

# CHANNELLING THE CHANGE

11–12 July 2025

 DUBROVNIK FORUM



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 **30<sup>th</sup> 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 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**  
Adviser to the President, Senegal

**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

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

**Suwarnin 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**

*10<sup>th</sup> 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	10 <sup>th</sup> Floor Terrace
09:00 – 10:00	<p><b>Leaders' Panel</b> <b>Channelling the Change</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mila Horvat</b> MH-Media</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> <b>Andrej Plenković</b> Prime Minister, Croatia</p> <p><b>Borjana Krišto</b> Chairwoman of the Council of Ministers, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p><b>Antonio Tajani</b> Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy</p> <p><b>Andrii Sybiha</b> Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ukraine</p> <p><b>Mauro Luiz Iecker Vieira</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil</p> <p><b>Robert Dussey</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese Abroad, Togo</p>	Conference Hall Mare I
10:40 – 11:40	<p><b>The Future of Global Trade:</b> <b>Bilateralism, Multilateralism or Fragmentation</b></p> <p><b>Keynote Speech:</b> <b>Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala</b> Director General, WTO</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mato Njavro</b> Dean, Zagreb School of Economics and Management</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> <b>Lu Shaye</b> Special Representative of the Chinese Government on European Affairs</p> <p><b>Boris Vujčić</b> Governor, Croatian National Bank</p> <p><b>Russ Jalichandra</b> Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thailand</p> <p><b>Željana Zovko</b> Member of the European Parliament (EPP)</p> <p><b>Andreas Schaal</b> Global Relations and Co-operation Director, OECD</p>	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 Čosić**  
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and  
Computing, University of Zagreb

**Panellists:**  
**Krešimir Čosić**  
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and  
Computing, University of Zagreb

**Pavo Orepčić**  
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

**Ervin Ibrahimović**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Montenegro

**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**

18:30 – 19:45

## 30<sup>th</sup> 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