

Wrocław, 27 March 2023

Dear representatives of Chamber of Commerce,

Invitation to economic forum

The Forum "CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE" and Asian Studies Conference, Wrocław 15-16 June 2023.

The Organising Committee of the Forum "CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE" and the Asian Studies Conference are pleased to invite you to participate in the business and scientific event planned for 15-16 June 2023. This will be the third meeting of the world of science, state and local administration and entrepreneurs organised by the Central European Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its Centre for Asian Studies.

On the first day of the meeting, 15 June, the Forum "CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE" is scheduled, focusing on three thematic blocks:

1. CENTRAL EUROPEAN COOPERATION WITHIN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES
3. ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL EUROPE AND ASIA

Given the nature of your activities and interests, we would particularly like to invite you to actively participate in the block devoted to Chambers of Commerce in Central Europe. You are, of course, also welcome to participate in the other blocks.

Plenary lectures and panel discussions will focus on optimal models for economic cooperation at a time when the rules of globalisation and free trade have been shaken under the strain of: 1) national strategies to combat pandemics, globally uncoordinated lockdowns and restrictions on domestic and international communications and transport; 2) the prolonged and still far from ending full-scale hostilities in Ukraine and related policies of economic sanctions, the cutting of supply routes, the formation of global blocs of mutually reluctant or even hostile states; 3) global inflation; 4) accelerated implementation of climate policies, which may lead to a sharp slowdown in consumption in maladapted countries and the rationing of goods and services that were until recently considered widely available.

During the Forum, we will seek answers to the question of whether and how the crisis of the current model of economic cooperation can become an opportunity for the successful economic integration of Central Europe. What will the economy be like in the near and more distant future? How do we appropriately calibrate national economic policies so that they are optimal and multi-sectoral?: (a) local, reducing transport and logistics costs, seeking suppliers in the immediate surroundings; (b) (inter)regional, going beyond the immediate neighbourhood, benefiting from the cumulative potential of close countries, but avoiding the risks of multi-stage supply chains and long-distance ventures; (c) continental, organised in blocs of cooperating countries belonging to a common market (European Union, ASEAN, MERCOSUR type), guided by protectionism in global relations; and at the same time (d) global, since the current difficulties appear to be temporary, there is no turning back from globalisation, and any current post-pandemic, war, inflation and climate restrictions, will not stop the idea of free trade.

Within the bloc CENTRAL EUROPEAN COOPERATION WITHIN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, we propose three main themes:

- 1) North-South cooperation - opportunities (e.g. size of the common market, opening up to intercontinental transport routes) and challenges (e.g. transport and logistics barriers, diversity of internal markets);
- 2) the role of the Chambers of Commerce in Central European countries in integrating regional economies - cooperation and information exchange, possibilities of institutionalising the cooperation of Chambers of Commerce, the creation of arbitration courts, and the submission of joint projects to the European Commission;
- 3) EGO platform as a marketplace facilitating the mutual communication and economic cooperation of Central Europe - a place for the practical integration of Chambers of Commerce, national and regional Economic Support Institutions and entrepreneurs.

Within the block: ECONOMIC COOPERATION OF CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. The main topic is the return of the USA to the European continent as the dominant political force and guarantor of security in the region, and the opportunities and challenges of economic cooperation with the USA of the now politically integrated but still far from economically integrated Central European region.

In turn, the block: ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL EUROPE AND ASIAN COUNTRIES will form the transition to the next day's proceedings, the scientific Asian Studies Conference. The main theme is the reconfiguration of economic relations between our region and Asian countries as a result of the war in Ukraine, the sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation, and the opportunities and challenges of pursuing a common policy of an integrated region towards key Asian economies: Japan, India, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Indonesia, as well as emerging markets.

On the second day of the meeting, 16 June, an academic Asian Studies Conference will be held. Its theme will be the cooperation of individual Central European countries with Asian countries, or collectively the Central European region with West, South, Southeast and East Asia. Researchers from the humanities, social sciences, engineering and technology, agriculture and natural sciences who are interested in Asian issues are invited to participate in the conference.

Organisers:

Łukasz Osiński, President of the Central European Chamber of Commerce

Prof. Dr. Gościwit Malinowski, University of Wrocław, President of the Centre for Asian Studies

Prof. Grzegorz Krzos, Ph.D., Wrocław University of Economics, Centre for Asian Studies

Prof. Maria Bernat, Ph.D., Opole University of Technology, Centre for Asian Studies

Prof. Andrzej Bujak, Ph.D., WSB, Wrocław School of Banking.

Your interest of participating in the forum should be send till 7th April on email address: forum@iges.pl.



Yours faithfully,

PREZES
Łukasz Osiński

