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Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

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**INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS'  
CONFERENCE**  
**11-14 SEPTEMBER 2021**  
GRAND HOTEL TOPLICE BLEĐ, SLOVENIA

*Invest in the future*



Vseslovensko združenje malih delničarjev  
PanSlovenian Shareholders' Association



The European Federation of Investors and Financial Services Users  
Fédération Européenne des Épargnants et Usagers des Services Financiers

Bled, Slovenia | 11-14 September 2021

## **BETTER FINANCE & VZMD International Investors' Conference and Internal Meetings – Preliminary Programme**

Venue: Grand Hotel Toplice, Bled, Slovenia

### **Saturday | 11 September**

08h00–16h00	Setting up of partners' promotional booths
16h00–19h00	Technical rehearsal and video-sound check
19h00–23h00	Informal dinner with international guests and <b>Welcome Speech by the Mayor of Bled</b>

### **Sunday | 12 September**

09h00–23h00	BETTER FINANCE and VZMD - <b>Cultural Excursion to Ljubljana</b> (train to Castle Hill, <b>Ljubljana Mayor's reception and lunch</b> - Grand Hotel Union), <b>Soča river visit</b> and optional rafting, presentation and <b>tasting of delicious Slovenian wines</b> in Goriška Brda ( <b>Brda Mayor's reception and dinner</b> )
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→ Open to all members of The European Federation of Investors and Financial Services Users (BETTER FINANCE) and The World Federation of Investors (WFI), their partners, speakers and invited persons



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Monday | 13 September

International Investors' Conference  
"European Capital Markets for Individual Investors"

09h00-09h30	Coffee and Registration	
09h30-09h40	Welcome Speech	Axel Kleinlein, President of BETTER FINANCE
09h40-10h00	Keynote Speech	Andrej Šircelj, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia (TBC)   Jean-Paul Servais, Chairman of the Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA)
10h00-11h30	<u>Sustainability Panel</u> : Improving the shareholder engagement processes—Returning European Capital Markets to end Investors  Moderator: <b>Mark Northway</b> , Chairman of the World Federation of Investors (WFI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Andy Agathangelou</b>, Founder of the Transparency Taskforce</li><li>• <b>Dr France Arhar</b>, Senior Adviser to the President of the Republic of Slovenia, former member of Executive Committee of European Banking Federation, former/first Governor of the Bank of Slovenia</li><li>• <b>Isabel Benjumea</b>, MEP, Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), European Parliament (TBC)</li><li>• <b>Alain Deckers</b>, Head of Unit - Corporate reporting, audit and credit rating agencies, European Commission (TBC)</li><li>• <b>Carmine Di Noia</b>, Commissioner of CONSOB (Italian Commission for Companies and the Stock Exchange) and alternate member of the Board of Supervisors at ESMA</li></ul>



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- **Christiane Hölz**, Managing Director for NRW, DSW
- **Verica Trstenjak**, Former Advocate General at the European Court of Justice, Member of the Supervisory Board of NLB and Professor of EU Law in Ljubljana and Vienna

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11h30-12h00 Coffee Break

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12h00-12h20 **Presentation of Share SUPPORT**  
– The EU dimension  
("Delniška OPORA" by VZMD)

**Kristjan Verbič**, President of the Pan-Slovenian Investors' & Shareholders' Association (VZMD)

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12h20-13h15 **Green Panel**: Investment Opportunities in Slovenia and Europe

Moderator: **TBD**

- **Matjaž Javšnik**, Slovenian actor, producer, festival director
- **Dr Tomaž Kostanjevec**, CEO of SPIRIT Slovenia – Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investments and Technology
- **Matej Rigelnik**, CEO EQUINOX, d.d.
- **Dr Robert Rožič**, CEO of Bank Assets Management Company
- **Bettina Schragl**, Immofinanz AG, Head of Corporate Communications and Investor Relations
- **Martin Strel**, the legendary Big River Man: World Swim: the Guinness world record holder plans to swim through 107 countries in 450 days "for peace, friendship and clean waters"
- **Dr Špela Stres**, PhD, LL.M., MBA, CLP, Patent Attorney, Head of Center for Technology Transfer and Innovation at the Jožef Stefan Institute



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13h15-14h30	Standing Lunch	
14h30-15h45	<b>Pension Savings Panel:</b> The State of Pension savings in Europe  Moderator: <b>Dr Ján Šebo</b> , Senior Researcher, Matej Bel University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bojan Ivanc</b>, Head of Analytics, Slovenian Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry</li><li>• <b>Blaž Brodnjak</b>, President of the Management Board of NLB Bank, Board member of the European Banking Federation</li><li>• <b>Fausto Parente</b>, Executive Director of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority–EIOPA</li><li>• <b>Guillaume Prache</b>, Managing Director of BETTER FINANCE and President of FAIDER</li><li>• <b>Martin White</b>, Board Member, UK Shareholders' Association (UKSA)</li></ul>
15h45-16h15	<b>Fireside Chat:</b> Digital Transformation and Cybersecurity in Businesses  Moderator: <b>Dr. Draško Veselinovič</b> , President of the Management Board of the Slovenian Business & Research Association in Brussels (SBRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mark Boris Andrijanič</b>, Minister for Digital Transformation of the Republic of Slovenia</li><li>• <b>Dr Ludvik Toplak</b>, President of Alma Mater Europaea, President of VZMD Expert Council</li><li>• <b>Dr Laris Gaiser</b>, Associate Professor, PhD in geopolitical economy, manager, business and political adviser, columnist</li></ul>
16h15-16h30	Closing Remarks	<b>Kristjan Verbič</b> , President of VZMD
16h30-16h45	The Final Cut	<b>Pero Lovšin</b> , Musician and author of Shareholders' Anthem
17h00-18h30	BETTER FINANCE Board Meeting	
19h30-22h30	Formal reception and dinner–Vila Bled	



