

A “European Silk Road”: How can Europe tap the full potential of its home market?

China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI, the “New Silk Road”) is set to trigger investment in infrastructure in Asia, Africa and Europe to improve market access. So far, Europe has responded passively, although particularly the Eastern part needs modernization of its transport networks. How can the infrastructure gap be filled and Europe tap the full potential of its home market?

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) has proposed the building of a “European Silk Road”, which connects the industrial centres in the West with the populous, but less developed regions in the East of Europe. In its study the wiiw finds that a “European Silk Road” could create millions of new jobs and increase GDP by an average cumulative 3.5% in wider Europe over a ten-year period. An upgrade in the European transport infrastructure would boost incomes and living standards especially significant in the Eastern part of Europe. What does it need for this “Big Push” in infrastructure investments in greater Europe?

The OeNB in collaboration with the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies would like to invite you to discuss this issue with a distinguished panel on

Thursday, November 21, 2019
from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
followed by a buffet lunch
at the
Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU
Avenue de Cortenbergh 30
1040 Brussels

RSVP to repb@oenb.at

Key Note

Mario Holzner, Executive Director and Economist, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)

Panelists

- **Maja Bakran**, Deputy-Director General Mobility and Transport, European Commission
- **Marek Dabrowski**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel
- **Romana Vlahutin**, Ambassador at Large for Connectivity, European External Action Service

Chair

Isabella Lindner, Chief Representative of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank