



DUBROVNIK FORUM

CROATIA 26-27 June 2026

MANY DIRECTIONS. ONE FUTURE.

The Age of Multipolarity



PROGRAMME

CONTEXT

Set against the stunning backdrop of Dubrovnik, a city historically hailed for its culture, trade and skilled diplomacy, **this year's Forum** offers a timely platform to reflect on the complexities of a rapidly evolving global order. Much like the former Dubrovnik Republic, which skilfully balanced between competing powers, countries of today navigate a **turbulent world** that is characterized by polarization, fierce competition for resources, shifting alliances and new power paradigms.

The **global order** continues to face tectonic changes, from an unprecedented wave of interconnected crises, to conflicts in **Eastern Europe, Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia**, economic shocks, energy volatility, shifting trade agendas and climate crisis, highlighting the need for dialogue and cooperation while ensuring that diverse voices, interests and concerns are heard and taken into account.

This year's the **19th edition** of the Forum will also mark the **20th anniversary** of the Forum's inauguration in 2006, known as the Croatia Summit at that time. The Forum will bring together top-notch policymakers, scholars, business leaders and civil society actors from across the globe to generate actionable insights for navigating the **new multipolar world**. The focus will be on the emerging concept of **multipolarity**, shaping the event's agenda in light of recent international developments, and aiming to **foster dialogue** between **Western countries** and countries of the **Global South**, thereby **amplifying diverse voices**. The conference's global outlook will be enriched by discussions with key stakeholders from **Southeast Europe**, offering unique insight into challenges and prospects of that region. Keeping in step with the spirit of the times, the Forum will seek to offer **fresh perspectives** on several contentious issues, including the **evolving values agenda** and its implications on foreign affairs.

As Croatia chairs the **EU MED9** and the **Three Seas Initiative (3SI)** in 2026, the Forum will place a special emphasis on **Mediterranean** perspectives and **shared strategic priorities**. This year, the Forum will also broaden its scope by introducing a dedicated youth dimension through the **Dubrovnik Youth Forum (DYF)**, which will take place from 24 to 28 June 2026 on the margins of the Dubrovnik Forum.

As a historic hub of dialogue and exchange, **Dubrovnik** offers an **ideal setting** for discussions leading to a better understanding of multipolarity and shaping strategies for a more resilient, secure and interconnected world.



Government of Croatia
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs



Friday, June 26

Venue Dubrovnik Palace Hotel
Master of Ceremonies Ali Aslan,
International Moderator and Journalist

08:45 – 09:45
(60 min)

Digital Resilience and AI: Integrating Infrastructure, Data and Security for EU Global Competitiveness

Event organized by the New Frontier Foundation

Moderators:

Natko Vlahović

Founder and President, New Frontier Foundation

Panellists:

Tonko Obuljen

President of the Council, Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM)

Antonija Mršić Radas

Executive Director, CroAI

Domagoj Pehar

Vice President, Combis

Vedran Bilas

Dean, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Department of Electronic Systems and Information Processing, University of Zagreb

Stipe Plejić

Macroeconomist, Forbes Technology Council, ex European parliament and Société Générale Group

Conference Hall Mare I

10:00 – 10:30
(30 min)

Opening and Welcoming Remarks

Gordan Grlić Radman

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia

Gordan Jandroković

Speaker, Croatian Parliament

Conference Hall Mare I

Working Sessions

10:30 – 12:00
(90 min)

Think Tank Panel: Emerging Powers in a Multipolar World – Many Paths, One Destination

Moderator:

Mihaela Papa

Director of Research and Principal Research Scientist, Director of BRICS Lab, MIT Center for International Studies (CIS), USA

Panellists:



Henry Huiyao Wang

Founder and President, Center for China and Globalization (CCG), China

Charles Powell

Director, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain

Luanda Mpungose

Outreach and Partnership Manager, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), South Africa

Rachel Rizzo

Senior Fellow, Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India

Daniel Kochis

Senior Fellow, Center on Europe and Eurasia, Hudson Institute, USA

Paul McCarthy

Senior Research Fellow for European Affairs, The Heritage Foundation, USA

Manoel Corrêa do Lago

Senior Consultant, Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI), Brazil

Conference Hall Mare I

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch Break

13:30 - 14:30
(60 min)

Energy Competition in a Multipolar World: How to Strengthen Europe's Sovereignty and Resilience?

