

Organizers



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AMCHAM TÜRKİYE

3<sup>RD</sup>

# AmChams Regional Economic Summit

June 25-26, 2026 | Sofia, Bulgaria, Hilton Sofia

## AGENDA

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026

18:30 - 21:00 **Welcome Reception: 250Freedom**  
Invitation-only event

### SUMMIT DAY ONE • THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

09:00 - 09:50 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

09:50 – 10:30 **Opening Session**

#### **Welcome Remarks**

**Ivan Mihaylov**, CEO, AmCham Bulgaria

#### **Opening Address**

**Rumen Radev**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, tbc

President, AmCham Bulgaria, to be elected

**Emre Karter**, Chair, AmCham Türkiye

**John Saracakis**, Chair, AmCham Greece

**Martin McDowell**, CDA, U.S. Embassy in Sofia

10:30 – 11:15 **Plenary 1: Regional Economic Outlook: Growth, Inflation and Stability**

#### **Introductory Speech:**

**John Simmons**, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs & Senior Commercial Officer for Europe, U.S. Embassy to EU

**Alexander Poulev**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Investment and Industry of Republic of Bulgaria

**Kyriakos Pierrakakis**, Minister of Economy and Finance, Hellenic Republic, tbc

**Mustafa Tuzcu**, Deputy Minister of Trade, Republic of Türkiye, tbc

**Velislava Petrova-Chamova**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Bulgaria

Moderator: **Ivan Mihaylov**, CEO, AmCham Bulgaria

11:00 – 19:00 **B2B MEETINGS BLOCK DAY I**

11:15 - 11:45 **Coffee Break**

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11:45 – 12:00

## Keynote Speech

**Ambassador Kenneth Merten**, Managing Director, Straife

12:00 – 12:45

## Plenary 2: Digital Transformation, Innovation, and the AI Revolution.

**Ivan Vasilev**, Minister of Innovation and Digital Transformation of Republic of Bulgaria

**Lazslo Toth**, Head of Europe and CIS, GSMA

**Joseph Fleming**, Co-Founder & CEO, Straife

**Bekir Polat**, Vice Chair, Presidency Investment & Finance Office, Republic of Türkiye, tbc

**George Margonis**, Area VP, Southeast Europe, Philip Morris International

**Prof. George Dimitrov**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Evrotrust Technologies

**Alex Guzun**, President, AmCham Moldova

**Google Cloud**, tbc

**HP Türkiye**, tbc

Topics:

- Connectivity - optic, 5G and satellite communications
- Digital upskilling to enhance business efficiency and competitiveness.
- AI, IoT networks and gigafactories

Moderator: **George Welton**, Executive Director, AmCham Georgia, tbc

12:45 – 13:30

## Plenary 3: Regional Infrastructure & Construction

**Ivan Shishkov**, Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, Republic of Bulgaria, tbc

**Georgi Peev**, Minister of Transport and Communications, Republic of Bulgaria, tbc

**Panagiotis Theodorikakos**, Minister of Development, Hellenic Republic, tbc

**Antonio Nunez**, Lead Transport Specialist, World Bank

**Turner International**, Türkiye representative

**Glavbolgarstroy Holding** representative

**Bechtel-Enka**, tbc

Topics:

- Infrastructure investments for economic growth
- Strategic projects. The Middle Corridor.
- Engineering innovations

Moderator: **Asli Ozelli**, Executive Director, AmCham Türkiye, tbc

13:30 – 14:15

## Lunch Break

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14:15– 14:45

## Fireside Chat: Global Leadership Development in the 21st Century

**Professor Barış Tan**, President, Özyeğin University  
**Tankut Turnaoğlu**, AmCham Türkiye Advisory Member

14:45 – 15:45

## Plenary 4: Energy Security and Resilience

**Iva Petrova**, Minister of Energy of Republic of Bulgaria  
**Ahmet Berat Çonkar**, Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Türkiye, Türkiye, tbc  
**Ambassador Matthew Bryza**, Managing Director, Turkey & Greater Caspian Region, Straife  
**Ivan Pironkov**, Managing Director, Westinghouse Bulgaria  
**Fluor Corporation** representative  
**Mark Rachovides**, President Emeritus, Euromines, tbc  
LNG Allies, The US LNG Association, tbc

### Topics:

- Energy supply, storage and security
- Gas Infrastructure investments and Exploration
- Strategic Projects & Connect Europe for Energy
- Nuclear, LNG and renewable energy transitions.
- Critical Minerals

Moderator: **Kostadin Sirleshtov**, CEE Head of Energy & Climate Change, CMS

15:45 – 16:30

## Plenary 5: Logistics, Supply Chain & Manufacturing

### Topics:

- Automation
- Green Manufacturing
- Industrial Innovation
- Enhancing supply chain resilience

**Atanas Papazov**, Director Global Business Development, World Transport Overseas  
**Kostas Nikolaou**, CEO, Titan Usje  
**Anton Karlov**, Chief Legal and Government Affairs Officer, EMEA-APAC, Molson Coors  
**Tommy Ver Elst**, General Manager, Senior Executive – Global Operations, Sensata Technologies

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16:30 – 17:15 Moderator: **Elias Spirtounias**, Executive Director, AmCham Greece, tbc  
**Plenary 6: Financing & Investment**

- Examining funding mechanisms;
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Big regional projects
- Emerging financial technologies.

**Orhan Aytemiz**, Director, General Industries, Transport and Tourism, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank

**Nicola Saporiti**, Senior Investment Officer, International Finance Corporation

**Manuela Naessl**, Country Director Bulgaria, EBRD

**Tony Pollak**, Office of Investments, U.S. International Development Finance

Corporation (DFC), tbc

**Istanbul Finance Center**, CEO, tbc

Moderator: **Emre Karter**, AmCham Türkiye Chair & Citibank Türkiye CEO

17:15 – 17:45 **Plenary 7: U.S. Embassies in the Region**

Coordinator:

17:45 – 18:20 **Plenary 8: Overview of Regional Investment Opportunities**

**InvestBulgaria Agency** representative

**Enterprise Greece** representative

**Khanum Gevorgyan**, Head of Investor Support and Aftercare Service Department, Enterprise Armenia

Invest Cyprus, tbc

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, North Macedonia, tbc

Invest Moldova, tbc

Moderator: **Jelena Arsovska**, Executive Director, AmCham North Macedonia

18:20 – 18:30 **AmChams Regional Cooperation Platform - Closing Remarks**

**Asli Ozelli**, Executive Director, AmCham Türkiye

**Ivan Mihaylov**, CEO, AmCham Bulgaria

**Elias Spirtounias**, Executive Director, AmCham Greece

19:00 **Cocktail Reception and Networking**

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09:00 – 10:30

**AmChams Chairs Meeting (also attended by BoD members)**

09:00 – 13:00

**B2B MEETINGS BLOCK DAY II**

10:30 – 13:00

**AmChams & Country-Specific Side Events**