



Venue:	Grand Hotel Millennium Sofia, bul. "Vitosha" 89B, Sofia
7th November 2022 (Monday)	
14:00-15:15	Registration & Welcome coffee
15:15-16:00	ECONOMIC FORUM OPENING
	Mr. Nikolay Milkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Roberto Antonione, CEI Secretary General Mr. Alexandar Pulev, Minister of Innovation and Growth (tbc) Mr. Boyko Takov, Executive Director, BSMEPA Deputy Secretary General of CEI Participation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from CEI member states (tbc)
	<i>Moderator: Mr. Sergio Arzeni, President of INSME /The International Network for SMEs/</i>
16:00-16:45	First panel
	TALENT AS A SOURCE OF COMPETITIVE SMES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and retaining people to serve higher-value industries. • Returning native talent from more developed economies. • Improving SME employees' ability and abilities. Keynote speakers: H.E. Ambassador Lazăr COMĂNESCU, Secretary General, Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS) Mr. Svetlin Nakov, Software University Mr. Jan Bormans, CEO of European Startup Network (ESN) Arch. Lyubomir Stanislavov, Chief Executive Officer of Automotive Cluster Bulgaria Mrs. Kremena Dervenкова, Executive director of The Association of the Bulgarian Leaders and Entrepreneurs (ABLE) Prof. Martin Vachev, Institute for Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence and Technology (INSAIT) (tbc)
<i>Moderator: Mr. Sergio Arzeni, President of INSME /The International Network for SMEs/</i>	
16:45-17:00	Coffee break

	<p style="text-align: center;">Second panel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STRATEGIC CAPITAL ACCESS—FUTURE BUILDING BLOCKS</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent geopolitical developments: what next for SMEs? • Traditional investment in non-traditional development. • Attracting strategic investors with better-added value—what has been done and what has to be done <p>Keynote speakers:</p> <p>Mr. Nicolas Brien, <i>Chairman of European Startup Network (ESN)</i> Mr. Miroslav Stoyanov, <i>SME F&D Principal Manger, EBRD</i> Mr. Robert Blažinović, <i>Acting Director for Industry, Entrepreneurship and Crafts at Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Croatia</i> Mr. Marin Ghenciu, <i>Deputy Director, Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development</i> Mr. Vassil Terziev, <i>Managing Partner at Eleven Ventures (tbc)</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Momchil Vassilev, Managing Director of Endeavor Bulgaria</i></p>
17:45-18:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Third panel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE FUTURE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES THROUGH THE LENS OF ANYTHING AS A SERVICE</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitalization might be a cost-effective, qualitative transition that is also secure for SMEs. • Sharing economy: who benefits from it? • Creating habitats for the growth of creative start-ups. <p>Keynote speakers:</p> <p>Mrs. Irena Bednarich, <i>Vice President, International Government Relations (EMEA and APJ) (tbc)</i> Mr. Veselin Vačkov, <i>Managing Editor at LIDOVÉ NOVINY, Czech Republic</i> Mr. Sergej Zafiroski, <i>Managing Partner, Insider ID & Simulacrum</i> Mr. Lukasz Grabowsky, <i>Deputy Director, Center for Exports, Polish Investment and Trade Agency</i> Prof. Teodor Sedlarski (tbc)</p> <hr/> <p><i>Moderator: tbc</i></p>