

The WEC Dossier

Mini-WEF in the Shadows: The World Economic Council and Its Web of Influence

From Klaus Schwab's Resignation to the Benko Scandal – How the WEC Network Mimics Power and Escapes Scrutiny

Legal Disclaimer

This dossier does not assert criminal liability. All information herein is based on publicly available sources, leaked documents, verified reporting, and investigative work. All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

A Financial Intelligence Report

by FinTelegram

www.fintelegram.com

April 25, 2025

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1 Executive Summary

Mini-WEF in the Shadows – The World Economic Council and Its Web of Influence

TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

FinTelegram stands for transparency in business, finance, and public life. As part of our mission to support a free and well-informed society, we have compiled this dossier to bring greater clarity to the structure, affiliations, and activities of the World Economic Council (WEC).

This initiative was prompted by the emergence of WEC partners in one of Europe's most significant white-collar crime scandals, the collapse of René Benko's Signa Group. The financial fallout from this case has affected prominent investors across jurisdictions and revealed unsettling intersections between private financial power and political influence in several EU member states.

In a time when transparency is the first line of defense against systemic abuse, we believe the public has a right to know:

- Who is behind opaque institutions like the WEC
- What their role is in redistributing and concealment of financial assets
- How financial networks use legal and offshore structures to operate in the shadows

This dossier is dedicated to that transparency. It aims to empower regulators, journalists, whistleblowers, and concerned citizens with evidence-based insights into a network that has, until now, operated largely outside the scope of public scrutiny.

TRANSPARENCY IS NOT AN ACCUSATION—IT IS A DEMOCRATIC IMPERATIVE

As the global elite reels from the resignation of Klaus Schwab, the founder of the World Economic Forum (WEF), and the allegations of misuse of institutional resources, another name has emerged from the shadows: the **World Economic Council (WEC)**. A Vienna-based private entity operating under the guise of an elite “business council,” the WEC has quietly positioned itself as a “mini-WEF” for the financially and reputationally embattled.”

With its grand-sounding name, mirrored messaging, and network of “ambassadors,” the **WEC** mimics the global prestige of the **WEF** while operating under a radically different structure — a GmbH (private company) rather than a nonprofit. Far from Davos, its base is a virtual office in Vienna's Goldenes Quartier, its key figures are little-known to the public, and its network is now tied to some of Europe's largest financial scandals.

This dossier unpacks the **WEC's** leadership, structure, and hidden functions. It identifies the key architects of the Council:

- **Thomas Limberger**, former Oerlikon CEO and asset manager,
- **Robert Schimanko**, Austrian banker with past links to financial fraud and the Madoff network,
- **William H. Shawn**, US attorney and co-partner in SilverArrow Capital Americas.

All three individuals are not only deeply embedded in the **WEC** and its NGO counterpart **IWS (Internationaler Wirtschaftssenat)** in Berlin but are also connected to the collapsed **Signa Group** of Austrian real estate mogul **René Benko** — a collapse now recognized as one of the most serious corporate frauds in Europe.

Since November 2024, Limberger and Schimanko have joined the boards of Benko's private foundations (**Laura Private Foundation** and **INGBE Foundation**), which are suspected by Austrian prosecutors of facilitating asset concealment, gold laundering, and offshore flight capital. Meanwhile, hundreds of millions in investor losses from **Signa** remain unaccounted for.

World Economic Council (WEC)

KEY FINDINGS



Organisation

Imitating the WEF

The WEC appears to mimic the World Economic Forum (WEF) including its name, structure, and mission.



Leadership

Controversial Figures

The WEC is led by Thomas Limberger and Robert Schimanko, individuals linked to an Austrian financial scandal



Partnerships

SilverArrow & IWS

The organization is connected to SilverArrow Capital and the German NGO Internationaler Wirtschaftssenat (IWS).



Global Reach

International Ties

Despite a modest online and real-world presence, the WEC maintains ties to entities and countries around the world.

This dossier offers a first-of-its-kind forensic look into the **WEC-Signa-SilverArrow** triangle, contrasting the aspirational language of global innovation and “strategic resilience” on WEC’s website with its real-world entanglement in opaque foundation finance, cross-border asset transfers, and political reputation-washing.

The **World Economic Council** may be privately owned and virtually invisible — but its footprint is global, its affiliations are growing, and its timing, coinciding with the downfall of **Klaus Schwab’s WEF** and **Rene Benko’s empire**, is more than just a coincidence.

FinTelegram presents this dossier as a public reference, whistleblower guide, and regulatory roadmap for those committed to uncovering the next generation of elite financial concealment.

2 Introduction

From Davos to Vienna – The Rise of a Parallel Elite Platform?

