

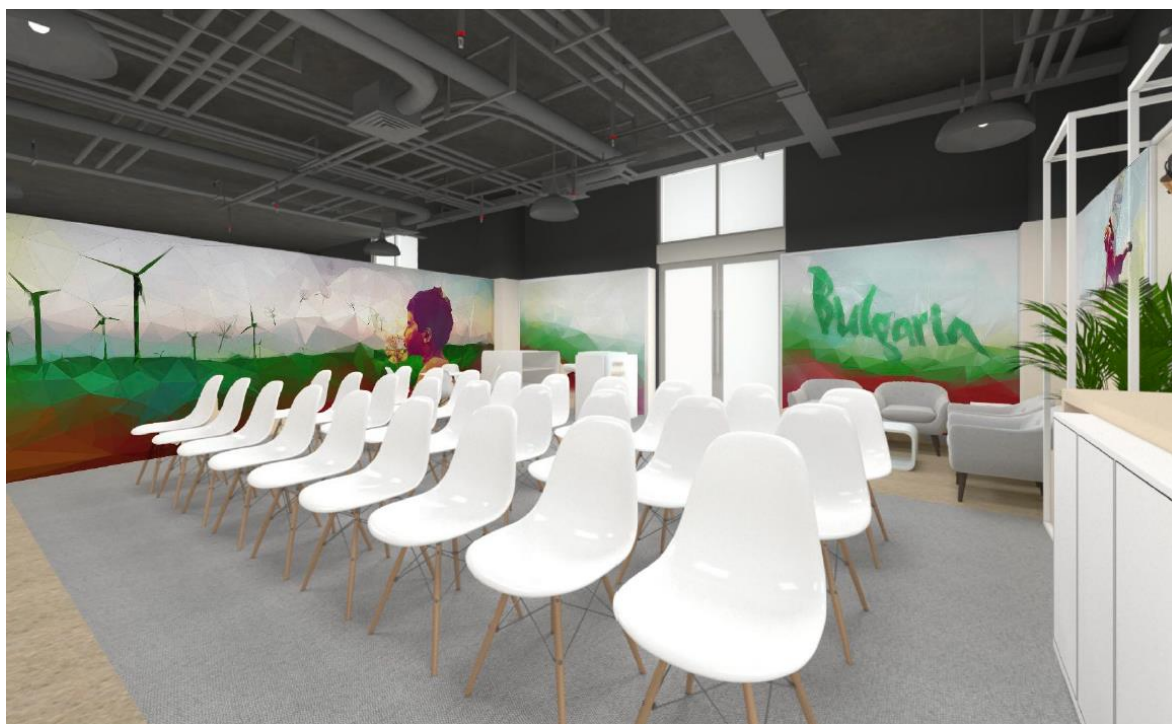
COP28, Dubai, UAE



COP28 UAE

Events program at the Bulgarian pavilion

1 – 10 December 2023



Overview of the Program

Date	Time	Topic
1 Dec.	17.00 – 18.30	Bulgaria's efforts towards systematic transformation following climate action pathways
2 Dec.	10.30 – 12.00	Climate-friendly scientific solutions - tech and innovation
3 Dec.	12.30 – 13.15	New Generation Early Warning Technologies in Action
	14.30 – 15.15	Healthily ever after: Building the future on innovation
4 Dec.	12.00 – 13.00	Upscaling Cutting Edge Technologies for Industrial Decarbonization in Central and Eastern Europe
	14.00 – 15.30	Financing the Transition: The CEE perspective
	16.00 – 17.00	Addressing Climate Risk: making societies and finance resilient to future crises
	17.30 – 18.00	Fire-side chat: Real-world solutions for ensuring climate resilience of critical infrastructure
5 Dec.	09.00 – 10.00	Unlocking Offshore Wind Energy Potential in the Three Seas
	12.00 – 13.30	Challenges and Opportunities of the Green Energy Transition
	14.30 – 15.15	Bulgarian Leadership in the Global RES Business
	16.30 – 17.15	Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe contributing to the ambition for tripling renewables by 2030 (Part 1)
6 Dec.	09.00 – 09.45	Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe contributing to the ambition for tripling renewables by 2030 (Part 2)
	11.00 – 11.45	Bulgarian Business Leadership towards heavy industry decarbonisation
	12.30 – 13.15	SMEs as leaders of ecosystem innovations
8 Dec.	13.00 – 14.00	Children, Youth and Climate action – enhancing the joint efforts to respect and promote the rights of children and young people
	15.30 – 16.15	Engaging approaches for climate education of youth
9 Dec.	10.00 – 10.45	Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea
	12.00 – 13.00	Green recovery of Ukraine
	17.00 – 18.00	Scientific research in the South Shetland Islands region, a key to unravelling climate change in West Antarctica
10 Dec.	10.30 – 11.15	Green transition from fossil fuels
	12.00 – 12.45	Industrial symbiosis: an economic and climate opportunity
	14.00 – 15.00	The Power of Partnerships: Shared Efforts for Net Zero Ambition

