

# FII Priority

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# EUROPE

May 16–17, 2025 | Tirana, Albania

National Theater of Opera and Ballet

## INVEST IN A CONNECTED EUROPE

PROGRAM

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**FII INSTITUTE**  
Future Investment Initiative Institute

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**PIF**

# MAY 16

## 2:00 PM – 3:10 PM **WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE SOVEREIGNTY?**

**INVITE-ONLY  
CONCLAVE**

Europe stands at a pivotal moment as it redefines its defense posture amid rising geopolitical tensions and evolving security threats. The European Union has announced over €800 billion in new defense and dual-use technology investments, yet questions remain around industrial capacity, interoperability, and long-term autonomy. As traditional alliances evolve and technological disruption accelerates, can Europe build a truly sovereign defense architecture?



## 2:00 PM – 3:10 PM **IS EUROPE READY TO IGNITE THE NEXT SILICON VALLEY?**

**INVITE-ONLY  
CONCLAVE**

Europe stands at a crossroads in its venture capital journey. With increasing deal values but fewer overall investments, the continent faces both opportunities and challenges in fostering innovation. Regulatory complexities and a fragmented market have historically hindered startups from scaling across borders. As global competitors advance, can Europe implement the necessary reforms and investments to empower its VC ecosystem, ensuring it remains a fertile ground for the next generation of groundbreaking enterprises?



## 2:00 PM – 3:10 PM **CAN EUROPE WITHSTAND THE NEXT GREAT TRADE SHOCK?**

**INVITE-ONLY  
CONCLAVE**

A new round of tariffs has placed transatlantic trade back in the spotlight, testing Europe's ability to adapt in an evolving global economy. Amid shifting alliances and rising protectionism, the continent faces a chance to reassert its role as a stable and strategic trading power. Can Europe turn today's trade challenges into an opportunity to strengthen its economic resilience and leadership?



# MAY 17

**8:30 AM – NETWORKING BREAKFAST**  
**9:30 AM**



**9:30 AM – WELCOME REMARKS**  
**9:35 AM**



**9:35 AM – OPENING CONVERSATION**  
**9:50 AM**



**9:50 AM – PRIME MINISTERIAL ADDRESS**  
**10:00 AM**



**10:00 AM – BOARD OF CHANGEMAKERS: CAN CAPITAL CONNECT A  
10:45 AM FRACTURED WORLD?**

**FINANCE &  
INVESTMENT**

The global economy is facing a complex mix of persistent inflation, high debt levels, and geoeconomic fragmentation that threaten long-term, sustainable growth. According to the IIF, global debt passed \$320 trillion in 2024, with advanced economies struggling to balance fiscal stimulus and inflation control. How will policymakers and financial leaders unify to navigate these challenges, and what tools remain effective in ensuring economic stability?

**MAY 17**

**10:45AM – SPECIAL ADDRESS**

**11:00 AM**



**11:00 AM – HOW FAR CAN INVESTMENT GO IN UNITING EUROPE, THE  
11:20 AM GCC, AND BEYOND?**

**FINANCE &  
INVESTMENT**

As geopolitical shifts redefine alliances, there is a growing opportunity for investment to serve as a bridge between Europe, the Middle East, and emerging markets. In 2024, GCC investments in Europe amounted to USD 178 billion, representing 38% of foreign investments in Europe. Conversely, European investments in the GCC were valued at USD 234 billion, accounting for 41% of foreign investments in the region. How can visionary investors identify and scale opportunities that both generate returns and deepen economic connectivity across these regions?



**11:20 AM – WHAT'S NEXT FOR GLOBAL CAPITAL FLOWS?  
11:50 AM**

**FINANCE &  
INVESTMENT**

The global trade and investment landscape is undergoing a strategic realignment, with Saudi Arabia and the European Union deepening economic ties across energy, technology, infrastructure, capital markets, and asset management. As Vision 2030 accelerates the Kingdom's diversification agenda, Europe is emerging as a critical partner for both capital and innovation exchange. This growing relationship is underscored by a trade volume that reached approximately \$52 billion in 2024, highlighting the strength of bilateral economic engagement. With global asset managers expanding their presence in the Kingdom, and European firms seeking access to emerging opportunities in Saudi Arabia, how will this cross-regional momentum reshape regulatory cooperation, capital flows, and sustainable investment frameworks?



**11:50 AM – WILL AI SOVEREIGNTY DEFINE THE NEXT GLOBAL  
12:05 PM SUPERPOWER?**

**AI**

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the geopolitical landscape as both a strategic asset and a point of vulnerability. Over 90% of the world's advanced AI chips are manufactured in just one region, creating critical chokepoints that expose national security risks. As nations race to achieve AI sovereignty and embed intelligent systems into defense tech, how can government stakeholders collaborate with the private sector to secure the infrastructure and talent needed to maintain control in an increasingly contested domain?