In the wake of global headlines announcing the resignation of Klaus Schwab from the helm of the World Economic Forum (WEF) — the most influential elite economic platform of the last half-century — the public discourse on transparency, global governance, and elite networks is undergoing a quiet reckoning.¹

While Schwab steps down amid allegations of personal enrichment and governance failure, another institution has entered the frame: the World Economic Council (WEC), based not in Geneva or New York, but in a virtual office in Vienna’s Goldenes Quartier.

The WEC is not a public forum, not a nonprofit, and certainly not a democratic space for global dialogue. It is a privately held GmbH, operated by a tight network of financiers, legal strategists, and intelligence operators, many of whom have now appeared in one of Europe’s most serious financial crime stories — the collapse of Rene Benko’s Signa Group.

This dossier does not accuse the WEC or its operators of criminal conduct. Rather, it investigates how a self-styled “global consortium” of business elites—with language, branding, and structure eerily similar to the WEF—has risen to fill a vacuum of influence, visibility, and credibility, while being deeply connected to:

- Asset movements in Liechtenstein foundations during pre-trial detention,
- Board appointments in questionable Benko-linked entities, and
- Legal threats targeting media investigations from FinTelegram and others.

The timing and alignment of these events — from Schwab’s departure to the appointment of Thomas Limberger and Robert Schimanko to the Laura and INGBE Foundations — raise critical questions:

- Is the WEC positioning itself as the successor to the embattled WEF in a rebranded form?
- Are the individuals behind the WEC using it to recycle reputations and conceal high-risk assets?
- How does SilverArrow Capital, a global investment firm co-founded by key WEC figures, intersect with this story?

The introduction of this dossier invites readers, regulators, and whistleblowers to look beneath the polished language and polished LinkedIn profiles, and to interrogate what kind of power networks now seek legitimacy in the post-WEF, post-Benko era.

¹ The Guardian: **WEF launches investigation into founder Klaus Schwab**
(<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/apr/24/wef-launches-investigation-into-founder-klaus-schwab>)

3 The WEC at a Glance


An Elite Council Without the Scrutiny – What is the World Economic Council?


THE WEC AT A GLANCE


Overview

- A business network, (World"-fluenced by the René Benko and Signa
- Involved in the case surrounding René Benko and Signa Group
- Self-styling as "architects of change" on its website wec.global

Founders


Thomas Limberger
German


Peter Nußbaum
German


Robert Schimanko
Austrian

NGOs and Corporate Structure

- WEC World Economic Council GmbH Austrian limited-liability company
- Headquarters at a virtual office in Vienna, Austria
- Connected to in Internationaler IWS (NGO based in Berlin, Germany)

Partnerships

- William H. Shawn – American lawyer a partner
- SilverArrow Capital Group
- Cybersecurity expert Moshe Buller

The World Economic Council (WEC) is a privately held Austrian company that presents itself as a global network of business leaders, committed to mastering "economic complexity" and driving innovation.

On the surface, it reads like a miniaturized version of the World Economic Forum (WEF) — complete with visionary rhetoric, "ambassadors," and high-level "membership." But below the surface, the WEC tells a different story.

3.1 Basic Information

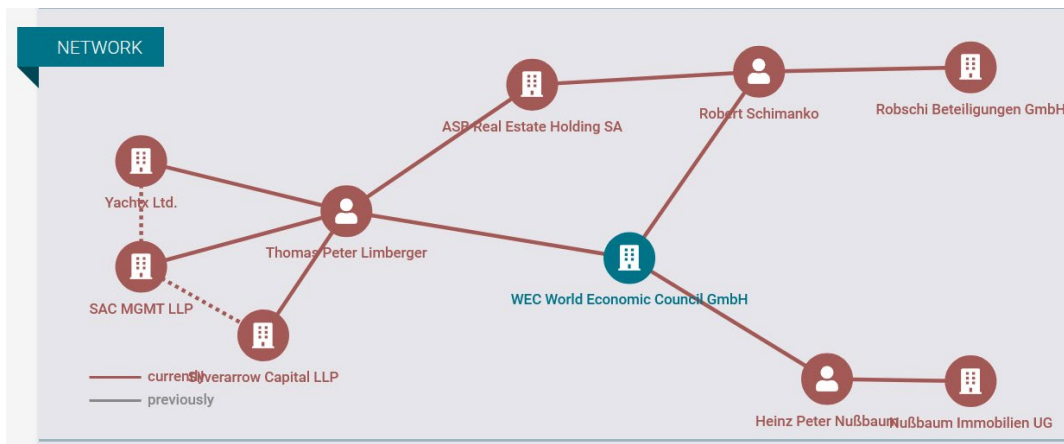
Name	WEC World Economic Council GmbH (Northdata)
Company Form	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (GmbH)
Company Register Number (AT)	FN 591313 d
Registered Address	Tuchlauben 7A, 1010 Vienna (Virtual Office in Goldenes Quartier)
Year Founded	2023
Managing Directors	Thomas Limberger, Robert Schimanko, Heinz "Peter" Nussbaumer
Website	www.wec.global
Partner Entity (NGO façade)	Internationaler Wirtschaftssenat e.V. (IWS) in Berlin, Website: www.wec-iws.de

