

CHANNELLING THE CHANGE

11–12 July 2025



D U B R O V N I K – C R O A T I A

P R O G R A M M E

CONTEXT

Since its inception, the **Dubrovnik Forum** has evolved into a vital platform for international dialogue, providing space for reflection and debate on **major geopolitical shifts and systemic challenges** shaping our world. Each annual theme has responded to the urgency of its time, building a cumulative conversation toward a more **stable, just, and cooperative international order**.

In 2023, ominous for both Europe and the rest of the world, the main theme **“Navigating the Global Reshuffle”** explored impacts of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and other violent conflicts on the existing global system as well as the justified concerns related to equal integration of all states in global decision-making on a more balanced footing. A year later, in 2024, the title **“Dire Straits and Safe Passages”** reflected expectations from a series of worldwide elections and from future global cooperation in the new context.

This year’s conference title **“Channelling the Change”** builds on our previous discourse. It acknowledges that the international community continues to be in a period of **profound uncertainty and heightened risk**, further compounded by the ongoing wars and other conflicts in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. At the same time, the title embraces the **new beginnings, developments and opportunities**, set in motion also by the new political leaderships taking over on both sides of the Atlantic as well as in other regions.

Therefore, this year’s Dubrovnik Forum will explore the pathways to peace, dignity, and renewal in a world shaken by hostilities, turmoil and accelerating transformation. Delving into the key issue: **„Can we channel the change – so that 2025 becomes a year of hope?”**

Such fundamental discussions about peace and human dignity should be open and pluralistic by considering the following: The human mind independent from cultures and political settings knows deeply inside that the **achievement of peace and the respect of human dignity sometimes means to overturn the logic of the world**, that the reinstalment of trust and true change in relations often means to scrutinize the so far applied approach.

Over the course of two days, **this year's Dubrovnik Forum will feature 16 panel discussions** with a wide range of topics, including geopolitical challenges and trade relations across continents, but there will also be focuses on certain regions and their interconnections.

With regard to **transatlantic relations and European challenges**, dedicated panels will deal with Europe's defence capabilities, the Three Seas Initiative second decade, but also with different understandings of Western values throughout Western societies as well as between transatlantic partners. Furthermore, special attention will be devoted to Western Balkans security and their EU integration path.

In order to **enhance relations with the South** there will be a discussion about the ambitious New Pact for the Mediterranean which aims to bring Africa, Europe and the Middle East closer together. There will also be a special discussion about **Africa's progress** within the current global reshuffle.

Connecting Europe and Asia is another emphasis of this year's Dubrovnik Forum, with speakers from Europe, Central and East Asia. In addition to that, an event for **Young Leaders** will provide an open debate between young representatives from the Global North and the Global South.

The renowned **OECD Dubrovnik Talks**, a traditional part of the Dubrovnik forum, will focus on the next phase of the OECD enlargement.

Furthermore, a special event will be dedicated to the **30th Anniversary of the Split Declaration** that enhanced the alliance between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s, became a turning point and made peace possible. The Split Declaration was one of the crucial stepping stones towards the Dayton Agreement.

Finally, two special side-events will examine **how AI can enhance European competitiveness** and what role the convergence of cognitive neuroscience and AI can play in European defence policy.

The Forum will convene in the historic **city of Dubrovnik, a symbol of openness** arising from Croatia's and Dubrovnik's longstanding role as a bridge between cultures and peoples and its global merchant and seafaring tradition.

Venue Hotel Dubrovnik Palace

PROGRAMME

Friday, July 11

09:00 – 10:00

How Artificial Intelligence Can Strengthen European Competitiveness

organized by New Frontier Foundation

Moderator: **Natko Vlahović**

Founder and President, New Frontier Foundation

Panellists: **Ivan Crnčec**

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

Hendrik Bourgeois

Head of Europe Government Affairs, Mastercard Europe

Stjepan Roglić

Vice-President of the Supervisory Board, Orbico Group

Cezara Panait

AI Policy Lead CEE, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google

Mihael Mudrić

Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb

Conference Hall Mare I

10:30 – 11:15

Opening and Welcoming Remarks

Gordan Jandroković

Speaker, Croatian Parliament

Urška Klakočar Zupančič

President of National Assembly, Slovenia

Theodoros Rousopoulos

President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Conference Hall Mare I

Working Sessions

11:30 – 12:30

Young Leaders' Event Shaping the Future South-North Cooperation

organized by the Millennium Leadership Program of the Atlantic Council and the Croatian Academy for Political Development

