



**POLAND – OECD HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE<sup>1</sup>**

# **THE WESTERN BALKANS IN GLOBAL MARKETS: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**Draft Agenda**



**4 July 2019**  
Hall 8A  
Poznań Expo  
Poznań, Poland

**POLAND-OECD HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE  
THE WESTERN BALKANS IN GLOBAL MARKETS:  
NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**HALL 8A**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

*After the General Opening in Hall 7, participants will proceed across the corridor to Hall 8A for the Poland-OECD High-level Conference.*

**10:00 – 10:20 INTRODUCTION**

**MODERATOR:**

**Mr Christian Danielsson**, Director-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:**

**Mr Jacek Czaputowicz**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Poland  
**Mr Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General, OECD

**10:20 – 10:40 PRESENTATION OF OECD PUBLICATION**

*Global South East Europe: Unleashing the Transformation Potential for Growth in the Western Balkans*

**MODERATOR:**

**Mr Christian Danielsson**, Director-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

**PRESENTERS:**

**Ms Marzena Kisielewska**, Head, Division for South East Europe, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD and the OECD team

*The composition of a country's exports can be a powerful predictor of economic development: the more similar the export basket of a developing economy is to that of developed ones, the higher its chances of rapid economic development are.*

*The OECD analysed the exports of the six Western Balkan economies in order to identify promising products and sectors that have potential to contribute towards higher economic sophistication and faster development.*

*The session will discuss the main results from the study and possible takeaways for both policymakers of the region and foreign investors.*

**10:40 – 11:30** **FIRST MINISTERIAL PANEL**  
**Reaping the economic dividends of trade and investment**

*Trade and investment are two powerful development levers. Opening domestic markets to foreign competition and liberalising trade is deemed as an essential ingredient for attracting foreign companies to invest in a country. In turn, export-oriented FDI plays often a crucial role in transitioning economies to boost exports, reduce the trade deficit, and upgrade the complexity of exported products. The discussion will focus on actions that foster strong trade and investment links can and accelerate the structural transformation of Western Balkan economies.*

**MODERATOR:**

**Mr Christian Danielsson**, Director-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

**PANELLISTS:**

- **Ms Anila Denaj**, Minister for Finance and Economy, Albania
- **Mr Endrit Shala**, Minister for Trade and Industry, Kosovo\*
- **Mr Kreshnik Bekteshi**, Minister of Economy, North Macedonia

**DISCUSSANTS:**

- **Ms Jadwiga Emilewicz**, Minister of Entrepreneurship and Technology, Poland
- **Mr Darko Horvat**, Minister of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Croatia
- **Ms Lilya Ivanova**, Deputy Minister of Economy, Bulgaria
- **Mr Florian Frauscher**, Director General of the Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs, Austria

**11:30– 12:20** **SECOND MINISTERIAL PANEL**  
**Promoting new approaches to unlock growth opportunities**

*The global competitiveness landscape is changing, holding great potential for economies but also creating challenges for policy makers. New sources for growth need to be explored and supported by a country's strategic orientation. By engaging in new economic activities and/or modernising existing ones, technological output can advance, domestic productivity increase and capital accumulate.*

*The session will discuss approaches to transform global challenges into successful structural reforms, so that industries and societies can yield the benefits for future generations.*

**MODERATOR:**

**Mr Tadeusz Kościński**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Finance, Poland

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence

**PANELLISTS:**

- **Mr Rasim Ljajić**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Serbia
- **Mr Mirko Šarović**, Minister for Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr. Radosav Babić**, Director General, Minister for Economy, Montenegro

**DISCUSSANTS:**

- **Mr Andrew Mitchell**, Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Europe, Department for International Trade, the United Kingdom
- **Mr Jernej Tovšak**, Director General, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Slovenia

**12:20– 12:30** **CLOSING**

**MODERATOR:**

**Mr Tadeusz Kościński**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Finance, Poland

**CLOSING REMARKS:**

**Mr Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General, OECD

DRAFT

**The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** currently has 36 members and engages in extensive relations with partners from over 100 economies around the world.

**The OECD South East Europe (SEE) regional programme** currently encompasses three main streams of work:

The OECD works with policy makers from the region to benchmark progress with broad-based structural reforms, as reflected in a publication titled [Competitiveness in South East Europe: A Policy Outlook](#). Its second edition has been released in 2018 and focuses on the performance of the six Western Balkan economies across seventeen policy dimensions key to competitiveness. The Outlook compares progress on the basis of a comprehensive matrix of qualitative and quantitative indices.

Another initiative of the SEE regional programme focuses on policy reforms aiming to facilitate the implementation of the Small Business Act for Europe over time. The OECD [Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise \(SME\) Policy Index](#), a periodic flagship publication, monitors convergence towards good practices, supports governments in setting targets for SME policy development and facilitates policy dialogue on future and current challenges.

The programme supports Western Balkan partners in the preparation of their Economic Reform Programmes which are part of the [EU Semester](#). The OECD aims to assist with relevant approaches and tools to facilitate the definition of adequate medium-term macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks along with specific policy reforms.

In addition to its strong regional focus, the programme also facilitates bilateral relations of economies from the region with the OECD, aiming to bring them closer to both OECD and European Union (EU) standards.

The strong co-operation effort taking place under the auspices of the programme is carried out thanks to voluntary funding, in great part contributed by the European Commission.

