

Report of the Secretary General of Vienna Economic Forum
Amb. Dr. Elena Kirtcheva

for the activities of VEF in the year 2010
and the planning for the year 2011

Assembly of the Members of Vienna Economic Forum
on Tuesday 22 March 2011, at 4 p.m.
NOVOMATIC Forum

Dear Mr. President,
Dear Members of Vienna Economic Forum!
Dear representatives of our partner organisations!

I am glad to welcome you today to the Annual Assembly of Vienna Economic Forum. Especially I want to thank Dr. Franz Wohlfahrt, CEO of Novomatic AG, and member of the board of Vienna Economic Forum for his hospitality and for welcoming us in this year in the premises of Novomatic Forum.

Looking back on the year 2010 we can look back on more interesting and successful meetings in Vienna and abroad. Vienna Economic Forum has been THE Plattform which we offer our members and all representatives from the countries of the region of Vienna Economic Forum.

I. Administrative:

The Team of Vienna Economic Forum works actively for our members. Finances are administered by **Mag. Christian Pultar**, whom I want to thank.

I am proud to announce that the Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria as Authority according to § 1 of the Federal Law on the Grant of Privileges to non-governmental international organizations, BGBl. Nr. 174/1992, BMeiA-N9.8.19.12/0036-1.2/2010 has decided that Vienna Economic Forum has received the status **INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION** by the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs, as a recognition for our years of activities in the region above all of South-Eastern Europe.

On 25 February 2011, we were informed that, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria, Federal Law Gazette No. 218/1975/ 24.2.2011 and § 1 Abs. 4 of the law on employing foreigners – AuslBG, BGBl. Nr. 218/1975, BGBl. I Nr. 135/2009, it was decided that Vienna Economic Forum will be in a position to employ foreigners in the forum.

II. Organisational:

I am glad to welcome several new members in the committees and also the new Members of the Board:

1. New Members of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

- **Dr. Andreas Bierwirth**, CEO of Austrian Airlines AG, instead of Mr. Hanno Soravia. Austrian Airlines AG has been traditional partner since the founding of Vienna Economic Forum.
- **Mag. Gernot Mittendorfer**, Member of the Board , Erste Group Bank AG, Wien
- **Dr. Veit Sorger**, President of the Federation of Austrian Industries, Founding Member of Vienna Economic Forum and cooperation partner
- **Mag. Alois Steinbichler**, President of the Board, Kommunalkredit-Gruppe, instead of Dr. Viktoria Kickinger
- **Mag. Szyszkowitz** MBA, Member of the Board, EVN AG, instead of Dr. Rudolf Gruber, who becomes member of the Honorary Committee of Vienna Economic Forum
- **Dr. Georg Pölzl**, Director of the Board and CEO , Österreichische Post AG instead of Dipl.-Bw Carl-Gerold Mende

2. New in the **Patrons Committee** of Vienna Economic Forum are:

- **H.E. Vladimir Filat**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova
- **H.E. Igor Luksic**, Prime Minister of Montenegro

3. New in the **Ambassadors Committee** of Vienna Economic Forum

- **H.E. Dr. Vili Minarolli**, Ambassador of the Republic of Albania
- **H.E. Prof. Dr. Gjorgji Filipov**, Ambassador of the Republic of Mazedonia
- **H.E. Valeriu Chiveri**, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova
- **H.E. Andrij Beresnyj**, Ambassador of Ukraine
- **H.E. Gordan Bakota**, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia

4. New in the **Honorary Committee** of Vienna Economic Forum

- **Dr. Rudolf Gruber**, Founding Member of Vienna Economic Forum and longtime representative as CEO and President of the Board, EVN AG
- **Mag. Josef Mayer**, former Sektionschef in the Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth of the Republic of Austria

5. Vienna Economic Forum in 2010 has enlarged the international cooperation and **Memorandum of Understanding** with **new partners** of various countries have been signed

- **F. A. v. Hayek Institut** located in Vienna
- **ECEE (European Center for Environmental Economy)** located in Sofia. Together with ECEE and Overgas AG Bulgaria Vienna Economic Forum organised on 27 May

2010 in **Sofia the 3rd International Ecology Congress** corganisiert and we plan a further conference in 2012 in Sofia

- **BAC (Business Advisory Council)** located in **Thessaloniki-**
- **BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION** located in **Athens**

And I am proud to welcome today **Dr. Barbara Kolm**, Secretary General of **Hayek Institut**, **Prof. Dr. Vesna Borozan**, representative of **ECEE**, **Prof. Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis** of **Biopolitis International Organisation**, and our partner of **Foreign Investors Services d.o.o.**, located in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Nish, Serbien, **former Minister Dr. Milan Parivodic**.

In total Vienna Economic Forum has MoU with **12** partner organisations from various countries (additionally **Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK)**, Turkey, **Diplomatische Akademie**, Vienna, **EastEuroCo**, Budapest, **Industriellenvereinigung, Wien**, **Marmara Group**, Istanbul, **South-East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)**, Vienna, **Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises (UBCCE)**, Athens-Istanbul-Azerbaijan)

III. Members

Dear Members of Vienna Economic Forum,

1. The numer of our members is at present:

-juridicial persons **47**

-natural persons **22**

-cooperation partners **18**,

which is a total number of financially engaged members of 87

Thank you to our members for their support!