Keynote Speech:

Bakhtiyor Saidov

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uzbekistan

Moderator:

Jakša Puljiz

Director, Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO), Croatia

Panellists:

Anže Logar

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy, Labour and Sport, Slovenia

Nicolae Ștefănuță

Vice-President of the European Parliament

Josip Brkić

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ivanka Tasheva

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria

Vedran Špehar



State Secretary, Ministry of Economy, Croatia

Ardak Zebeshev

Chairman of the Investment Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan

Conference Hall Mare I

14:45 – 15:45
(60 min)

**Geopolitics of Artificial Intelligence:
Who will Rule the Digital Future?**

Moderator:

Mato Njavro

Dean, Zagreb School of Economics and Management, Croatia

Panellists:

Sania Nishtar

Chief Executive Officer, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

Tatiana Valovaya

Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Ivan Crnčec

State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation, Croatia

Henry Huiyao Wang

Founder and President, Center for China and Globalization (CCG), China

Tomasz Snażyk

CEO, AI Chamber CEE

Conference Hall Mare I

**Geostrategy of Economic Corridors:
Linking North and South**

Moderator:

Rachel Rizzo

Senior Fellow, Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India

Panellists:

Luigi Di Maio

EU Special Representative for the Gulf region

Romana Vlahutin

Ambassador, Special Envoy for Strategic Connectivity, Government of Croatia
National Coordinator for Three Seas Initiative

Afaq Hussain

Co-Founder & Director, Bureau of Research on Industry & Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF), India

Ken Moriyasu

Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute, USA

Conference Hall Mare III

16:00 – 17:15
(75 min)

**Supply Chains and Trade under Fire:
Maritime Security at a Point of No
Return?**

Keynote Speech:

Davor Božinović

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Croatia

Moderator:

Ken Moriyasu

Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute, USA

Panellists:

Abdisalam Abdi Ali

**Regional Launch of the Industrial
Development Report 2026:
Transforming Eastern Europe and
Central Asia towards a Sustainable
Industrial Future**

Event organized by the UNIDO

Pre-recorded video message:

Gerd Müller

Director General, UNIDO

Opening remarks:

Zdenko Lucić

State Secretary for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Croatia



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Somalia

Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi
Minister of State, Qatar

Mehmet Kemal Bozay
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs, Türkiye

Maja Markovčić-Kostelac
Executive Director, European Maritime Safety Agency

Javier Colomina
Special Representative for the Southern Neighbourhood, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy, NATO

Luigi Di Maio
EU Special Representative for the Gulf region

Keynote presentation on the future of industry in Eastern Europe and Central Asia:

Cecilia Ugaz Estrada
Deputy to the Director General, Managing Director of the Directorate of Strategic Planning, Programming and Policy, UNIDO

Moderator:
Selma Prodanović
Social Futurist

Panellists:
Gergő Kocsis
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary

Aysel Yagubova
Executive Director, Clean Energy Centre of the Economic Cooperation Community

Sokol Duma
Advisor to the Minister of State and Chief Negotiator, Office of the Prime Minister, Albania

Nebojša Stojčić
Rector, University of Dubrovnik

Q&A session

Session wrap-up
Solomiya Omelyan
Chief, Regional Bureau Europe and Central Asia, UNIDO

Conference Hall Mare I

Conference Hall Mare III

17:30 - 18:30
(60 min)

Melting Ice, Rising Stakes: Critical Materials, Geopolitical Competition and Global Health

Keynote Speech:
Željko Reiner
Deputy Speaker, Croatian Parliament

Moderator:
Valbona Zeneli
Non-resident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Panellists:
Irena Hrستیć
Minister of Health, Croatia



Ayano Kunimitsu

State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

Hans Henri P. Kluge

Regional Director for Europe, World Health Organization (WHO)

