

8th Conference of European Regions and Cities

"Overcoming regional disparities"

Economy Meets Politics

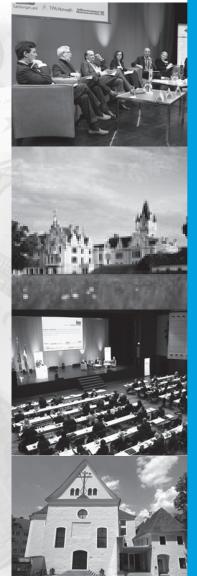
23 to 24 September 2012

in Grafenegg Lower Austria / Austria









Sunday; 23 September 2012

- 12:00 Refreshment and light meal
- 13:00 IRE General Assembly 2012 (Agenda will be distributed for IRE Members separately)

Venue: Schloss Grafenegg, 3485 Grafenegg 10, AUSTRIA **Languages:** German, English (further languages if necessary)

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- 14:30 Opening Address by Franz **Schausberger**, Chairman of Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE), Former President of Land Salzburg, Austria
- 14:45 Richard Kühnel, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Austria, Vienna
- 15:00 Maria **Fekter**, Federal Minister for Finance, Republic of Austria, Vienna, Austria
- 15:15 IRE Expert Forum (Plenary Hall)

 "Solidarity between Generations: Regional and local initiatives for active aging"





17:00 Panel Discussion I:

"Cost efficient health care & hospital management at the regional and local levels" (Plenary Hall)

19:30 Traditional Welcome Dinner

Venue: Kloster UND, Undstraße 6, 3504 Krems/Stein

Monday; 24 September 2012

Conference Languages: German, English (further languages if necessary)

Conference Venue: Schloss Grafenegg, 3485 Grafenegg 10, Austria

- 08:30 Registration
- 08:30 Exhibition Area and Café Lounge open for participants

Welcome addresses of the Conference (Plenary Hall)

- 09:00 Franz **Schausberger**, Chairman of Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE), Former President of Land Salzburg, Austria
- 09:10 Erwin **Pröll**, President of Lower Austria, St. Pölten, Austria
- 09:20 Karl-Heinz **Töchterle**, Minister for Science and Research, Vienna, Austria

Main speeches (Plenary Hall)

- 09:30 Radimir **Čačić**, Minister for Economy, Republic of Croatia, Zagreb (tbc)
- 09:40 High Representative of the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, Belgium
- 09:50 Speech by **EU Commissioner**, Brussels, Belgium
- 10:10 10:45 **Networking Coffee Break**
- 10:15 10:45 **Press Conference**
- 10:45 Panel Discussion II: "Financial strategies on location development" (Plenary Hall)
- 12:30 **Networking Lunch**
- 14:00 Panel Discussion III: "New perspectives and strategies on decentralized energy supply" (Plenary Hall)
- 15:30 15:50 Networking Coffee Break
- 15:50 17:20 Panel Discussion IV: "Actual challenges in regional transport infrastructure" (Plenary Hall)
- 17:20 Closing Session & Summary with Representative of the European Union
- 17:50 19:30 Farewell Buffet

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