

# Economy talks of the EES in Trieste in June 2024

## Exciting topics and attractive investment opportunities

***Exchanging information with entrepreneurs from different parts of Europe, gaining the latest insights into politics in Brussels and exciting topics - the EES Economic Talks on 13-15 June 2024 in Trieste did justice to their name at the highest level.***

The elections of the 10th European Parliament had taken place less than a week earlier. Obviously, their outcome provided plenty to talk about. They were a major topic of discussion on the first evening of the event in particular. First and foremost, three basic tendencies emerged: The European People's Party (EPP) still forms the largest group within the EU Parliament. But it will have to find a form of cooperation with so-called right-wing populist parties. It is already under way with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. Critical voices are growing stronger among the green parties - in view of their high losses - that they may have gone too far with the "Green Deal". The election results are also likely to lead to corrections in other areas of EU politics. For example, on the subject of migration.



**During the evening of 14 June 2024 at the Ristorante Pier in the port of Trieste, EES President Dr Ingo Friedrich gave an initial assessment of what will happen in European politics after the European Parliament elections held from 6 to 9 June.**

The EES will play an even greater role in shaping European politics in the forthcoming legislative period (2024 - 2029) - this was emphasised by both EES President Dr Ingo Friedrich and Dr Horst Heitz, EES Head of Brussels Office and Chairman of the SME Connect Steering Committee. One way to achieve this is to participate in the EU working groups of the EES cooperation partner SME Connect, which are currently being re-staffed. 'We will make greater use of our EES network to proactively influence politics in Brussels,' Heitz explained. EES senators are cordially invited to contribute their expertise and ideas to these working groups. Further information can be found on the SME Connect website: <https://www.smeconnect.eu>

The topic of the economic talks was *Trieste and its port: logistics centre for international overseas trade and the Mediterranean region - location opportunities*. 'In the shade of other major ports, Trieste has developed into an important logistic centre for international overseas trade and the Mediterranean region. Trieste is also an important hub for the supply of crude oil to Europe,' said Friedrich, emphasising the importance of the city. The extremely interesting agenda that Senator and Superviso-



**Dr Horst Heitz, EES Head of Office in Brussels: 'In cooperation with SME Connect and the Taxpayers Association of Europe, the EES has unique opportunities to work towards a reasonable EU policy.'**

ry Board member Dr Laura Krainz-Leupoldt, who was born and raised in Trieste, had put together for 15 June also did justice to this. She and her team were also responsible for the organisation on site.

### **Identifying opportunities for investment in Porto Vivo**

What started the day was a short walk from the hotel to the Trieste' City Hall. Here, the senators were introduced to the 'Porto Vivo project', which aims to redevelop an area of more than 66 hectares of the Porto Vecchio - the ancient port of Austria during the Habsburg era. To protect the city from the Venetians, Trieste voluntarily placed itself under the protectorate of the Habsburgs in the 14th century. After the city acquired the status of a free port in 1719, a continuous boom followed. The Second World War and the resulting Iron Curtain put an end to this. The following decades were characterised by stagnation. The Porto Vecchio was closed. It was only with the fall of the Iron Curtain that a new era began for Trieste.



**Welcoming in the impressive Council Hall in Trieste's City Hall.**

The Porto Vivo project is set to redevelop the ancient port, restoring the historic buildings as far as possible. Divided into five project sections, an urban area is being created under the leadership of the Municipality of Triest, which - linked by the 'Viale Monumentale' - will combine public facilities such as museums, event areas and parks with commercial property and scientific facilities. Porto Vivo will be connected via a sustainable mobility system, including a cable car connection from the Trieste suburb of Opicina. The revival of the ancient port opens up countless opportunities for investment. These were presented to the EES.