Bulgaria's efforts towards systematic transformation following climate action pathways

Date: 1 December 2023

Time: 17.00 – 18.30 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Format: Reception by invitations

The first-ever Bulgaria's Pavilion at COP28 is an illustration of Bulgaria's strong commitment to implementing appropriate measures against climate change and highlights the ambitions to achieve the climate targets covering all key economic sectors.

It is an opportunity to present Bulgaria's efforts towards systematic transformation following climate action pathways with a focus on scientific solutions integrating modelling and environmental monitoring based on satellite and surface data.

Host of the event:

The President of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Mr. Rumen Radev

Official guests:

Distinguished Head of Delegations to COP28 (tbc)

Members of the European Commission (tbc)

Climate-friendly scientific solutions - tech and innovation

Artificial Intelligence, Satellite Technology, Big Data,
Clean Energy, Carbon Neutral Industries

Date: 2 December 2023

Time: 10.30 – 12.00 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

The panel discussion is focused on different tech and innovation components such as tackling climate change with machine learning, space technology and satellite data, gyrocopters – emissions – saving alternatives, and development of a carbon-neutral Industrial zone.

Speakers:

- Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning – **Mr. Borislav Petrov**, CEO, Institute for Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence and Technology (INSAIT)
- Space Technology and Satellite Data – **Mr. Raycho Raychev**, CEO, EnduroSat
- Gyrocopters – emissions – saving alternatives – **Ms. Miglena Nikolova**, Managing Director, Niki Rotor Aviation
- Environmental monitoring and modelling – **Prof. Miroslav Tsvetkov**, Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy
- Carbon-neutral Industry – **Mr. Martin Panchev**, BIM Manager, Trakia Economic Zone
- Environmental-friendly practices and innovations – **Ms. Plamena Nenkova** – Deputy Executive Director, GBS BG

Moderator:

Mr. Iliya Lingorski, Member of the BNB Governing Council and Assistant Professor, Economics for Climate Change and Management, Sofia University

Host of the event:

The Administration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Mr. Rumen Radev

New Generation Early Warning Technologies in Action

Delivering safety, better health and wellbeing

Date: 3 December 2023

Time: 12.30 – 13.15 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

The event is focused on a range of critical topics that are shaping the future of green technologies and sustainability, along with protecting and improving human health and wellbeing through joint multi sectoral actions, and is set to be an insightful platform for knowledge exchange and enhancement of multilateral collaboration within the following areas:

- On-demand space data for disaster and emergency management
- Climate change actions through digital transformation of urban areas in smart cities with modern secure IoT, ICT and green technologies
- Next Generation emergency call systems; more data (text, video, location or additional data) to help save lives and react faster to crises
- Use of quantum technologies for ultra secure connectivity to facilitate intended use of modern digital transformation and disaster management

Speakers:

- **Mr. Georgi Angelov**, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Growth
- **Dr. Angel Kanchev**, Chief State Health Inspector
- **Mr. Raycho Raychev**, CEO of EnduroSat, Bulgaria
- **Prof. Kliment Naydenov**, Dean of the Geology and Geography Faculty at Sofia university, Bulgaria
- **Mr. Georgi Georgiev**, CEO of Enterprise Communications Group, Bulgaria
- **Mr. Svetoslav Mollov**, Technology Transfer at Centre of Competence QUASAR, Bulgaria

Moderator:

Capt. (Navy) Prof. Miroslav Tsvetkov, Naval Academy Nikola Vaptsarov, Bulgaria

Host of the event:

Ministry of Innovation and growth

Healthily ever after: building the future on innovation

Date: 3 December 2023

Time: 14.30 – 15.15 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

The event will address the response of healthcare and social protection systems to climate change challenges, and the role of innovation in making them more responsive, adaptive and resilient. The discussion will also cover the effort for building a low carbon and climate resilient digital health diagnostic system and the innovative approaches towards adaptation targeting most vulnerable in our societies.

