Draft Programme

8.30 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.  Registration

9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.  Opening session
  ❖ Mariyana Nikolova, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic and Demographic Policy of Bulgaria
  ❖ Ekaterina Zaharieva, Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria (tbc)
  ❖ Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director, Department of Trade, Investment and Innovation, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
  ❖ Vasil Velev, President of the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA)

10.00 a.m. – 10.20 a.m.  Keynote speech
  ❖ Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, European Commission: “Education, Innovation and Research for Bulgarian and European SMEs”

10.20 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.  Debate: The Digital Single Market: the European perspective
  ❖ Moderator: Milena Angelova, EESC Vice President, Secretary-General of BICA
  ❖ Dimitris Dimitriadis, EESC Member and Vice President of SMEUnited
  ❖ Sandrine Kergroach, Senior Economist, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (tbc)

Questions & Answers

10.45 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.  Coffee break
Panel discussion: Challenges for Bulgarian SMEs to access the Digital Single Market

- **Moderator:** Kuncho Stoychev, President of Made in Bulgaria
- Emil Karanikolov, Minister of Economy, OP Competitiveness and Innovation
- Yordanka Fandukova, Mayor of Sofia, Strategy for Digital Transformation of Sofia
- Plamen Dimitrov, EESC Member, President of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Bulgaria (CITUB)

**Digital opportunities for SMEs – practical cases and solutions:**

- Stoyan Boev, CEO, ICB Bulgaria
- Dimitar Dimitrov, CEO, Alterco Jsc
- Elena Marinova, President/Delyan Lilov, CEO, Musala Soft
- IBM Bulgaria (name tbc)

Closing remarks

- Rudolf Kolbe, EESC Member and representative of the Federal Conference of the Liberal Professions of Austria

*Participants can speak in English and Bulgarian and listen to English and Bulgarian.*