**Visiting the container port of Trieste and TAL**

The following two parts of the program underlined the great importance of the port of Trieste for other European countries. Firstly, a bus transfer took the EES senators from the town hall to the multifunctional terminal HHLA PLT Italy (Piattaforma Logistica Trieste) – which is serving the sea-to-rail system of Central and Eastern European countries. It is located within the free port zone and is an important part of the seaport. The facility handles various general cargo such as timber, steel coils, and aluminum. The company also offers storage, packing and other logistics services with its own railway connection. The terminal, which covers a total area of 27 hectares, has deep-sea berths for RoRo and container transport. With the acquisition of 50.01% of Piattaforma Logistica Trieste by the logistics group Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA), the new multipurpose terminal started operations in 2021 under the name of HHLA PLT.

CEO Francesco Parisi explained its importance as a logistics hub that not only connects Trieste with Central and Eastern Europe on the Baltic-Adriatic axis, but also offers connections to the Baltic Sea region. The attending EES representatives were given an insight into the further expansion plans of the multifunctional terminal on an adjacent site, which aims to improve its sustainability through the use of innovative technologies and thus expand its relations with the European hinterlands. One example is a joint hydrogen project with Slovenia and Croatia, in which various companies are involved. Parisi: ‘More and more investors are coming to Trieste.’ The visit to the company was completed by a terminal tour with the bus.



**Francesco Parisi, CEO of HHLA PLT Italy (left), with Dr Ingo Friedrich and Dr Laura Krainz-Leupoldt during a visit to the multifunctional terminal.**

Next, the attending EES senators took the shuttle bus to the TAL Group, operator of the Transalpine Pipeline. This 753 km long energy pipeline connects the Adriatic Sea with the heart of Europe. In practice, it covers 100% of the crude oil requirements of the German states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, 90% of those of Austria and 50% of those of the Czech Republic. Against the background of the debate on sustainable energy sources, the EES senators took the opportunity to ask the operator of this long-distance energy pipeline about his views. Alessio Lilli, CEO of TAL Group: ‘We need a new source of energy. But so far, mankind has only changed its energy source three times. First there has to be an idea and a concept, then the financing will follow automatically. Not the other way round.’ In any case, the TAL Group can also transport other energy sources such as hydrogen at any time with its pipeline.



**Alessio Lilli, TAL Group CEO, emphasises the importance of the energy transmission line operated by the company for Southern Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic.**

### Visiting the Chamber of Commerce and private reception at Senator Krainz-Leupoldt's home

The first point on the afternoon's agenda was a visit to the Chamber of Commerce of Friuli Venezia Giulia. The EES delegation was welcomed by Chamber President Antonio Paoletti. The various division heads of the Chamber of Commerce then presented the topics they are currently dealing with in the economic development of the region. They also expressed their interest in future co-operation with the EES and with investors from its organization.



Visit of the EES delegation to the Friuli Venezia Giulia Chamber of Commerce. In the centre (from left to right): Dr Ingo Friedrich, Chamber President Antonio Paoletti, and EES Supervisory Board Chairman Rolf von Hohenhau.

The next highlight was a private welcome at the home of EES Senator Dr Krainz-Leupoldt, who has transformed her apartment in Trieste into a museum of modern art and also organises concerts here. Especially for the EES Economic Talks, she had invited the 24-year-old but already world-famous concert pianist Emanuele Savron to perform a private concert. Roberto Dipiazza, the long-time mayor of Trieste, also attended the event.



The world-famous pianist Emanuele Savron performs a private concert in Dr Laura Krainz-Leupoldt's apartment.

The Senate dinner at the restaurant Suban in Trieste completed an extremely entertaining day - with another highlight: Italian actor and director Franco Nero presented his latest film project. Fascinated by Parsifal, the last musical drama by Richard Wagner, Nero had the idea of turning it into a film. Investment opportunities in the form of support for this film project were also pointed out.



Italian actor Franco Nero (second from left) presented his movie project Parsifal. The directors are Paolo Consorti (to his right) and EES senator Patrick Wind. Far left in the picture: EES CEO Michael Jaeger.

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