(Joining the Declaration on Climate & Health will be addressed)

Speakers:

- **Address by Milena Stoycheva** – Minister of Innovation and Growth
- **Address by Ivanka Shalapatova** – Minister of Labor and Social policy
- **Keynote by Eleni Myrivili**, Global Chief Heat Officer, UN Habitat
- **Mr. Georgi Kadrev**, Kelvin Health
- **Mr. Ivaylo Petrov**, Shemha Health
- **Prof. Vladislav Popov**, Agricultural University of Plovdiv
- **Mr. Georgi Nachev**, Digi Burn Health
- **Mr. Denis Ivanov**, Vodoraslo
- **Mr. Konstantin Yordanov**, Agron

Moderator:

Dr. Alexander Simidchiev, Deputy Head of the Health Parliamentary Committee

Host of the event:

Ministry of Innovation and growth

Upscaling Cutting Edge Technologies for Industrial Decarbonization in Central and Eastern Europe

Date: 4 December 2023

Time: 12.00 – 13.00 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

The policy roundtable aims to outline a regional roadmap for deploying low-carbon technologies such as advanced offshore wind energy systems, carbon capture, storage and utilization, hydrogen and synthetic fuels development, and various energy storage systems.

Speakers:

- **Milena Stoytcheva**, Minister of Innovation and Growth, Republic of Bulgaria
- **Dr. Mariya Trifonova**, Research Fellow, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy
- **Melanie Kenderdine**, Principal, Energy Futures Initiative
- **Jan Theulen**, Group Lead CCUS, Heidelberg Materials Group (tbc)
- **Boyana Achovski**, Secretary General, Gas Infrastructure Europe

Moderator:

Martin Vladimirov, Director, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy

Host of the event:

Ministry of Innovation and growth

Financing the Transition: The CEE perspective

Date: 4 December 2023

Time: 14.00 – 15.30 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

This event aims to bridge the gap between the smallest and most innovative businesses and financing institutions, policymakers, visionaries from Europe and globally.

The purpose of the event is threefold:

- Explore and discuss key SMEs' needs and challenges to scale up and stay competitive
- Share key trends, financing mechanisms and instruments for financing the transition of countries and companies in the region
- Discuss exposure and vulnerabilities to climate change alongside viable policies, practices and trends.

Speakers:

Empowering CEE SMEs in their climate action: challenges and needs

- Transport: Cargo drones
- Circular economy: How biotech innovation unlocks the decarbonisation of agriculture
- Construction: Sustainable and movable housing
- Zero Waste: Biodegradable packaging
- Digital solutions: Climate reporting

(Dronamics, Nasekomo, Nomad Cabins, Teda Pack, Plan A)

Enablers' role: financial instruments & tools to manage the transition

- Available funds in support of the transition
- Private investment: tools and instruments

(DG "European Funds for Competitiveness"; Bulgarian Development Bank Chair; Fund of Funds; Postscriptum Ventures; Telelink Investments; Bulgarian Stock Exchange; Bankers Without Boundaries; Webit Foundation; SAP)

Transition finance: policy trends and instruments

- LSE, Grantham Institute on Climate Change: *Brendan Curran, Senior Policy Fellow, Sustainable Finance*
- Cambridge Institute for Sustainable Leadership: *Nina Seega, Director for Sustainable Finance*

- EBRD
- EPG, Energy Policy Group, Romania & UNECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, *Andrei Covatariu*

Moderator:

Ms. Tsvetelina Kuzmanova, Senior Policy Advisor, Sustainable Finance, E3G

Host of the event:

Ministry of Innovation and growth

Addressing Climate Risk: making societies and finance resilient to future crises

Date: 4 December 2023

Time: 16.00 – 17.00 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

Climate risk is becoming more pronounced around the world with extreme events and natural catastrophes such as droughts, heat waves, floods, being more frequent. Europe is among the fastest warming continents in the world, while Eastern and Southern Europe are among the most vulnerable regions on the continent. Countries in the region face heightened exposure to the risk of heat and water stress compared to other EU countries. At the same time, the CEE region is the least insured. The European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) ranks Bulgaria, Romania and Greece with the highest risk exposure in terms of protection gap between vulnerability and insurance coverage.

