

Bucharest Forum is the public events platform of Aspen Institute Romania. Its creation was inspired by an Aspen Institutes Network of International Partners international committee gathering in 2009. Since its inception in 2012, the mission of the Bucharest Forum is to create a regional platform for forward thinking on economic and security policies and for promoting political dialogue between governments and business.

This series of international, large scale, conferences focuses on the needs of economic and strategic decision makers in the region between the Adriatic, the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Bucharest Forum offers a unique opportunity for high level East-West conversation in a global transformative context. Specifically it facilitates an in-depth understanding of how the developments on the Eurasian nexus shape decisions for Europe and the Transatlantic link. The 2014 edition reunited over 400 participants from more than 20 countries and included cabinet ministers, government officials, experts, business people and media representatives.

Jointly organised by the Aspen Institute Romania and GMFUS office in Romania, Bucharest Forum enjoys the key support of the Romanian Presidency, Romanian Government and the Romanian Parliament. It benefits from a diverse participation of foreign and Romanian government representatives, political figures, experts, media and think tank representatives, as well as business leaders.



Bucharest Forum 2015 takes place between **14-16 October** at critical times for the region and Europe. As the global order is changing, new economic and strategic alignments shape the context for political cooperation, economic and trade relations as well as investment. This is particularly evident in the East-West political and economic dynamic along the New Silk Road.

Political crisis in Europe is evident in the difficulty of managing the Greek debt issue, the UK referendum and the Mediterranean refugee crisis. This European malaise is heightened by domestic populists' rifts and the challenge of the deep low in relations with Russia over the Ukraine crisis. Combined with a deep partisan rift in Washington and approaching presidential elections in the US this has implications for the West and presents complex challenges for the Trans-Atlantic community.



### Three interlocking and overlapping themes were chosen for the 2015 Bucharest Forum:

#### Global & Strategic

Goeconomic and Geopolitical Shifts on the Black Sea Shores

Stability in the Greater Middle East Area

The Ukraine Crisis: What Next, if De-escalation does not Succeed?

Cyber Threats Back on the Global Agenda

Bridging Social Disparities in the trans-Atlantic Space

Geopolitical and Goeconomics Choices for Turkey: Looking Eastwards?

#### European & Regional

The Mediterranean Conundrum: Between Economic Recovery and Radicalization

The next European Security Architecture  
Romania Gateway: A Trade and Investment

Agenda for Romania and the Region

The Future of European Security and Europe's relation with Russia

#### Trade, Investment & the Eurasian global link

The TTIP – TPP Growth and Investments

Macroeconomic and Security Challenges in East Asia

What Future for the European Energy Security Strategy?

### Confirmed speakers include among others:

#### BF 2015 – List of Confirmed Speakers

■ **Mr. Sven Biscop**, Director, Europe in the World Program, Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations

■ **Mr. Edward Chow**, Senior Fellow, Energy and National Security Program, CSIS

■ **Ms. Corina Crețu**, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, European Commission

■ **Mr. Mircea Geoană**, President, Aspen Institute Romania

■ **Mr. Henrik Hallgren**, Chairman, Eurasia Forum

■ **Mr. Shintaro Hamanaka**, Economist, Asian Development Bank

■ **Ms. Alina Inayeh**, Director, Director of Bucharest Office, German Marshall Fund of the United States

■ **H.E. Charles Ries**, Vice President, International, RAND Corporation

■ **Mr. Igor Runov**, Under Secretary General, International Road Transport Union

■ **Mr. Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice President for the Energy

Union, the European Commission

■ **Mr. Amin Tarzi**, Director, Center for Middle East Studies, Marine Corps University, Quantico, USA

■ **Mr. Andrei Țârnea**, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Romania

■ **H.E. Mr. Jan Tombiński**, Head of the European Union Delegation to Ukraine

■ **Mr. Richard Youngs**, Senior Associate, Carnegie Europe

■ **Ms. Kim Zetter**, Senior Staff Reporter, Wired