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Slovensko predsedovanje Svetu Evropske unije  
Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

\* Supporting event to the  
Slovenian Presidency of the  
Council of the European Union

# INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS' CONFERENCE ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 GRAND HOTEL TOPLICE BLEĐ, SLOVENIA

*Invest in the future*

**VZMD**  
Vseslovensko združenje malih delničarjev  
PanSlovenian Shareholders' Association

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

Bled, Slovenia | Monday 13 September 2021

Programme | BETTER FINANCE & VZMD International Investors' Conference

**“European Capital Markets for Individual Investors”**

Venue: Grand Hotel Toplice

08h30-09h10	Coffee and Registration	
09h15-09h20	Welcome Speech	Mark Boris Andrijanič, Minister for Digital Transformation of the Republic of Slovenia
09h20-10h00	<u>Fireside Chat:</u> Digital Transformation and Cybersecurity in Businesses  <u>Moderator:</u> Dr Draško Veselinovič, President of the Management Board of SBRA (Slovenian Business & Research Association in Brussels)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Boris Andrijanič, Minister for Digital Transformation of the Republic of Slovenia</li> <li>• Dr Dušan Caf, Director of Digitas Institute</li> <li>• Dr Laris Gaiser, Associate Professor, PhD in geopolitical economy, manager, business and political adviser, columnist</li> </ul>
10h00-10h10	Keynote Speech	Isabel Benjumea, MEP, Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), European Parliament
10h10-11h30	<u>Sustainability Panel:</u> Improving the shareholder engagement processes—Returning European Capital Markets to end Investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andy Agathangelou, Founder of the Transparency Task Force</li> <li>• Dr France Arhar, Senior Adviser to the President of the Republic of Slovenia, former member of the Executive Committee of the European Banking Federation, former/first Governor of the Bank of Slovenia</li> </ul>



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Moderator: **Mark Northway**,  
Chairman of the World  
Federation of Investors (WFI)

- **Alain Deckers**, Head of Unit - Corporate reporting, audit and credit rating agencies, European Commission
- **Carmine Di Noia**, Commissioner of CONSOB (Italian Commission for Companies and the Stock Exchange) and alternate member of the Board of Supervisors at ESMA
- **Christiane Hölz**, Managing Director for NRW, DSW
- **Dr 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

11h30-11h50	Coffee Break	
11h50-12h15	Keynote Speech	<b>Jean-Paul Servais</b> , Chairman of the Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA)
12h15-12h40	<u>Presentation of Share SUPPORT</u> – The EU dimension (“Delniška OPORA” by VZMD)	<b>Kristjan Verbič</b> , President of the Pan-Slovenian Investors’ & Shareholders’ Association (VZMD)
12h40-13h55	Standing Lunch	
13h55-14h50	<u>Green Panel:</u> Investment Opportunities in Slovenia and Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Matjaž Javšnik</b>, Slovenian actor, producer, festival director</li> <li>• <b>Dr Tomaž Kostanjevec</b>, CEO of SPIRIT Slovenia – Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investments and Technology</li> <li>• <b>Andrej Lazar</b>, Director for Real Estate Management at Bank Assets Management Company</li> <li>• <b>Matej Rigelnik</b>, CEO EQUINOX, d.d.</li> </ul>





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- **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

14h50-16h05	<b>Pension Savings Panel:</b> The State of Pension savings in Europe  <u>Moderator:</u> <b>Dr Ján Šebo</b> , Senior Researcher, Matej Bel University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Blaž Brodnjak</b>, President of the Management Board of NLB Bank, Board member of the European Banking Federation</li> <li>• <b>Bojan Ivanc</b>, Head of Analytics, Slovenian Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry</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</li> <li>• <b>Panos Tsakoglou</b>, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, in charge of Social Insurance, of the Hellenic Republic</li> <li>• <b>Martin White</b>, Board Member, UK Shareholders' Association (UKSA)</li> </ul>
16h05-16h15	Closing Remarks	<b>Axel Kleinlein</b> , President of BETTER FINANCE
16h15-16h30	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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## → 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?

**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?



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**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?

**Digital Panel:** 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.



# VZMD EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO:

## PARTNERS



## HOSPITALITY



## MEDIA PARTNERS