Addressing climate risk from both physical and financial perspectives in Central & Eastern Europe will be critical for the region, but also for the needed reforms within the global financial architecture. The event will focus on sharing knowledge, experience and discussing the necessary policies and practices in the region, within Europe and globally. It will be a good opportunity to discuss exposure and vulnerabilities to climate change alongside viable policies and practices.

Speakers:

- **Kristalina Georgieva**, IMF Managing Director
- **Ernest J Moniz**, President and CEO, Energy Futures Initiative, US Secretary of Energy (2013 – 2017)
- **Mr Michael Strauss**, General Counsel, EBRD
- **Mathilde Mesnard**, Deputy Director, Environmental Directorate, OECD
- EIB (TBC)

Moderator:

Ms Milena Stoycheva, Minister of the Innovation and Growth, Bulgaria

Host of the event:

Ministry of Innovation and Growth

Fire-side chat: Real-world solutions for ensuring climate resilience of critical infrastructure

Date: 4 December 2023

Time: 17.30 – 18.00 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

The conversational session will explore the role of energy storage as a key enabler of decarbonization paths for hard to abate industries.

We will talk about real-life examples of:

- Transformative solutions to make critical infrastructure more resilient to climate change;
- The challenges of climate adaptation and climate mitigation strategies for hard-to-abate industries; and
- How regional cooperation can lead to innovative local solutions with a global footprint.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Mariyana Yaneva**, Association for Production, Storage and Trading of Electricity
- **Mr. Alexander Rangelov**, IPS

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Unlocking Offshore Wind Energy Potential in the Three Seas

Paths to Faster Decarbonisation

Date: 5 December 2023

Time: 09.00 – 10.00 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

The roundtable discussion will serve as a pivotal platform for igniting dialogue among diverse stakeholders, including influential national policy-makers, business leaders, and esteemed independent experts. The central theme of this discourse is the dynamic synergy between offshore wind energy and industrial decarbonization in the Three Seas region. The event will facilitate the exchange of critical insights, strategies and experiences, with a primary objective of expediting tangible progress in industrial decarbonization through offshore wind energy.

Speakers:

- **Opening Martin Vladimirov**, Director, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy
- **Keynotes:** Global paths to industrial decarbonization and energy security **Giles Dickson**, CEO, Wind Europe (tbc) and **Melanie Kenderdine**, Principal, Energy Futures Initiative Giles Dickson, CEO of Wind Europe
- **Nikolay Nikolov**, Deputy Minister of Energy of Bulgaria
- **Alexandra Sdoukou**, Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy of Greece
- **Alexandra Bocse**, State Adviser on Climate and Sustainability at Presidential Administration of Romania (tbc)
- **Angelin Tsatchev**, CEO, Electricity System Operator of Bulgaria

Moderator:

Dr. Mariya Trifonova, Research Fellow, Energy and Climate Program, Center for the Study of Democracy

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Challenges and Opportunities of the Green Energy Transition

The Bulgarian path for decarbonisation

Date: 5 December 2023

Time: 12.00 – 13.30 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

The event will focus on Bulgaria's efforts to achieve the long-term goal of climate neutrality by 2050. Achieving a decarbonised, sustainable and resilient energy system requires transformation in all sectors and at all levels of government and in the socio-economic sphere.

