

German–Slovak Economic Forum

AGENDA

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic



MINISTERSTVO
HOSPODÁRSTVA
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY

9:00 – 15:, BASE Jurkovičova tepláreň, Bratislava
23 September 2026

In a rapidly evolving global environment, the German–Slovak Economic Forum offers an opportunity to take a closer look at where Germany and Slovakia currently stand — and where they are heading. The conference focuses on assessing whether both economies are prepared for the future, addressing key challenges related to competitiveness, innovation, sustainability and economic resilience within a European context.

By bringing together representatives from politics, business and innovation ecosystems, the forum encourages an open, cross-sector dialogue spanning industry, healthcare, research and sustainable transformation. Through this exchange, the conference aims to identify shared priorities and concrete impulses that can help shape a future-ready path for Germany and Slovakia in an increasingly complex world.

	MAIN STAGE Moderator: Kristína Kumor
08:30 – 09:00	Guest Registration, Breakfast and Networking
09:00 – 09:05	Opening Address Pavel Lakatos, President of the AHK Slowakei German-Slovak Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK Slowakei)
09:05 – 09:10	Welcome Address Denisa Saková, Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic <i>invited</i>



9:10 – 9:15	Welcome Address Susanne Szech-Koundouros, Director-General for European Policies at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy	
09:15 – 09:30	Welcome Address Michal Štofko, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic <i>invited</i>	
09:30 – 10:30	High-level economic panel on the general economic situation in Germany and Slovakia Panel Discussion Together Towards a Future-Ready Economy: Germany and Slovakia in a European Context <i>This panel discussion will focus on how Germany and Slovakia can jointly contribute to a future-ready European economy. The discussion will address key challenges such as competitiveness, innovation, sustainability and economic resilience, highlighting the importance of bilateral cooperation within the broader European context.</i> Panelists: 1. Agnieszka Olenderek, CFO, Volkswagen Slovakia 2. Lyndsay Sullivan, Country Division Head for Central and Eastern Europe, Bayer Pharmaceuticals 3. Peter Stano, Head of the European Commission Representation in Slovakia 4. Vladimír Slezák, General Manager, Siemens Slovakia Moderator: Dr. Nicole Renvert, Managing Director International Markets at the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (DIHK)	
10:30 – 10:50	Coffee Break <i>/ With the possibility of bilateral meetings depending on the availability of political representatives</i> Parallel Sessions <i>Participants will split into two parallel sessions in Room A and Room B.</i>	
	STAGE A (capacity 200 pax)	STAGE B (capacity 100 pax)
10:50 – 11:45	Industrial Innovation Voices from Industry: Driving industrial innovation –	Healthcare Innovation Expert Panel Innovative Healthcare in Europe:

11.00 – 11.05 11.05 – 11.30 11.30 – 11.45	AI & Robotics <i>This session offers insights into the latest trends and real-world applications of artificial intelligence, humanoid robotics, and industrial cloud platforms, presented by leading companies in the field. Company representatives will showcase their current projects, technological innovations, and hands-on experience with implementing AI in industrial environments. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how these technologies are applied in practice and the opportunities they create for the future of industry and business.</i> Startup Pitch: Where innovation meets imagination - AI-powered Hologram box Tomáš Krajčovič, norriv Keynote: Humanoid Robots – Made in Germany Prof. Alexander Schönmann, Technical University of Ingolstadt <i>tbc</i> Tech Talk: Cloud Solutions in Practice N.N. Deutsche Telekom IT Solutions Slovakia	A Strategic Investment in Economic Resilience <i>European health systems are under increasing pressure from demographic change, rising chronic diseases and fiscal constraints. This panel will explore how innovative healthcare can strengthen economic resilience by improving population health, productivity and long-term sustainability of public finances. The discussion will focus on the need to better align budgeting, reimbursement and decision-making frameworks with the pace of medical innovation, while ensuring fast and equitable access to effective treatments. Particular attention will be given to value-based approaches and policy reforms that support both innovation and affordability in a European context.</i> Keynote: Michal Štofko, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic <i>invited</i> Panelists: 1. Dr. Thomas Steffen, State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy <i>invited</i> 2. Michal Štofko, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic <i>invited</i> 3. Pavol Dobrocký, Country Managing Director Regional Centre Vienna, Boehringer Ingelheim 4. Henrieta Tulejová, Founder, Advance Healthcare Management Institute, <i>tbc</i> Moderator: Richard Fides, Grape
11:45 – 12:30	Industrial Innovation Panel Discussion How Innovation, Automation and AI Are Transforming Industry and Retail: Practical Business Insights	Healthcare Innovation Expert Panel Availability of innovative solutions in laboratory diagnostics in Slovakia and other EU countries