Mabel Lu Miao

Co-Founder and Secretary-General, Center for China and Globalization (CCG), China

Daniel Kochis

Senior Fellow, Center on Europe and Eurasia, Hudson Institute, USA

Conference Hall Mare I

18:45 - 19:45
(60 min)

OECD Dubrovnik Talks

Navigating Global Shocks: Green and Digital Transitions for South East European Businesses

Event organized by the OECD

Welcoming Remarks:

Zdenko Lucić

State Secretary for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Croatia

Setting the Stage:

František Ružička

OECD Deputy Secretary-General

Panel discussion: Navigating Geopolitical Shocks Through Green and Digital Transformation in South East Europe

Moderator:

Zdenko Lucić

State Secretary for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Croatia

Panellists:

Josip Brkić

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ivanka Tasheva

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria

Violeta Jelić

President of the Western Balkans Follow-up Committee, European Economic and Social Committee

Cognitive Warfare in a Multipolar World Enhanced by Artificial Intelligence

Keynote speech:

Daniel Markić

Director, EU INTCEN

Moderator:

Krešimir Ćosić

Full Professor, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Panellists:

Vlasta Zekulić

Director for Strategic Management and Communications, HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, NATO

Janet Blatny

Special Advisor for NATO Chief Scientist on Resilience, NATO Science and Technology Organization (STO)
Research Director for the Division Total Defence at FFI (the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment), Norway

Gordan Akrap

Associate Professor, Vice-Rector for International and Inter-Institutional Cooperation, Dr. Franjo Tuđman Defense and Security University, Croatia

Nicolas Furge

President, Marlink Cyber and Active member of French Tech Zagreb



DUBROVNIK FORUM

CROATIA 26-27 June 2026

MANY DIRECTIONS. ONE FUTURE.

The Age of Multipolarity



20:30

Conference Hall Mare I

Emanuel Lacić
Principal AI Researcher, Infobip

Krešimir Čosić
Full Professor, Faculty of Electrical
Engineering and Computing, University of
Zagreb, Croatia

Conference Hall Mare III

Gala Dinner (by special invitation only)
hosted by **Andrej Plenković**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia

Vala Beach



Saturday, June 27

08:45

Family Photo

10th Floor Terrace

Working Sessions

09:00 – 10:00
(60 min)

The Age of Multipolarity: Navigating New Realities

Moderator:

Ali Aslan

International Moderator and Journalist

Panellists:

Andrej Plenković

Prime Minister, Croatia

Antonio Tajani

Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Alain Berset

Secretary General, Council of Europe

Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu

OSCE Secretary General

Conference Hall Mare I

10:15 – 11:15
(60 min)

One Sea, Many Partners: A Mediterranean that Delivers for All

Keynote Speech:

Dubravka Šuica

Commissioner for the Mediterranean, European Commission

Moderator:

Nadim Houry

Executive Director, Arab Reform Initiative, France

Panellists:

Gordan Grlić Radman

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia

Paulo Rangel

Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, Portugal

Tone Kajzer

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia

František Ružička

Deputy Secretary-General, OECD



11:30 – 12:30
(60 min)

Javier Colomina

Special Representative for the Southern Neighbourhood, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy, NATO

Conference Hall Mare I

Beyond the Peace Dividend: Modern Warfare, Defence Industry and Europe's Strategic Choices

Keynote Speech:

Garry Kasparov

Chairman and Founder, Renew Democracy Initiative

Moderator:

Damir Marušić

The Washington Post, USA

Panellists:

Ivan Anušić

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Croatia

Kęstutis Budrys

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Marko Primorac

Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Jordan Embree

Research Associate, Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, The Heritage Foundation, USA

Conference Hall Mare I

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch Break

13:45 – 14:45
(60 min)

Universal Values in a Multipolar World: What Can We Learn from Each Other?

