

# High-Level Conference on South East Europe

26 June 2024 | Paris



**MODERATOR**

**Prof. George Pagoulatos**

Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OECD, Chair of the Friends of South East Europe



**KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**Mr. Mathias Cormann**

Secretary-General, OECD



**Mr. Péter Szijjártó**

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade



**Mr. Zdenko Lucić**

State Secretary for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs



**Mr. Mathieu Bousquet**

Director, European Commission Directorate General for the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)



**Ms. Majlinda Bregu**

Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council



**Mr. Carlo Monticelli**

Governor, the Council of Europe Development Bank

**DRIVING COMPETITIVENESS, ACHIEVING CONVERGENCE**  
**OPENING SESSION**

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**MODERATOR**  
**Amb. Gerhard Jandl**  
Permanent Representative  
to the OECD



**Mr. Nik Gjeloshaj**  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Economic Development



**Ms. Sandra Dokić**  
State Secretary, Ministry of  
Environmental Protection



**Mr. Luca Niculescu**  
Secretary of State in the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



**Mr. René Troccaz**  
Special Envoy for the Western  
Balkans, Ministry of Europe and  
Foreign Affairs



**Mr. George Christopoulos**  
Secretary General of the  
Finance and Economy Ministry



**Dr. Slobodan Šešum**  
Director-General, Directorate for  
Economic and Public Diplomacy,  
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs



**Mr. Christoph Denk**  
Managing Director for Policy Strategy and  
Delivery, European Bank for  
Reconstruction and Development



**Ms. Maja Handjiska-  
Trendafilova**  
Director, Regional School of Public  
Administration

**PATHWAYS FOR SMART CONVERGENCE TO BOOST COMPETITIVENESS**  
**FIRST MINISTERIAL PANEL**

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**MODERATOR**

**H.E. Ms. Christina Kokkinakis**  
Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative to the OECD, UNESCO  
and to the Principalities  
of Andorra and Monaco



**Ms. Rozeta Hajdari**  
Minister of Industry,  
Entrepreneurship and Trade



**Mr. Blendi Gonxhja**  
Minister of Economy, Culture  
and Innovation



**Mr. Manuel Sarrazin**  
Special Representative  
for the Western Balkans



**Mr. Jakub Wiśniewski**  
Deputy Minister of  
Foreign Affairs



**Ms. Colleen Hyland**  
Acting Deputy  
Assistant Secretary



**Mr. Matteo Rivellini**  
Head of Division  
Western Balkans and Türkiye,  
European Investment Bank



**Dr. Pranvera Kastrati**  
Head of Programme Department,  
Regional Cooperation Council



**Mr. Matej Zakonjšek**  
Director, Transport Community  
Permanent Secretariat

**SUSTAINABILITY AS A DRIVER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
**SECOND MINISTERIAL PANEL**

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**Ms. Christina  
Kokkinakis**

Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative to the OECD,  
UNESCO and to the Principalities  
of Andorra and Monaco



**Prof. George  
Pagoulatos**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative to the OECD,  
Chair of the Friends  
of South East Europe



**Mr. Ulrik Vestergaard  
Knudsen**

Deputy Secretary General,  
OECD

## CLOSING REMARKS