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## Tuesday | 14 September

09h00-10h00	Breakfast
10h00-12h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>BETTER FINANCE Legal Committee Meeting</li><li>World Federation of Investors (WFI) Executive Committee and General Assembly</li></ul>
12h30-14h00	Lunch
14h00-15h00	Matjaž Javšnik stand-up show by Lake Bled
15h00-	Farewell

### → Up for discussion in the Panels:

**Sustainability Panel:** Improving the shareholder engagement processes—Returning European Capital Markets to end Investors

- How to ensure that minority shareholders have a real voice, especially at Annual General Meetings (AGMs), where their input could have the most impact? As the prime drivers behind sustainable investing, their input matters more than ever. What (legal) changes are necessary at the EU and national levels?
- Minority shareholders continue to be confronted with motions from majority shareholder calling for the adoption at AGMs of decisions that were not published upfront. How to best remedy this situation? By introducing provisions in national laws limiting the possibility to submit proposals for decisions other than those proposed within the convocations, and by ensuring these cannot be submitted later than the record date?
- How to encourage collective investment vehicles that empower shareholders to exercise their corporate rights individually?
- The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) as the European Financial Ombudsman? Delegated representatives in all EU Member States empowered to intervene in all proceedings of national-competent authorities to, when necessary, invoke common provisions of European law for the protection of investors?



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## Green Panel: Investment Opportunities in Green Slovenia and Europe

- Companies tend to take their environmental impact and social responsibility more seriously if they operate within a well-educated and environmentally conscious society. Should a system of environmental (green) ratings of companies, besides reporting on companies' specific environmental efforts, also take into account the overall efforts of the countries where the companies operate?
- The role of tax incentives: should we reward investments in companies with better ESG ratings?

## Pension Savings Panel: What measures should be taken towards dismantling barriers that effectively suppress individual investments in securities for pension purposes, specifically the "pension" securities account?

- What role for tax incentives in promoting individual "pension" securities accounts?
- Strict limitation of costs that financial intermediaries may charge in respect to "pension" securities accounts.
- How to use Distributed Ledger Technology and Blockchain solutions to support the better functioning of "pension" securities accounts?

Fireside chat: Technological changes such as cloud computing, teleworking, e-business and the use of personal devices are increasing the risk of attacks on companies' IT infrastructure. Moreover, changes such as global suppliers, outsourcing and offshoring, and the need to reduce costs in all aspects of manufacturing, are creating new vulnerabilities. Therefore, businesses must consider cybersecurity strategies that are not solely focused on firewall and encryption techniques, as new threats also emerge from "trusted sources" such as employees, customers, partners and suppliers. Furthermore, cybercrime uses every opportunity to its advantage, where organised professional networks operate at the edge of the law and tolerance and develop a "black market". This jeopardises the legitimate interest of business, the unregulated power of large systems, but also human rights and civilisation. This short presentation will give an overview of the needs and trends in cyber security.



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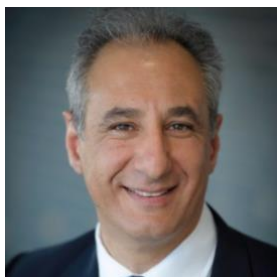


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## Confirmed Speakers and Panellists



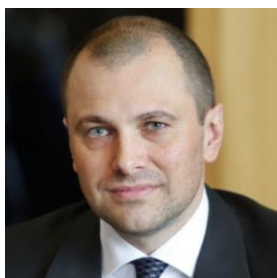
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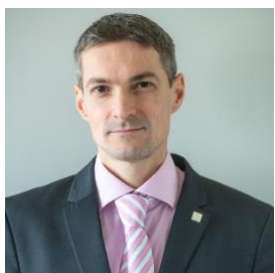
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**Laris Gaiser**, Associate Professor, Phd in geopolitical economy, manager, business and political adviser, columnist



**Ms. Christiane HÖLZ**, Managing Director for the region North Rhine-Westphalia–NRW, Deutsche Schutzvereinigung für Wertpapierbesitz e.V. (DSW)



**Bojan Ivanc**, CFA, Head of Analytics, Slovenian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Chief Economist at Analytics CCIS





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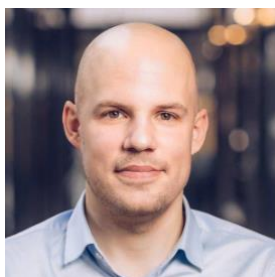
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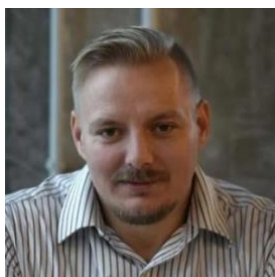
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**Bettina Schragl**, Head of Corporate Communications and  
Investor Relations at Immofinanz AG



**Dr Špela Stres**, PhD, LL.M., MBA, CLP, Patent Attorney, Head of  
Center for Technology



**Jean-Paul Servais**, Chairman of the Belgian supervisory  
authority (FSMA), Member of the ESMA Board of Supervisors,  
Chairman of the ESMA Financial Innovation Standing  
Committee (FISC) and Vice chair of the IOSCO Board  
(International Organization of Securities Commissions)



**Ludvik Toplak**, President of Alma Mater Europaea, President of  
VZMD Expert Council



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**Verica Trstenjak**, Former Advocate General at the European Court of Justice, Member of the Supervisory Board of NLB and Professor of EU Law in Ljubljana and Vienna



**Draško Veselinovič**, President of the Management Board of the Slovenian Business & Research Association in Brussels (SBRA)



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