Moderator:

Jakov Žižić

Assistant Professor, Catholic University of Croatia

Panellists:

Imma Tor Faus

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andorra

Lu Shaye

Special Representative of the Chinese Government on European Affairs, China

Mahri Hojamgulyyevna Bashimova

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Turkmenistan

Klára Breuer

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary



Nacho Sánchez Amor

Member of the European Parliament (S&D)

Paul McCarthy

Senior Research Fellow for European Affairs, The Heritage Foundation, USA

Conference Hall Mare I

15:00 – 16:00
(60 min)

Africa's Evolving Role in a Multipolar World: Geopolitics, Growth and Global Influence

Moderator:

Goran Bandov

Full Professor, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Panellists:

James Gyakye Quayson

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ghana

Khare Diouf

Secretary General of the Ministry of African Integration, Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, Senegal

Vivian Onano

Founder and Director, Leading Light Initiative

Nzioka Waita

Managing Director for Africa, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, UK/Kenya

Luanda Mpungose

Outreach and Partnership Manager, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), South Africa

Conference Hall Mare I

Clearing the Ground for Lasting Peace: Demining at the Frontline of Food Security and Geopolitics

Moderator:

Mila Horvat

CEO, MH-Media

Panellists:

Ly Thuch

Senior Minister and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), Cambodia

Davor Laura

Director, Croatian Mine Action Centre, Croatia

Gordan Pešić

Chairman of the Management Board, DOK-ING, Croatia

Marko Ćosić

President of the Board, Đuro Đaković Group, Croatia

Conference Hall Mare III

16:15 – 17:15
(60 min)

Asia-Pacific in Motion: New Powers, Old Rivalries

Moderator:

Đana Luša

Full Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Panellists:

Ly Thuch

Between Power Centres: Lessons from Multi-Vector Diplomacy

Keynote Speech:

Maka Botchorishvili

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Georgia

Moderator:

Edward P. Joseph



Senior Minister and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), Cambodia

Vijavat Isarabhakdi

Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Željana Zovko

Member of the European Parliament (EPP)

Mabel Lu Miao

Co-Founder and Secretary-General, Center for China and Globalization (CCG), China

Jordan Embree

Research Associate, Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, The Heritage Foundation, USA

Lecturer & Senior Fellow, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

Panellists:

Mnatsakan Safaryan

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Armenia

Munkhtushig Lkhanaajav

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia

Ivana Živković

UN Assistant Secretary General Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, UNDP

Shahin Shahyarov

Director, Department of Analysis and Strategic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan

Conference Hall Mare I

Conference Hall Mare III

17:30 – 18:30
(60 min)

The EU and the Western Balkans: Resolving Unfinished Business Together (Part I)

Moderator:

Alexander Rhotert

Former Bundeswehr Lieutenant Colonel and former Chief of Cabinet of the Office of the High Representative, Germany

Panellists:

Ervin Ibrahimović

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Montenegro

Ferit Hoxha

Minister of European and Foreign Affairs, Albania

Elmedin Konaković

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Gordan Grlić Radman

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia

Amer Kapetanović

Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council

Ulrike Hartmann

Special Envoy for Southeast Europe and EU Enlargement, Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs, Austria



	Conference Hall Mare I
18:45 – 19:45 (60 min)	<p>The EU and the Western Balkans: Resolving Unfinished Business Together (Part II)</p> <p>Keynote Speech: Gordan Grlić Radman Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia</p> <p>Moderator: Michael Martens Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany</p> <p>Panellists: Glauk Konjufca Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Kosovo</p> <p>Timčo Mucunski Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, North Macedonia</p> <p>Nevena Jovanović State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Serbia</p> <p>Peter Sørensen EU Special Representative for the Belgrade Pristina Dialogue</p> <p>Tonino Picula Member of European Parliament (S&D), Permanent Rapporteur of the European Parliament for Serbia</p> <p>Edward P. Joseph Lecturer & Senior Fellow, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University</p> <p>Conference Hall Mare I</p>
19:45 – 20:00 (15 min)	<p>Closing remarks: Gordan Grlić Radman Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia</p> <p>Conference Hall Mare I</p>
20:00 – 21:00	<p>Cocktail – The Closing of the Conference</p> <p>Conference Hall Mare III</p>