

**The Paul H. Nitze School
of Advanced International Studies**

1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 525
Washington, DC 20036
202.663.5880 / 202.663.5879 fax
<http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu>

Center for Transatlantic Relations

Southeast European Economic Forum

Washington, D.C.
March 26-28, 2012

Organized by
**The Center for Transatlantic Relations
Johns Hopkins University SAIS**

Economic opportunity and growth are essential to stability, peace and prosperity in Southeast Europe. The global financial crises of 2008 and continuing economic uncertainty throughout Europe have had a negative impact on the region's economies. Liquidity became a problem, internal debt skyrocketed, and FDI levels decreased while unemployment increased sharply. A lack of political leadership and continued political squabbles in some Southeast European countries have made the situation even worse.

Recognizing the importance of coordinated actions between the countries of the region, not only among themselves but also in particular with the EU and the U.S., the Center for Transatlantic Relations (CTR) at Johns Hopkins University SAIS has launched the **Southeast European Economic Forum** as a framework in which senior government officials, financial and business leaders, and experts operating in Southeast Europe can discuss issues particular to the region, with a view to boosting economic development and business opportunity. Fiscal policies, legislation affecting trade, loans, and business will also be discussed. We believe the Economic Forum can offer synergies for the region while keeping international economic, financial and political leaders engaged.

The Inaugural Southeast European Economic Forum will be held in Washington, D.C. on March 26-28, 2012. Holding the first major event in Washington underscores the continued engagement of the U.S. in the region. We anticipate follow-on events in this series to take place largely in Southeast Europe itself. An important part of the Forum will be dedicated to tools and models to enable private sector growth, both in investment possibilities and strategic partnerships. The Forum will also serve as an ongoing platform to anticipate challenges for the region such as the consequences and opportunities emerging from the accession to the EU by states in the region. The first major case in this regard will be Croatia's anticipated accession to the EU in July 2013.



The Southeast Europe Economic Forum is complemented by a series of separate CTR events held throughout the year, focused on specific countries in Southeast Europe, as a way to promote understanding of each country's specific challenges and to explore economic opportunities, while at the same time keeping in mind the relevance of regional cooperation and progress.

Dan Hamilton
Executive Director
Center For Transatlantic Relations

AGENDA

March 26th 2012

Opening Ceremony

March 27th 2012

“EU – Instruments for Boosting the Economy in Southeast Europe”

“Fiscal Policies and Commercial Banks – Monopoly or Partnership? How to Boost Cash Flow for SMEs”

“What Will Attract Foreign Investment?”

“What Works? Best Business Practices in Southeast Europe”

“Regional Economic Cooperation: Croatia in the EU – Opportunity for the Region or Obstacle to Trade?”

March 28th 2012

“Economic Opportunities Arising from the Arab Spring”

“Privatization – An Opportunity for International Cooperation”

For more information, please contact:

Miriam Cunningham at: mcunningham@jhu.edu