Moderator: **Ivan Matić**

President of the Board of Directors, Academy for Political Development, Croatia

Panellists: **Ivan Vidiš**

State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy, Croatia

B. Pratyusha Chennupati

Head of Regulatory Affairs, Pebble Labs Inc., Canada

Hafou Toure

Chief Executive Officer of HTS Partners, Cote d'Ivoire

Mohammad Alaa Ghanem

Policy Chief & Director of Government Affairs, Syrian American Council

Conference Hall Mare I

12:30 – 14:00

Break

Friday, July 11

14:00 – 15:00

Connecting Economies, Empowering People: The New Pact for the Mediterranean

Keynote Speech: **Dubravka Šuica**

Commissioner for the Mediterranean, European Commission

Moderator: **Nadim Houry**

Executive Director, Arab Reform Initiative

Panellists: **Ante Šušnjar**

Minister of Economy, Croatia

Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi

Secretary-General, Gulf Cooperation Council

Nasser Kamel

Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

Maja Markovčić Kostelac

Executive Director of the European Maritime Safety Agency

Marko Štucin

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia

Conference Hall Mare I

15:15 – 16:15

Africa's Progress Within the Global Reshuffle

Keynote Speech: **Robert Dussey**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese Abroad, Togo

Moderator: **Tamara Marković**

HRT- Croatian Television

Panellists: **Robert Dussey**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese Abroad, Togo

Meyecor Sar

Senior Advisor, Tony Blair Institute for Africa

Siraj Reshid

Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia

Tatiana Valovaya

Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva

Linda Sanchez

Representative (D-CA), US Congress

Antonio Gomes

Deputy Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Max Primorac

Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, The Heritage Foundation

Conference Hall Mare I

16:30 – 17:30

SOS: Western Values in Distress?

Moderator: **Jakov Žižić**

Assistant Professor, Catholic University of Croatia

Panellists: **Chrissy Houlahan**

Representative (D-PA), US Congress

Karlo Ressler

Member of the European Parliament (EPP)

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

National Leader of Belarus and Head of the United Transitional Cabinet

Katie Pavlich

FOX News contributor and Townhall.com editor

Yvonne Tonic-Sorinj

Amb., Dpt. Director General for Europe and Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria

Conference Hall Mare I

Friday, July 11

18:00 – 19:30

OECD Dubrovnik Talks Anchoring Reforms, Advancing Together: The OECD Journey of Candidate Countries

Welcoming Remarks:
Gordan Grljić Radman
Minister of Foreign and European
Affairs, Croatia

Keynote Speech:
Mathias Cormann
Secretary-General, OECD

Moderator:
Andreas Schaal
Global Relations and Co-operation
Director, OECD

Panellists:
Zdenko Lucić
State Secretary for Foreign and
European Affairs, Croatia

**Eric Edgardo Guillermo Anderson
Machado**
Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs, Peru

Luca Niculescu
State Secretary, National Coordinator
for Accession to the OECD, Romania

Russ Jalichandra
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Thailand

Suwartinin Wirta
Ambassador of Indonesia to Croatia

Gita Kothari
OECD Accession Coordinator

Conference Hall Mare I

Fresh Breeze for the Three Seas The Three Seas Initiative's Second Decade

Keynote Speech:
Ante Šušnjar
Minister of Economy, Croatia

Moderator:
Damir Marušić
The Washington Post

Panellists:
Ante Šušnjar
Minister of Economy, Croatia

Maciej Kubicki
Head of the Three Seas &
Economic Cooperation Secretariat,
Chancellery of the President, Poland

Max Primorac
Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom,
The Heritage Foundation

Conference Hall Mare III

19:30 – 20:30

Cocktail Reception

10th Floor Terrace

20:30

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

Vala Beach

PROGRAMME

Saturday, July 12

08:45

Family Photo

10th Floor Terrace

09:00 – 10:00

Leaders' Panel Channelling the Change

Moderator: **Mila Horvat**
MH-Media

Panellists: **Andrej Plenković**
Prime Minister, Croatia

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

Andrii Sybiha
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ukraine

Mauro Luiz Iecker Vieira
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil

Robert Dussey
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese Abroad, Togo

Conference Hall Mare I

10:40 – 11:40

The Future of Global Trade: Bilateralism, Multilateralism or Fragmentation

Keynote Speech: **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**
Director General, WTO

Moderator: **Mato Njavro**
Dean, Zagreb School of Economics and Management

Panellists: **Lu Shaye**
Special Representative of the Chinese Government on European Affairs