In our committes we have: members of the **Patrons Committee** 10 persons, members of the **Ambassadors Committee** 11 persons, members of the **Governors Committee** 9 persons, members of the **Committee of the Presidents of Economic Chambers** 7 persons and members of the **Honorary Committee** 12 persons, **total 49 persons**. And we have **12 media partners** and I want to thank especially our main media partner **Diplomatique et Economique International** and Prof. Waltraud Steinböck.

This is a total number of **148** and we also have members of countries apart from the VEF countries: Azerbaijan, Belgium, France, Liechtenstein, Switzerland.

2. We appreciate the support of students who gain experience during our conference.

3. I want to underline the organisation of the **traditional Garten Party** which took place for the 9th time in summer 2010 and for the second time in the garden of the Diplomatic Academy.

4. Our 10th Garden party takes place on 10 June 2011 and we will also enjoy a program from Hungary.

IV. The Initiative Vienna Economic Talks

With the development of our initiative **Vienna Economic Talks** we also develop financially, according to our international activities.

Here I want to point out the decision of the board of Vienna Economic Forum of 26 January 2011, that events abroad also have to be organised with costs covered.

We also plan special forms for the governments of our partner countries to get access to European funds. I hope that I can tell you more in the annual assembly 2012.

And last but not least: We have requests from other countries and even continents to be a platform in Vienna and can start to think about a broader development of Vienna Economic Forum.

V. Events

A short survey of our meetings (**Details are in our brochure**):

- **Vienna Economic Talks – „Meet Bosnia and Herzegovina in Vienna”**
11-12 March 2010, Hotel Hilton, Vienna
- **Vienna Economic Talks – Sofia Meeting “Environmental Economy for Green Bulgaria”,** Sofia
- **Traditional 9th VEF Garden Party.**
18 June 2010, Diplomatische Akademie Wien
- **Vienna Economic Talks – Chisinau Meeting,** als Kern von Moldovan Business Week
24-25 June 2010, Palace of the Republic, Moldova
- **7. Vienna Economic Forum**
8-9.11.2010 in Raiffeisen Zentral Bank, Am Stadtpark 9, 1030 Wien

I want to thank Dr. Herbert Stepic, CEO of Raiffeisen International Bank AG, Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum for his years of support and providing the Raiffeisen hall in Raiffeisen Zentral Bank in the past years.

With the support of Vienna Insurance Group VIG-Wiener Städtische Versicherung Gruppe we publish all our brochures and programs and I want to thank also for this. Today you also receive the latest brochure with our activities 2010.

Vienna Economic Forum in 2010 was represented at:

- **Thirteenth Eurasian Economic Summit in Istanbul, 5-7 Mai 2010**

- **3rd International Ecology Congress**, 27 Mai 2010, in **Sofia**
- **13. Energiegespräche in Ossiach**, 9-11 June 2010
- **South-East Europe Energy Conference. Energy without Frontiers – from national towards regional Approach**, 30 November 2010, **Sofia**,

VI. Award and Honorary Consuls

1. In 2010 the **Vienna Economic Award 2010** for the „**Contribution to the economic development on a national and regional level in the countries of Vienna Economic Forum**” was awarded to:

Mr. Karl Fink, Member of the Board, Vienna Insurance Group, Founding Member and Vice President of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Friedhelm Boschert, President of the Board, Volksbank International AG, Austria, Finance Director and Member of the Board of Vienna Economic Forum

H.E. Dr. Vujica Lazovic, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System of Montenegro – nominated for the first time by the Board of Vienna Economic Forum as foreign awardee

Mr. Martin Bartenstein, Former Minister of Economy of the Republic of Austria, Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum

Dr. Rudolf GRUBER, Founding Member and Honorary Member of Vienna Economic Forum

2. Another initiative is the appointment of our board members as honorary consuls in the region: **Dr. Friedhelm Boschert, CEO of Volksbank International AG** is Honorary Consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina with consular district Vienna and Lower Austria and **Dr. Burkhard Hofer, EVN AG** is Honorary Consul of Albania with consular district Lower Austria.

VII. Planning

Planned activities in 2011

- **22- 23 Mai 2011**
VET – Istanbul Meeting
- **10. Juni 2011, 6pm**
10th Traditional Garden Party
- For **September and October** further Vienna Economic Talks are planned and we are still in discussions with the respective governments.

On **21 November 2011** our **8th Vienna Economic Forum** will take place in Palais Niederösterreich in **co-organisation with the Federal Ministry for Economy, Youth**

and Family of the Republic of Austria and I want to inform you that there will be a fee of EUR 150 for non-members.

For the **year 2012** the following dates have been set:

- 25 January 2012- Board Meeting;
- 22 March 2012- Annual Assembly;
- 12 November 2012 – 9th VEF

Dear Members of Vienna Economic Forum,

Thank you for your support. Especially I want to thank our **President Dr. Erhard Busek**, whom we are grateful for his large contribution to our success.

In addition to this short report we have prepared for you the brochure with the report on the activities of Vienna Economic Forum in the year 2010 and I will be available for further questions or ideas.

22. 03. 2011, Vienna