Speakers:

- Keynote by **Nikolay Nikolov**, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Veselina Kanatova-Buchkova**, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Bulgarian Energy Holding (BEH). BEH is the largest state-owned company in terms of total assets in the country and holds a leading position in the electricity and gas market in Bulgaria and, through electricity exports, in the Balkans. (TBC)
- **Martin Georgiev**, Executive Director of National Electricity Company EAD - the company has a central role to play in the electric power system of Bulgaria and is the leading producer of green electricity in Bulgaria.
- **Dimitar Zarchev**, Director of the National Dispatch Center, Electricity System Operator (ESO) – ESO is the independent transmission system operator of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Moderator:

Kostadin Sirleshtov, Managing Partner at CMS Sofia and South-East Europe Head of Energy & Climate Change

Host of the event:

Ministry of Energy

Bulgarian Leadership in the global RES business

Date: 5 December 2023

Time: 14.30 – 15.15 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

Bulgarian renewables development industry works across the globe. Dozens of companies design and build medium and large RES project in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. The panel will discuss the globalisation of the renewables sector through the lens of a group of leading Bulgarian companies."

Speakers:

- **Mr. Dimitar Enchev**, Postscriptum Ventures
- **Mr. Nikola Gazdov**, Chairman, Association for production, storage and trading of electricity
- **Mr. Stoyan Turlakov**, Member of the Board of Directors, Solarpro Holding
- **Mr. Alexander Rangelov**, International Power Supply

Moderator:

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe contributing to the ambition for tripling renewables by 2030 (Part 1)

Date: 5 December 2023

Time: 16.30 – 17.15 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

What can take the region beyond the current plans for connectivity, digitalization, industrial and market development?

- Exploring the untapped potential of further cross-border cooperation on infrastructure and the huge potential for innovation by the clean energy actors from the region;
- Outlook to boosting the renewable energy initiatives under the 3 Seas Initiative (3SI)
- Value chains and manufacturing

Speakers:

George Kremlis - Honorary Director of the European Commission and Representative of the EPLO in Bulgaria

Alexandra-Maria Bocse - State Advisor Climate And Sustainability to The President Of Romania

Mariyana Yaneva - Deputy Chair, Association for Production, Storage and Trading of Electricity APSTE)

Regional and Institutional interventions (TBC)

Moderator:

Genady Kondarev, Senior Associate for CEE at E3G

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe contributing to the ambition for tripling renewables by 2030 (Part 2)

Morning coffee with main takeaways and outlines from the 5th December meeting and daily agenda

Date: 6 December 2023

Time: 09.00 – 09.45 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

Summarizing the roles of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Southeast Europe (SEE) and the region's prospects for advancing the use of renewable energy sources (RES), based on discussions during COP28. Highlighting areas and projects that require additional effort and collaboration among regional countries. Proposing an agenda for ambitious decarbonization to guide the region's efforts in connection with the upcoming COP29, scheduled to take place in Eastern Europe or Bonn.

Speakers:

George Kremlis - Honorary Director of the European Commission and Representative of the EPLO in Bulgaria

Alexandra-Maria Bocse - State Advisor Climate And Sustainability to The President Of Romania

Mariyana Yaneva - Deputy Chair, Association for Production, Storage and Trading of Electricity APSTE)

Regional and Institutional interventions (TBC)

Moderator:

Genady Kondarev, Senior Associate for CEE at E3G

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Bulgarian Business Leadership towards heavy industry decarbonisation

Date: 6 December 2023

Time: 11.00 – 11.45 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

The electrification of the planet is already having a ripple effect on the metals and mining sector. These two sectors need to meet both the increasing demand for raw materials by diversifying their supply chains and ensure the ways these materials are extracted and processed are sustainable and affordable. However, the path to net-zero requires a deep transformation, bringing new challenges that are likely to reshape these industries. The session aims to showcase the Bulgarian industry leaders' achievements and experience.

Speakers:

- Mr. **Martin Katinov**, Aurubis Bulgaria
- Mr. **Rumen Tsonev**, Holding KCM 2000
- Mr. **Ivan Dobrev**, Holding KCM 2000

Moderator:

Marina Stefanova Vice Dean "Sustainability, Empowerment and Engagement"
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

SMEs as leaders of ecosystem innovations

Date: 6 December 2023

Time: 12.30 – 13.15 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

In the face of drastic global climate change, the transition to a green economy is becoming increasingly important and it is understood as an opportunity to redesign and redefine business models, products and services, market approaches, forms of consumption, and production. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the center of initiatives where innovation can be initiated and where new ventures begin. The session aims to present how Bulgarian SMEs adhere to green innovation activities in logistics, circular modelling, and nature-based solutions.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Hristo Nikolov**, Carbonsafe Ltd.
- **Ms. Gergana Krusteva-Georgieva**, Cupffee
- **Mr. Hristo Popov**, Theoremus
- **Mr. Emil Botusharov**, ITA Group Bulgaria