	<i>This panel discussion will explore how innovation, automation and artificial intelligence are transforming industrial production and retail while contributing to long-term competitiveness. Industry leaders will share practical insights on scaling innovation, increasing efficiency business models across Germany and Slovakia. The panel will also address the relevant legal framework of this topic in the European context.</i> Panelists: 1. N.N. Kinstellar 2. Milan Jurky, CEO Schaeffler Slovakia 3. Branislav Pulis, CRO & Co-Founder, Brightpick 4. Norbert Jung, CEO, Bosch Connected Industry Moderator: Matej Benuška, Managing Partner, PA Matters	<i>Laboratory diagnostics is a key pillar of modern medicine, constantly advancing thanks to rapid technological progress. This panel focuses on the current availability of innovative solutions and their real impact on everyday clinical practice. At the same time, we will evaluate the challenges and barriers, including the lack of an adequate legislative framework, that may hinder the smooth implementation of modern methods into standard routine laboratories. The main goal is to demonstrate how better accessibility to innovations can streamline the diagnostic process and ultimately significantly improve patient care.</i> Panelists: 1. Jaroslav Vohánka, Digital Business Manager Central & Eastern Europe, Roche 2. Adriana Liptáková, Director General of the Health Section at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic 3. N.N. Moderator: Richard Fides, Grape
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break Networking Lunch at Restaurant WERK	
13:30 – 15:20	Sustainability <i>This session will focus on how innovation is driving sustainability across key sectors of the economy. It will highlight new approaches, technologies and best-practice solutions that help companies improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions and strengthen long-term competitiveness. Drawing on examples from leading industrial players, including the automotive sector, as well as highly regulated industries such as healthcare and pharmaceuticals, the discussion will show how innovation can support sustainable transformation in practice.</i>	
13:35-13:45	Keynote JUDr. Szabolcs Hodosy, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic invited	
13:45 – 15:15	Sustainability Innovation Carousel: Energy Efficiency in Practice	

	<i>Moderated rotating discussion</i> How can sustainability become a driver of competitiveness in practice? This dynamic session will bring together companies from different sectors to share concrete examples of how they improve energy efficiency, optimise processes and scale sustainable solutions. Instead of a traditional panel, the session will follow a fast-paced carousel format built around short business insights and moderated discussion. Moving from framework conditions to practical implementation, the session will combine systemic perspectives with real business experience across sectors. The discussion will be organised in four thematic panel discussions: 1: The Future of Energy: Connected and Intelligent ZSE + Siemens Energy Focus: smart infrastructure, energy systems, data-driven energy management, energy services and renewable solutions 2: The Intelligent Building: Materials, Energy and Smarter Workspaces Ahrend + Knauf Insulation + Siemens Focus: energy-efficient buildings, renovation smart energy technologies and material-efficient office interiors, with a discussion on what Slovakia needs to accelerate building renovation, reduce lifecycle costs and make sustainable buildings more affordable and competitive. 3: Industry, Process Efficiency and Smart factory Volkswagen Slovakia + Evonik + Bayer Focus: energy savings in production, process optimisation, technologies, monitoring and operational efficiency. 4: Retail, Logistics and Scaling Solutions Jungheinrich (tbc) + Kaufland + Lidl Focus: energy efficiency in store networks, logistics, cooling, lighting and energy systems. Moderator: Kristína Kumor
15:15 – 15:20	Closing remarks

**Program is subject to change*

