



## **XII Regional Summit of Governors, Finance Ministers and Tax Administration Directors**

**"Financial and Monetary Stability  
of the Region Under Continued  
Weak Economic Growth  
in the Eurozone"**

# AGENDA

June 12-14, 2025

INSTITUTIONAL SUMMIT SUPPORT



**Ministry  
of Finance**



**Tax  
Administration**



**CBCB  
CENTRAL BANK OF  
MONTENEGRO**

VIP PARTNER



PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



## DAY 0 – June 12, 2025

**17.00 – 19.00** Participant registration

**20.00 – 22.00** Welcome cocktail

## DAY 1 – June 13, 2025

**09.30 – 09.40** – *Message from the Organizer*

**Aleksandar Vlahović, President, Serbian Association of Economists**

**09.40 – 10.00** – *Address by the Governor*

**Irena Radović, Governor, Central Bank of Montenegro**

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### 10.00 – 11.40 – PANEL 1 – CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS

#### **SEPA AND THE WB6: A CATALYST FOR EU CONVERGENCE AND ACCESS TO THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET**

*The integration of Western Balkan countries into the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) represents a strategic step toward deeper EU convergence, both technically and economically, by aligning payment systems with European standards. As a core pillar of the New Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, SEPA participation is not only a technical reform but also a political commitment to embedding the region into the EU's economic infrastructure. The panel will explore how SEPA participation can enhance the stability and innovation of domestic financial markets, foster stronger collaboration between public and private sector stakeholders, and accelerate readiness for future EU membership. In this context, the discussion will also touch upon the broader evolution of the European payments landscape, including the development of the digital euro, and its potential implications for non-euro area countries on the path to accession.*

##### **Invited speakers (alphabetical order):**

- **Anita Angeloska Bezhoska**, Governor, Central Bank of North Macedonia
- **John Berrigan**, Director-General, DG FISMA
- **Ulrich Bindseil**, Director General, Market Infrastructure and Payments, ECB
- **Gert-Jan Koopman**, Director General, DG NEAR, European Commission
- **Irena Radović**, Governor, Central Bank of Montenegro
- **Gent Sejko**, Governor, Central Bank of Albania

**Moderator: Zorica Kalezić**, Vice-Governor, Central Bank of Montenegro

**11.40 – 11.50** Questions from the audience

**11.50 – 12.20** Coffee break

### 12.20 – 14.00 – PANEL 2 – CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS

#### **GEOPOLITICAL FRAGMENTATION AND TARIFF PRESSURES: INFLATION RISKS AND MONETARY POLICY CHALLENGES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**

*As global trade becomes increasingly fragmented due to geopolitical tensions and strategic rivalries, countries in the Western Balkans face a complex macroeconomic landscape shaped by rising tariffs, disrupted supply chains, and inflationary spillovers. For small, import-reliant economies, these dynamics challenge conventional monetary policy, as cost-push inflation driven by external shocks leaves little room for traditional interest rate tools. The introduction of new trade barriers between major global blocs not only raises import prices but also amplifies volatility in food and energy markets—areas where Western Balkan economies are particularly exposed. The region's monetary authorities are now being tested by a world where inflation is no longer a cyclical issue, but a structural consequence of global realignment.*

#### Invited speakers (alphabetical order):

- **Ahmet Ismaili**, Governor, Central Bank of Kosovo
- **Razvan Munteanu**, CEO, AikGroup
- **Irena Radović**, Governor, Central Bank of Montenegro
- **Jasmina Selimović**, Governor, Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Maarten Verwey**, Director-General, DG ECFIN, European Commission
- **Maroje Lang**, Vice-Governor, Croatian National Bank
- **Tina Žumer**, Vice-Governor, Bank of Slovenia

