

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Invitation as a moderate or speaker on the Eighth Edition of Europa Forum, 11 - 12 April 2019 in Lech, Austria.
Attachments: Agenda 2019_19-11-2018.doc; letter signed [REDACTED].pdf

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached a copy of the agenda and an invitation letter from Commissioner Oettinger to your attention.

We look forward to hearing from you with a positive reply.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Cabinet of Commissioner Günther H. Oettinger
European Commission

[REDACTED]
Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels/Belgium
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Brussels, 19.10.2018
KG/Tas ARES(2018)s-6129840

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] German Association
of the Automotive Industry (VDA)

per E-Mail

[REDACTED]
The eighth edition of the traditional Europa Forum will take place in spring 2019 in the town of Lech. It will be hosted and organised by the municipality, in cooperation with the Austrian Region of Vorarlberg.

The Europa Forum will bring together about 100 high-ranking decision makers from governments, international institutions, businesses, academia and NGOs. Taking place on the eve of the decisive summit of 27 EU states in the Romanian city of Sibiu and of the next European elections in May 2019, the Europa Forum Lech will focus on the critical choices Europe is facing.

As a supporter and an active participant of the Forum I would like to recommend you to the organisers as a moderator or a speaker. Your exceptional expertise as [REDACTED] will contribute enormously to the interesting discussions and to making the event a success. I hope that you will be able to moderate or speak in one of the sessions and present your views on the important topics on the Lech 2019 agenda.

The sessions are planned from Thursday, 11 April at noon to Friday, 12 April lunchtime. The organisers will certainly do their best to accommodate all your preferences in terms of topics and time of intervention. My personal advice would be to stay for the entire duration of the Forum, starting from Wednesday evening with a welcome dinner and closing on Friday with a lunch. This would be an opportunity for informal discussions and will also allow enjoying the unique atmosphere and exceptional hospitality of Lech.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my team [REDACTED] to suggest your preferred topic and timing or to receive further information.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Lech in spring next year.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Attachment: Draft programme for the Europa Forum Lech 2019



EUROPA FORUM LECH, 10th to 12st April, 2019
The European values: a model for the future

In the coming months the European Union will have to make critical choices. Their far-reaching consequences will determine the fate of the European project and shape the future of the next generations in Europe and beyond.

On 9 May 2019, the national leaders of the EU of 27 will gather for a summit in Sibiu, Romania, to chart out the road ahead with a renewed commitment to a Union that delivers on the issues that really matter to people. Between 23 and 26 May 2019, EU citizens will have their say on the future by going to the polls for the European elections.

The stakes are much higher than the exact composition the European Parliament and the leadership of the EU institutions. The democratic legitimacy of the EU to conduct strong and effective internal and global policies for the benefit of its citizens is at stake. Our fundamental values are the focus: freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, respect for human rights and dignity, as well as our shared aspirations for peace, security and prosperity. This European value model has turned the EU into the most successful political story that ever happened. Despite all the external and internal pressures, it remains an example and inspiration for millions around the globe.

Europa Forum Lech is an opportunity for high-ranking decision-makers, bearing responsibility for the society, economy, and the public sector, to take stock of where we stand and select a path to follow. Bright ideas and bold leadership will be required to push through the necessary reforms and to carry out internal and global policies successfully.

The European economy still needs a stronger momentum to face the global lack of predictability, to resist trade attacks and cope with potential financial shocks. Strained trade relations with and between key economic partners pose threats to strategic European industries, already struggling to innovate and reform while meeting their social obligations. Research, the digital agenda and skills development lag behind against the backdrop of a technological and digital revolution, gaining unprecedented pace and scale. Increasingly complex geostrategic risks also demand intelligent security and defence strategies. Preserving our values and way of life includes creating incentives for the single market and giving further strength to the common currency.

A volatile and fragmented Europe is a legacy our generation of decision-makers cannot afford to leave. Coming together and standing up for our values will be essential for Europe to re-emerge and to continue to set global standards for democracy, peace and prosperity in the coming decades.

Wednesday 10th April

20:00 Early arrivals get together for an informal dinner and exchange of ideas with Commissioner Oettinger. *Hûs Nr. 8, Omesberg 8, Lech am Arlberg*

Thursday 11th April

12:30 – 13:30 Light buffet, *Hotel Gasthof Post, Dorf 11, Lech am Arlberg*

13:30 – 14:00 Welcome and opening remarks

14:00 – 16:00

Session one: Standing up for the European values

The European project has reached a point when maintaining the status quo is no longer an option. Exposed to global uncertainties, surrounded by instability, having its very fundamentals attacked both from within and without, the EU needs to convincingly reassert itself, both internally and externally. The 2019 European elections will be a turning point for Europe and an unmissable opportunity to give strength to our values.

