

## Strategic Dialogue Western Balkans

Sofia, 17 May 2018

The Western Balkans are becoming increasingly important geopolitically in Europe. While there is growing momentum for greater integration, the region is still suffering from high unemployment, political fractures and growing influence from external actors. The status quo in the Western Balkan region is not sustainable. To ensure stability and economic growth in the region, it is now important to ensure concrete progress is made.

On the occasion of Bulgarian's presidency of the EU and the Western Balkan Summit, the World Economic Forum is co-hosting a strategic dialogue on the Western Balkans together with the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of EU.

The aim of this working session is to advance private public partnerships to advance investment in the region. Specific topics of discussion include: further strengthening growth and investment and developing inter regional trade, developing a future oriented digital ecosystem, as well as supporting next generation leadership.

### *Programme:*

15.00 – 16.00	Registration and welcome coffee
16.00 – 16.30	Welcome address <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister of Bulgaria</li><li>• Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; Vice-President of the European Commission</li></ul>
16.30 – 17.30	Special Remarks by Heads of State and Representatives of the Berlin Process
17.30 – 19.00	Roundtable <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthening growth, trade and investment</li><li>• Driving a future oriented digital ecosystem</li><li>• Supporting next generation leadership</li></ul>
19.00 – 20.00	Closing Reception

### *Participants:*

40-50 High level representatives from the public and private sector as well as select international organisations and experts.

### *Venue:*

Hall 10, National Palace of Culture, Sofia