In light of the recent paper “The Pandemic Crisis and the Black Sea Region - Impact, Policy Responses and the Role of Multilateral Development Banks” by the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), the discussion should take the countries of the Black Sea Region as its epicentre and consider i) recent developments, ii) effective and ineffective responses, iii) how the private sector is coping and re-opening, iv) key threats and challenges to the efforts to re-start economies and re-establish external trade, investment and financing links, and v) how the pandemic and the downturn it induced may impact long term economic trends.

**Agenda**

**Keynote opening:**
- Dmitry PANKIN, President, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB)
- Koba GVENETADZE, Governor, National Bank of Georgia

**Panelists:**
- Elliott AUCKLAND, Chief Economist, International Investment Bank
- Ebru BARUTÇU GÖKDENİZLER, First Deputy Secretary General, BSEC PERMIS
- Lenna KOSZARNY, Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Horizon Capital, Ukraine
- Yaroslav LISSOVOLIK, Programme Director at the Valdai Discussion Club, Member of the Government Expert Council, Russian Federation
- Nikos VETTAS, Director General, Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research, Greece

**Moderator:** Panayiotis GAVRAS, Head of Policy and Strategy, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB)

The Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) is an international financial institution established by Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine. The BSTDB headquarters are in Thessaloniki, Greece. BSTDB supports economic development and regional cooperation by
providing loans, credit lines, equity and guarantees for projects and trade financing in the public and private sectors in its member countries. The authorized capital of the Bank is EUR 3.45 billion. BSTDB is rated long-term “A-” by Standard and Poor’s and “A2” by Moody’s. For information on BSTDB, visit www.bstdb.org.

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