Moderator:

Marina Stefanova Vice Dean "Sustainability, Empowerment and Engagement"
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Children, Youth and Climate action – enhancing the joint efforts to respect and promote the rights of children and young people

Date: 8 December 2023

Time: 13.00 – 14.00 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

To recognize the role of champion governments and signatories of the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action in promoting the fulfillment of children's inalienable right to a healthy environment, and to take steps to enshrine these rights in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in EU Member States' national climate adaptation and mitigation measures, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and long-term greenhouse gas emissions development strategies.

UNICEF will moderate a discussion among the EU and ECA countries on the UNICEF Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action on commitments and priorities at national and regional level.

Speakers:

- **Julian Popov**, Minister of Environment and Water, Bulgaria
- **Teresa Ribera Rodriguez**, Minister of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain
- **Ann Skelton**, Chair of UN Committee of the Rights of the Child
- **Zakia Khattabi**, Minister for Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal, Belgium
- Special guests: Bulgarian Youth Delegates to the UN

Moderator:

Kitty van der Heijden, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Engaging approaches for climate education of youth

Date: 8 December 2023

Time: 15.30 – 16.15 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

Climate education, science and technologies offer diverse opportunities for exciting explorations and collaboration. The variety of formal education programmes, science activities, storytelling and games bring climate change closer to people, provoke their imagination and challenge their engagement. The panel will discuss the international and multi-age tools like 3D mapping exhibitions, synthesis and visualization of open science data, designing climate fresks, and engaging students through electronics, mechatronics, physics, marketing, design, and electric karting.

The panel will start with the premiere of the first immersive sustainability-related data exhibition which video teaser you may watch [here](#)

Speakers:

- **Assoc. Prof. Marina Stefanova** Vice Dean “Sustainability, Empowerment and Engagement” Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University
- **Teodosiy Teodosiev**, Kinetik Automotive Ltd
- **Pierre Benreguig**, Climate Fresk facilitator

Moderator:

TBC

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea

Date: 9 December 2023

Time: 10.00 – 10.45 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

Owing to natural factors, the diversity of species of Black Sea fauna is approximately three times lower when compared with that of the Mediterranean. Specific features of the Black Sea make it very vulnerable to disturbances of its environment and ecosystems. Eutrophication, pollution, and irresponsible fishing resulted in an overall decline of: biological resources, the diversity of species and landscapes, and of the aesthetic and recreational values of the Black Sea, thereby bringing its ecosystems to the edge of collapse.

National efforts and regional - international cooperation in the framework of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution expressed in the concerted actions of the Strategic Action Plan for Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea brought the first signs of recovery to the Black Sea.

Speakers:

- **Ivelina Vasileva**, EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters
- **Irina Makarenko**, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Black Sea Commission's Permanent Secretariat.
- **Zaritsa Dinkova**, Minister of Tourism, Bulgaria
- **Miroslav Tsvetkov**, Bulgarian Naval Academy

Moderator:

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Green recovery of Ukraine

Date: 9 December 2023

Time: 13.00 – 14.00 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

In the context of a green recovery, it's imperative to focus on rebuilding Ukraine in an environmentally sustainable way. This involves establishing renewable energy infrastructure, promoting energy efficiency, and incorporating eco-friendly practices into reconstruction efforts. A green recovery not only helps mitigate the environmental impact of the conflict but also positions Ukraine to better address the challenges of climate change. Furthermore, international cooperation and support are essential for ensuring a successful green recovery. Collaborative efforts can bring together expertise, technology, and financial resources to help Ukraine build a resilient and sustainable future amidst the ongoing geopolitical challenges and the broader context of climate change. As co-chair of Working Group No. 8 "Environmental Security" of President Zelensky's "Peace Formula" Bulgaria, along with Finland and Germany have the responsibility and opportunity to pave the way for investments and policies that promote environmental protection, renewable energy, sustainable practices, and the creation of green jobs.

