**Bulgarian-Austrian business forum opens in Sofia**

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**Bulgarian Economy, Energy and Tourism Minister Traicho Traikov and Minister in charge of EU Funds   
Management Tomislav Donchev opened a Bulgarian-Austrian Business Forum on Monday in Sofia.**

Bulgarian Economy, Energy and Tourism Minister Traicho Traikov and Minister in charge of EU Funds   
Management Tomislav Donchev opened a Bulgarian-Austrian Business Forum on Monday.   
  
The meeting is organized by the Bulgarian-Austrian Management Forum, which named the two ministers "goodwill ambassadors for the promotion of bilateral business relations".   
  
Donchev said that the Common Market logic presupposes that competitiveness and efficiency outweigh the nationality of a company. "Austria and Bulgaria have excellent political relations. Moreover, Austria tops the list of home countries of foreign investments in Bulgaria," the Minister said. He recalled that Bulgaria has yet to contract 10,000 million leva from the EU funds, which is a good business opportunity for Bulgarian and  
Austrian companies. The EU Danube Strategy, which involves both Bulgaria and Austria, also opens up fine prospects for economic development of the region, Donchev added.   
  
Traikov stressed in his statement that the future of Bulgaria's economic development passes through development of innovation-dependent sectors.   
  
During the forum, Donchev will take part in a business forum organized under the patronage of Austria's Ambassador in Sofia Gerhard Reiweger, at which the European Strategy for the Danube Region will be discussed.   
  
Taking part in the business forum are local authorities officials, representatives of branch organizations and of the commercial sections of foreign missions in Bulgaria, and Bulgarian and Austrian company executives.

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