We cannot allow our welfare states and social-market economies to be taken hostage by populists who abuse democratic values, 'hack' people's minds and exploit their fears. A full-scale reply should be given by a critical mass of pro-Europeans, united around core values and driven by a sense of mission and common purpose.

The discussion will focus on the state of the EU, the upcoming political changes and the alternatives for the future. Why it is vitally important to defend our values? Can a less consolidated European Union provide better opportunities for its citizens? How to make the value added by the EU known and appreciated by its people?

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:30

Session two: Economic outlook post-2020

Ten years after the most severe economic crisis in its recent history, Europe finds itself confronting new threats. The rule-based free trade that has generated unprecedented wealth and prosperity across the globe is now being questioned. Long-standing partners threaten EU exports with tariffs and protectionist actions, while trade wars between the top world economies place Europe under double pressure. Sanctions and counter-measures from the East and financial turbulence from the South exacerbate the unpredictability of doing business and hamper much-needed investments.

Strategic industries that form the backbone of the EU economy struggle to increase competitiveness, innovate, get greener and create jobs despite all the uncertainties.

Europe should remain committed to rule-based free trade and to fighting climate change, but how will it protect its interests? Another discussion question would be: what type of industrial strategy can ensure steady growth and increase prosperity? What political, legislative and funding support is needed for the EU economy to thrive again?

18:30 – 18:40 Family photo

20:00 Cocktail Hotel "Die Krone von Lech", Dorf 13, Lech am Arlberg

20:30 Dinner Hotel "Die Krone von Lech"

Dinner speech

Friday 12th April

09.00 – 10.30

Thematic breakfasts:

- *Energy Union: the way forward*

Global changes in energy production and demand have a significant impact on geopolitics and industrial competitiveness. This poses serious challenges to Europe, but also creates unique opportunities. The EU wants to step up its role as a global leader in the clean energy transition while providing energy security to all its citizens. Building on the progress already made, it is time to ensure that the transition to a low carbon economy receives adequate support and creates further opportunities for European citizens and businesses.

- *Digital challenges: building a new, world-leading IT sector*

Data and IP security force Europe to rebuild its weak IT sector. Artificial Intelligence and digitalisation, 5G connectivity and next generation mobile devices are vital to stay at the peak and lay ground for new job creation, especially in the lesser developed regions of the EU. A new and active sectorial industry policy with a strong regional bias should bring verifiable results, while the EU support for R&D should lead to new products, jobs, and firms.

- *Transport and automotive industries: key engine of change*

E-mobility and next generation cars need a strong focus to save and support the Europe's major and world-market-leading automotive sector. This sector accounts for 4% of the EU GDP and provides jobs to around 12 million people. The automotive industry is of great importance for other industries such as steel, chemicals, ICT, and mobility services. Strengthening the competitiveness of the EU automotive sector and preserving its global technological leadership will require forward-looking strategies, targeted investments and trade policies that facilitate market access to third countries.

11.00 – 13.15

Session three: The Future of the European model (To-do list)

The EU is being questioned not only from outward rivals, but even more so from inward nationalists and populists. Results and expenses of the EU policies are also being questioned and threatened at a time.

Taking our fate back into our own hands entails building together a better and stronger Europe. Viable solutions should be found for the EU of 27 that speaks with a stronger voice on the global scene and gives certainty, direction and prospects to its citizens. These solutions should come from those combining expertise with European dedication. Doing more for the benefit of the citizens will also require adequate resources. Therefore, a long-term budget that enables EU policies to prove their benefits and add value is indispensable.

The participants will discuss what needs to be done in terms of financing, legislative procedures and decision-making. What is the role of security and defence for economies and societies? How to encourage people, especially the younger generation, to engage with the EU and its policies? What are the essential measures to preserve our values and way of life?

13.15-13.30

Closing session (alternatively as speech during lunch)

Europa Forum Lech 2019 key messages to the EU leaders' Sibiu summit and to the European voters before the 2019 European elections.

13.30 – 15:00 Lunch, *Hotel Gasthof Post, Dorf 11, Lech am Arlberg*