Speakers:

- Ruslan Strilets, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ukraine
- Kai Mykkänen, Minister of Climate and the Environment, Finland (tbc)
- Mr. Bojan Kumer, Minister of the Environment, Climate and Energy of Slovenia
- Acad. Julian Revalsky, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Moderator:

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Scientific research in the South Shetland Islands region, a key to unravelling climate change in West Antarctica

Date: 9 December 2023

Time: 17.00 – 18.00 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

Due to the current trajectory of human-derived emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, the atmosphere and ocean will continue to warm, the ocean will continue to acidify, atmospheric and ocean circulation patterns will be altered, the cryosphere will continue to lose ice, the sea levels will rise and biodiversity decline. Climate change impacts on Arctic communities, ecosystems, and species, especially when associated with extreme events, are accelerating. The session aims to discuss the newest scientific observations confirmed by livestream from the Bulgarian Antarctic base.

Speakers:

- **Julian Popov**, Minister of Environment and Water
- **Prof. Hristo Pimpirev**, Bulgarian Antarctic Institute
- **Mr. Dragomir Mateev**, Bulgarian Antarctic Institute
- **Dr. Antonio Quesada**
- **Goncalo Vieira**, associate professor
- Live connection with the Bulgarian ship sailing to Antarctica.

Moderator:

Marina Stefanova Vice Dean "Sustainability, Empowerment and Engagement"
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Green Transition from fossil fuels

How to turn coal regions into competitive power houses of the low carbon industries

Date: 10 December 2023

Time: 10.30 – 11.15 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

In today's time of great transitions, we need a mind and governance shift that seizes opportunities and uses the assets of coal regions to drive Europe's net zero carbon strategy.

Turning lignite mining regions into solar and wind generation centres is only part of the potential these areas have. Their future could be that of zero-carbon industry hubs, thus building the European industry transition "super-labs". To drive this process in the right direction, we should replace the burden and compensation paradigm with one defined by competitiveness and innovation. This way, coal regions will not only reduce their transition bill, but will become the main drivers and beneficiaries of the transition, contributing to Europe's global industrial competitiveness, and strengthening European energy and political security.

We'll engage in a talk about these opportunities with the Bulgarian Minister of Environment Julian Popov, big power and industrial producers from Bulgaria, and the European Digital Innovation Hub ZAGORE!

Speakers:

- Olivier Marquette, Applied Energy Services (AES)
- Contour Global
- Rossen Papazov, Holcim Bulgaria
- Romyana Grozeva, Regional Economic Development Agency of Stara Zagora, European Digital Innovation Hub ZAGORE

Moderator:

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

Industrial symbiosis: an economic and climate opportunity

CCUS examples from Bulgaria

Date: 10 December 2023

Time: 12.00 – 12.45 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

How could forming industrial clusters help create CO₂ and other waste offtake opportunities for energy-intensive sectors. Some great examples from the Bulgarian industry related to carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and creating valuable new products.

Speakers:

- **Konstantin Bozhinov**, ANRAV Project Manager, Heidelberg Materials Group
- **Igor Rombaut**, Agropolyhim
- **Todor Nikolov**, Solvay Bulgaria

Moderator:

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water

The Power of Partnerships: Shared Efforts for Net Zero Ambition

Date: 10 December 2023

Time: 14.00 – 15.00 h

Location: Bulgarian Pavilion at COP28

Annotation

The high ambition for climate neutrality in 2050 requires concerted efforts by all players in the society, at all governance levels. Bulgaria's government has just joined the US Net Zero Government Initiative (NZGI), in view of leading by example towards this goal. On local level, the frontrunners of building multilevel and wide partnerships are two Bulgarian cities that committed to achieve climate neutrality in 2030, which is 20 years before the national target.

The panel will discuss how the government and key national institutions engage with the front running public authorities and other stakeholders to build multi-level governance and strong partnerships across the value chain towards economy-wide decarbonisation and climate neutrality.

Speakers:

- **Vasil Terziev**, Mayor of Sofia
- **Tanya Hristova**, Mayor of Gabrovo
- **Andrew Mayoock**, US Federal Chief Sustainability Officer (TBC)
- Minister, Representative of a NZGI Country (TBC)

Moderator:

Julian Popov, Minister of Environment and Water

Host of the event:

Ministry of Environment and Water