

European Action for Smart Villages

For a Brighter Future of Rural Areas in EU

Concept:

The half-day conference will take place on Friday, 13. April 2018 in Bled, Slovenia. It's based on the initiative EU for Smart Villages. Organisers and main hosts of the event will be European Commissioners **Violeta Bulc** (Transport & Mobility) and MEP **Franc Bogovič** (EPP). High level guests are Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar, European Commissioners Phil Hogan (Agriculture), Mariya Gabriel (Digital Agenda), Slovenian Ministries responsible and MEP Tibor Szanyi (S&D). Main goal of the conference is to promote the EU for Smart Villages initiative and to enable networking and exchange of ideas. We will invite decision makers, members of public and administrative offices, members of organisations and companies, developers and other stakeholders from the field of "smart villages".

Date: Friday, 13 April 2018, 9:00 - 13:30

Location: Hotel Golf, Bled, Slovenia

Programme:

- **8:30 - 9:00: Reception and registration**
- **9:00 - 9:20: Introductory speeches**
 - Moderator: Igor E. BergantHosts:
 - Franc Bogovič, MEP
 - Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Mobility and Transport

 - Miro Cerar, Slovenian Prime Minister
- **9:20 - 10:35: Dialog with the Commissioners & MEPs: EU action for Smart Villages**
 - Moderator: Igor E. Bergant
 - Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Transport
 - Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
 - Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society
 - Franc Bogovic, Member of the European Parliament
 - Tibor Szanyi, Member of the European Parliament
- **10:35 - 10:45: Signing of the "Bled statement"**

- **10:45 - 11:00: Launch of the SunContract global platform**
- **11:00 - 11:30: Press Conference**
- **11:00 - 12:00: Coffee break**
- **12:00 – 13:30: Three separate panels, hosted by EU commissioners and Slovenian Ministers responsible**
 - **Rural Mobility** – exploring rural connectivity and the challenges and opportunities it offers, ranging from better connectivity, more efficient and smart door-to-door logistics, innovative concepts towards mobility as a service, opportunities brought by connected and autonomous mobility and similar trends

Participatory panel concept run by:

- Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Transport
 - Alenka Smerkolj, Slovenian Minister responsible for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion
 - Iztok Seljak, Managing Director of Hidria (TBC)
 - Alisa Tiganj (Mrs Bulc' cabinet)
 - TBC from Mrs Bulc' cabinet,
- **Future of CAP and smart farming** – Common agricultural policy after 2020, precision farming, new farming methods and techniques, short and fair food chains ...
 - Panelists:
 - Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
 - mag. Dejan Židan, Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
 - Franc Bogovič, MEP
 - Žiga Drev, Origin Trail
 - Andrej Mertelj, Datalab
 - Gilles Dryancour, CEMA
 - Pekka Pesonen, Copa Cogeca
 - Moderated by prof. dr. Emil Erjavec
 - **Digital innovations and new technologies for the well-being in rural areas** – new technologies and concepts as solutions to challenges in rural areas
 - Panelists:
 - Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society

- Boris Koprivnikar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration
- Tibor Szanyi, MEP
- Gregor Novak, SunContract
- doc. dr. Emilija Stojmenova (Digital innovation hubs and FabLab project)
- Matej Čer, founder of Avantcar and Avant2Go electric car-sharing project
- Representative of Telekom Slovenia
- Dr. Robert Golob, President of the Management Board Gen-I

■ Moderated by Ladeja Godina Košir, MSc

- **13:30: Lunch**

Additional events:

- **15:00 Launch event of the SunContract global platform**
- **Mini exhibition of active “smart village” projects.** A showcase of most prominent projects from smart villages field, which are currently active or in start-up phase. This showcase takes place parallel to the conference at the same venue.