Boris Vujčić
Governor, Croatian National Bank

Russ Jalichandra
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Željana Zovko
Member of the European Parliament (EPP)

Andreas Schaal
Global Relations and Co-operation Director, OECD

Conference Hall Mare I

12:00 – 13:00

Break

13:00 – 14:00

Enhancing Europe's Defence Capabilities: Challenges and Opportunities

Keynote Speech: **Ivan Anušić**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Croatia

Moderator: **Augustin Palokaj**

Jutarnji list

Panellists: **Ivan Anušić**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Croatia

Martin Dvořák

Minister for European Affairs, Czechia

Radmila Shekerinska

NATO Deputy Secretary General

Michael Turner

Representative (R-OH), US Congress

Conference Hall Mare I

14:30 – 15:45

Western Balkans and the Euro-Atlantic Path: Trust, Transparency, Transformation (I)

Moderator:

Michael Martens

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Panellists:

Gordan Grlić Radman

Minister of Foreign and European
Affairs, Croatia

Elmedin Konaković

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and
Herzegovina

Igli Hasani

Minister for European and Foreign
Affairs, Albania

Timcho Mucunski

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign
Trade, North Macedonia

Christian Schmidt

High Representative for Bosnia and
Herzegovina

Davor Ivo Stier

Member of European Parliament (EPP),
Chair of the EP Delegation for Relations
with Bosnia and Herzegovina and
Kosovo

Conference Hall Mare I

European Defence Policy Enhanced by Convergence of Cognitive Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence

Moderator:

Krešimir Ćosić

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and
Computing, University of Zagreb

Panellists:

Krešimir Ćosić

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and
Computing, University of Zagreb

Pavo Orepic

Department of Computational Linguistics,
University of Zurich

Ivana Kajić

Research Scientist, Google DeepMind

Miro Jakovljević

Institute for Mental Health, Zagreb

Isidoros Monogioudis

EDA Project Officer Information
Technologies

Gerhard Schreiber

Chair of Social and Technology Ethics,
Faculty of Humanities and Social
Sciences,
Helmut Schmidt University/University
of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg

Conference Hall Mare III

16:00 – 17:15

Western Balkans and the Euro-Atlantic Path:

Trust, Transparency, Transformation (II)

Moderator: Edward P. Joseph

Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins SAIS

Panellists: Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Kosovo

Gordan Grlić Radman

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia

Nevena Jovanović

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Serbia

Tonino Picula

Member of European Parliament (S&D), Permanent Rapporteur of the European Parliament for Serbia

Amer Kapetanović

Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council

Conference Hall Mare I

17:30 – 18:15

Connecting Europe and Asia:

Pathways to Partnership and Prosperity

Moderator: Davor Boban

Full Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences, Zagreb

Panellists: Davor Božinović

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Croatia

Mihai Popșoi

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Moldova

Maka Botchorishvili

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Georgia

Mehmet Kemal Bozay

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs, Türkiye

Elnur Mammadov

Deputy Foreign Minister, Azerbaijan

Ivana Živković

Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States of the UNDP

Andrew Caruana - Galizia

Head of Europe and Eurasia, WEF

Conference Hall Mare I

18:15 – 18:30

Break

Saturday, July 12

18:30 – 19:45

30th Anniversary of the Split Declaration

The Alliance Between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina
That Made Peace Possible

Moderator: Domagoj Knežević

Historian and Advisor to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia

**Panellists for the
Historical Account:**

Mate Granić

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Croatia (1993 – 2000)

Kasim Trnka

Ambassador of BiH to Croatia (1994 – 1998), Member of the BiH negotiating team for the Washington and Dayton talks

Peter Galbraith

US Ambassador to Croatia (1993 – 1998)

Mehmet Ali Bayar

Foreign policy advisor to Turkish President Süleyman Demirel (1993 – 2000)

Edward P. Joseph

UN Civil Affairs Officer in Žepa BiH in 1995

Krešimir Ćosić

General, in 1995 Advisor to the Chief of Staff of the Croatian Army

Miomir Žužul

Former Foreign Minister of Croatia, member of the Croatian negotiating team at the Dayton talks

Closing remarks:

Josip Brkić

Deputy Foreign Minister, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Gordan Grlić Radman

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia

Conference Hall Mare I

20:00 – 20:30

Cocktail – The Closing of the Conference

Conference Hall Mare III



Government of Croatia
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs