HOTEL KEMPINSKI HIGH TATRAS