**Moderator: Zorica Kalezić**, Vice-Governor, Central Bank of Montenegro

**14.00 – 14.15** Questions from the audience

**14.15 – 15.00** Lunch

#### DAY 2 – June 14, 2025

**09.15 – 09.45** – Address by the Prime Minister of Montenegro

**Milojko Spajić**, Prime Minister of Montenegro (TBC)

**09.45 – 10.15** – Address by the Director of Expo 2027

**Dušan Borovčanin**, Director of Expo 2027

**10.15 – 11.45** – **PANEL 3 – MINISTERS OF FINANCE**

#### **RESPONSIBLE FISCAL POLICY – PREREQUISITE FOR ENHANCING ECONOMIC STABILITY AND RESILIENCE UNDER CONTINUED WEEK ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE EUROZONE**

*Harmonizing public policies with EU legislation is essential for ensuring regional stability and integration. Global trends continue to significantly impact public finances across the region, underscoring the importance of adhering to fiscal rules—and raising the question of whether these rules should become more rigid to ensure long-term fiscal stability. Effective management of public investments requires selecting projects based on feasibility, transparency, and their broader economic benefits. A critical debate revolves around whether there is enough fiscal space for potential economic stimulus or if fiscal interventions have reached their limit. The alignment of fiscal and monetary policies remains crucial, especially in addressing inflationary pressures, which continue to be a challenge.*

*Structural reforms are essential for maintaining strong public finances and supporting sustainable economic growth. Tackling the gray economy through improved tax and duty policies is key, alongside developing and implementing tobacco product traceability systems. In uncertain times, cooperation with international financial organizations is vital, and it is crucial that fiscal policies for 2024, along with projections for 2025, are carefully assessed to navigate the changing economic landscape.*

#### Invited speakers (alphabetical order):

- **Srđan Amidžić**, Minister of Finance and Treasury, Ministers Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Gordana Dimitrieska Kočoska**, Minister of Finance, Government of North Macedonia
- **Toni Kraljević**, Minister of Finance, Government of BiH Federation
- **Petrit Malaj**, Minister of Finance, Government of Albania
- **Hekuran Murati**, Minister of Finance, Government of Kosovo
- **Goran Pekez**, Corporate Affairs and Communications Director, JTI WB
- **Bojan Paunović**, Director General of the Directorate for the State Budget, Ministry of Finance of Montenegro
- **Mario Demirović**, Director Customs Administration Croatia

**Moderator: Zdravko Marić**, Former Minister of Finance, Government of Croatia

11.45 – 12.00 Questions from the audience

12.00 – 12.30 Coffee break

#### 12.30 – 14.15 – PANEL 4 – TAX ADMINISTRATION DIRECTORS

##### **REFORM AND MODERNIZATION OF TAX ADMINISTRATION – GOALS, ACHIEVEMENT AND LIMITATIONS**

*Tax administrations in the region face key challenges, including the need for modernization and efficient revenue collection during uncertain times. Effective tax administration is critical for maintaining public finance stability. While reform efforts may have limitations, they are essential for improving compliance and enhancing transparency. Preventing the growth of the gray economy is a priority, requiring stronger enforcement and better reporting mechanisms. Regional cooperation strengthens efforts against tax evasion, while building trust with taxpayers encourages voluntary compliance. Digitalization and e-tax administration are crucial for streamlining processes and increasing efficiency. Finally, clear and consistent tax treatment of duty products is vital to prevent evasion, protect revenues, and support fair market practices.*

##### **Invited speakers (alphabetical order):**

- **Miroslav Đinović**, Assistant Director, Tax Administration Serbia
- **Ilir Binaj**, Director, Tax Administration Albania
- **Sava Laketić**, Acting Director, Tax Administration Montenegro
- **Goran Maričić**, Director, Tax Administration Republika Srpska
- **Ilir Murtezaj**, Director, Tax Administration Kosovo
- **Admir Omerbašić**, Director, Tax Administration BiH Federation
- **Goran Pekez**, Corporate Affairs and Communications Director, JTI WB
- **Elena Petrova**, Director, Tax Administration North Macedonia
- **Zoran Tegeltija**, Director, Indirect Taxation Authority Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Moderator: Dragijana Radonjić Petrović**, Vice-President, Serbian Association of Economists

14.15 – 14.30 Questions from the audience

14.30 – 14.40 Closing remarks

14.40 – 15.30 Lunch