# MAY 17

## 12:05 PM – **BIG DATA, BIG POWER: WHO HOLDS THE GLOBAL REINS?** 12:35 PM

### AI

The intelligence revolution—powered by AI, quantum computing, and blockchain—is reshaping industries and economies at unprecedented speed, with AI alone projected to contribute \$19.9 trillion to global GDP by 2030. Yet this surge raises urgent questions: quantum's \$1 trillion economic promise clashes with ethical dilemmas, security vulnerabilities, and sustainability risks (IDC). As corporations and nations vie for control of these technologies, who will govern their use to ensure power balances innovation with equity?



## 12:35 PM – **NETWORKING LUNCH** 1:30 PM



## 1:30 PM – **SPOTLIGHT ON THE FII INSTITUTE & PRIORITY PROGRAMS** 1:35 PM



## 1:35 PM – **WILL THE EUROPEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION KEEP THE LIGHTS ON?** 2:05 PM

### ENERGY

Europe faces a defining opportunity to secure its energy future, balancing the need for independence with ambitious climate goals. Earlier this year, the European Commission unveiled the Clean Industrial Deal, proposing to mobilize €100 billion to support clean manufacturing on the continent, including the establishment of an Industrial Decarbonization Bank. How will Europe's strategic investments in renewable energy, grid modernization, and energy security reshape its economic resilience and leadership in the global green transition?



## 2:05 PM – **RETHINKING POWER: WHO LEADS, HOW, AND WHY IN EUROPE TODAY?** 2:20 PM

Across Europe, the definition of public leadership is being rewritten—less about authority, more about influence; less about legacy, more about impact. Today, over 70% of Europeans say they want leaders who prioritize long-term societal progress over short-term political gains. From boardrooms to parliaments, and from philanthropic platforms to global forums, new actors—including a rising generation of women leaders—are stepping into roles that blur the lines between policy, economics, and social change. With institutions adapting to rising public expectations and shifting global dynamics, what does effective leadership look like now—and what will it take to shape the future?

MAY 17

## 2:20 PM – FROM PREVENTION TO PRECISION: IS BIOTECH THE 2:45 PM ANSWER?

### HEALTHCARE

European healthcare and biotechnology sectors are experiencing significant growth, driven by substantial investments and technological advancements. According to Virtue Market Research, the European biotechnology market is projected to reach approximately €480.2 billion in 2025, with expectations to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 13.2% over five years, potentially reaching €1.14 trillion by 2030. How will this robust financial commitment and rapid expansion influence patient outcomes and Europe's position in the global health arena?

## 2:45 PM – INDUSTRIAL SOVEREIGNTY: CAN EUROPE WIN THE TRADE 3:20 PM GAME?

### INDUSTRY

Europe is doubling down on strategic industries to strengthen its economic and security resilience in an era of rising geopolitical tensions and shifting trade alliances. Earlier this year, the EU announced a new €800 billion spending package dubbed ReArm Europe, capital investments aiming to reduce reliance on foreign suppliers and boost industrial sovereignty. How will Europe's bold investment in advanced manufacturing forge new trade deals and reshape the industrial competitiveness of the continent in the coming decade?

## 3:20 PM – FIRESIDE CHAT *to be announced* 3:35 PM

### TOURISM

## 3:35 PM – CAN EMERGING DESTINATIONS REDRAW THE TOURISM 4:20 PM MAP?

### TOURISM

From the Balkans to the Middle East, new tourism hubs are capturing the world's attention with double-digit growth and record visitor numbers. In 2025, the Balkan region alone is projected to surpass 12 million international arrivals, while the Middle East's tourism sector is set to contribute over \$367 billion to the regional economy. As travelers seek fresh destinations and authentic experiences, how can these emerging markets sustain their momentum and redefine the future of global tourism?



# MAY 17

**4:20 PM – FIRESIDE CHAT** *to be announced*

**4:35 PM**

**INNOVATION**



**4:35 PM – BOARD OF THE FUTURE: IS EUROPEAN INNOVATION  
5:15 PM REIGNITING?**

**INNOVATION**

European entrepreneurship is undergoing a dynamic transformation, with startups increasingly focusing on sustainability and technological innovation. In 2025, the European Innovation Council is set to invest €1.4 billion in deep tech and high-potential startups across the continent. As this substantial investment fuels growth, how can Europe balance the need for innovation with the challenges of regulatory complexity to ensure its startups remain globally competitive?

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