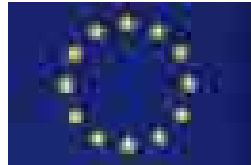




**SÜDOSTEUROPA-
GESELLSCHAFT**

In cooperation with



Europäische Kommission
Vertretung in Deutschland

International Conference

**„The Global Financial and Economic Crisis:
Challenges and Strategies
in Southeast Europe“**

November 2 and 3, 2009

Conference Venue:

European Commission, Representation in Germany, Berlin

Conference Committee:

Gernot Erler, MP, Deputy Head of the Social Democrat Faction in the German Federal Parliament / Former Minister of State / President of Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

Franz-Lothar Altmann, Member of the Board Southeast Europe Association, München

Hansjörg Brey, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association, München

Franz Kaps, Senior Partnership Advisor (retired), Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank, Member of the Board Southeast Europe Association, München

Conference Languages:

English / German

Background of the Conference

The global financial and economic crisis has hit Southeast Europe as it has affected most other countries in the world. All societies in Southeast Europe suffer from problems in the banking sector, from a serious economic backdrop, from increasing fiscal shortages and from social problems, all of which are one way or the other caused by the global crisis... Yet, the magnitude and quality of challenges, and thus the preconditions and possibilities for coping with the crisis, differ from country to country.

In an international expert conference, the German Southeast Europe Association will bring together experts from think tanks and the business sector, officials from international financial and from state institutions, and policy makers – from Southeast and Central as well as Western Europe - to discuss the challenges which the crisis poses, and the strategies how best to cope with it. The conference will try to draw a differentiated picture on how countries and their citizens, the business community and respective sectors are affected by the crisis, taking into account differing structural preconditions like diverse degrees of interdependence, of integration into global structures, of Euro-Atlantic integration, of migration patterns, etc. The conference will also dwell on the socio-economic consequences emanating from declining economic activities combined with returning guest workers and decreasing workers' remittances and a general shortage of public funds. The conference will aim to discuss sustainable ways and policy measures on how to mitigate the effects of the crisis and to eventually overcome it.

Program

Monday, November 2, 2009

18:00 hrs **Welcome / Opening**

Gernot **Erl**er, MP, Deputy Head of the Social Democrat Faction in the German Federal Parliament / Former Minister of State / President of Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

Marzenna **Guz-Vetter**, Political Section, European Commission, Representation in Germany, Berlin

18:30 hrs **How are the Countries of Southeast Europe Affected by the Global Economic and Financial Crisis?**

Chair: Gernot **Erl**er

- Different Starting Points and Conditions for Coping with the Crisis
- Macro-Economic Structures and Developments / Economic Performance Prior and During the Crisis
- Different Kinds and Degrees of Interdependence
- Impact of EU and Eurozone Membership and the “Closeness” or “Distance” to/from Future Membership

Michael **Landesmann**, Director of Research, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)

Franjo **Štiblar**, Professor, School of Law, University of Ljubljana

20:00 hrs Reception

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

9:30 hrs **Financial Sector and the Banking System**

Chair: Franz **Kaps**, Senior Partnership Advisor (retired), Europe and Central Asia Region, The World; Member of the Board of Southeast Europe Association, München

- The Role of Western Banks in Various Countries
- Country-Specific Problems of the Financial Sector
- Obstacles for the Provision of Capital , especially for SME
- Internal and External Indebtedness

Radovan **Jelasić**, President of the National Bank of Serbia, Belgrade

Marko **Voljć**, CEO, K&H Bank, Budapest

10:40 hrs coffee break

11:10 hrs The Impact of the Crisis on the „Real Economy”

Chair: Franz-Lothar **Altmann**, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association, München

- Deteriorating Economic Performance: Macro-Economic Indicators
- Sluggish Foreign Direct Investment
- The Export Economy

Krassen **Stanchev**, Executive Director, Institute for Market Economy, Sofia

12:00 hrs Economic Sectors

Chair: Helge **Tolksdorf**, Director, EU Enlargement, Southeast Europe and Turkey, German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Berlin

- Which Sectors are in Particular Affected? Case Studies and Examples

Ralf **Blomberg**, Director, RWE Hrvatska d.o.o. / President, German-Croatian Chamber of Commerce, Zagreb

Georg **Eltz**, Member of Directorate, Valamar grupa d.d., Zagreb

13:10 hrs lunch break

14:10 hrs Budget Deficits and their Socio-Economic Consequences

Chair: Carola **Kaps**, former Correspondent for Central and Southeast Europe of Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) and now free lance reporter, München

- Labour Market
- Social Nets and Benefits, Social Protection Systems
- Declining Workers' Remittances
- Remigration of Workforce
- „Soft Infrastructures“: The Education System, Hospitals, etc.

Liviu **Voinea**, Professor, Academy of Economic Studies / Member of the Board, Romanian Import-Export Bank (Eximbank S.A.), Bucharest

14:50 hrs	Economic Crisis and its Domestic Political Consequences
-----------	--

Chair: Carola Kaps

- Populism and Radicalization
- Election Results
- Effects on the Situation of Minorities
- Effects on Discourses Concerning Euro-Atlantic Integration and (Regional) Cooperation

Marc **Meinardus**, Director, Office Bulgaria, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Sofia

15:40 hrs coffee break

16:00 hrs	Panel Discussion: Dealing with the Crisis: Perspectives for the Greater Region of Southeast Europe
-----------	---

Chair: Gernot **Erlor** MP, Deputy Head of the Social Democrat Faction in the German Federal Parliament / Former Minister of State / President of Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

- Effects of the Crisis on the Enlargement Process of the European Union
- When and how will the Crisis in Southeast Europe be Overcome?
- Required Political Measures (Internal Reforms / External Stimuli) for Overcoming the Crisis
- The Relevance of the Visa Regulation`s Abolishment

Discussants:

Attila **Agh**, Institute of Political Science, Corvinus University Budapest

Tina **Babo**, Senior Economist and Country Manager, KfW Bankengruppe, Frankfurt a. M.

Jelica **Minić**, Deputy Secretary General, Head of the Expert Pool Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo

Erwan **Fouéré**, Ambassador, EU Special Representative for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia / Head of European Commission Delegation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje

18:00 hrs End of the Conference