3.2 Self-Description

"Welcome to a global consortium of forward-thinking business leaders dedicated to mastering the complexities of today's ever-changing marketplace. By joining our network, you become part of a dynamic community at the forefront of innovation and change. Our members are not just participants, they are architects of change, driving growth and adapting to the new realities of the business world with resilience and strategic vision."²

² Website WEC.global (link: <https://wec.global/>)

This language is strikingly similar to the branding of the WEF, evoking inclusivity, innovation, and global strategy — but it stands in stark contrast to the WEC’s actual legal form and ownership structure.



3.3 What Sets WEC Apart (and Raises Red Flags)

Aspect	World Economic Forum (WEF)	World Economic Council (WEC)
Structure	Nonprofit Foundation (Stiftung, Geneva)	Private Company (GmbH, Vienna)
Transparency	Board of Trustees, Annual Reports, Public Leadership Roster	No public financials, opaque ownership
Membership Model	Tiered access, institutional partners, clear event rosters	No published member list, “Ambassador” structure
Regulatory Position	NGO, closely monitored in Switzerland	GmbH with NGO branding via IWS Berlin
Key Activities	Davos Summit, global reports, stakeholder initiatives	No known public events, undisclosed outputs
Visibility	Global media presence	Recently surfaced through investigative reporting (FinTelegram, Wiener Zocker)

3.4 Dual Identity: NGO + GmbH?

WEC appears to operate a dual façade:

- In Austria: GmbH registered in Vienna, legally and financially private.
- In Germany: Tied to IWS – Internationaler Wirtschaftssenat e.V., an NGO that shares its website (www.wec-iws.de) and promotes WEC branding.

The leadership overlap — with Limberger and Nussbaumer running both entities — strongly suggests that the IWS serves as the WEC’s NGO “mask”, while the GmbH handles the network’s real activity, memberships, and possibly asset management.

3.5 Why This Matters

The WEC may appear to be a harmless business network. But when:

- Its key figures join controversial foundations linked to one of Europe’s largest corporate frauds,
- Its structure deliberately mimics a world-renowned policy platform, and
- It operates with zero public financial disclosure,
then the WEC becomes a vehicle for influence without accountability.

In an era of collapsing institutions, failed empires like Signa, and scandals rocking even the WEF, the WEC emerges not as a solution, but as a silent successor — one that trades visibility for secrecy.

4 Key People Behind the WEC

Profiles of Power – The Individuals Shaping the Shadow Elite Network

The World Economic Council (WEC) operates with a deliberately low profile — but its core leadership is far from unknown in Europe’s financial and legal circles. The individuals behind the WEC are tied to some of the most controversial developments in the post-WEF and post-Benko era. This section provides a fact-based overview of the people who have constructed and now run this shadow network, linking it to private foundations, asset protection schemes, and elite investment vehicles.

4.1 Thomas Limberger – The Strategist

4.1.1 Personal Data

LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomaslimberger/>

Nationality: German

Role: Managing Director of WEC GmbH, Board Member of the Laura Private Foundation (Benko), Co-Founder of SilverArrow Capital Group

Background: Limberger is a former CEO of Oerlikon and ex-McKinsey consultant who rose through the ranks of European industrial finance. His career has been marked by aggressive restructuring, high-yield investment strategies, and controversy surrounding his management style and compensation packages.

Links to Benko: Appointed in November 2024 to the board of the Laura Private Foundation — a key vehicle in Rene Benko’s private asset structure, now under investigation by Austrian prosecutors.

WEC Role: As the face of the WEC’s elite branding, Limberger provides credibility and global business optics. His profile on LinkedIn features the WEC prominently, alongside photos with Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago.

SilverArrow Connection: Limberger is a managing partner at SilverArrow Capital Group, which operates entities in the UK, Guernsey, and Delaware. The firm describes itself as a high-performance investment platform focused on strategic global investments.

Career Background:

- Von Roll Holding: AG, Switzerland, Chairman and CEO:
- OC Oerlikon AG: Switzerland, CEO and Vice Chairman:
- General Electric International: CEO, Central Europe and National Executive:
- Fresenius Medical Care: SVP Business Development, EMEA, , General Manager, Fr

4.1.2 The Oerlikon Case – Where Limberger and Schimanko Likely Crossed Paths

The professional connection between **Thomas Limberger** and **Robert Schimanko** can likely be traced back to the **Oerlikon restructuring saga** in **Switzerland** in the mid-2000s. At the time, **OC Oerlikon**, a Swiss industrial giant, was undergoing one of Europe's most complex restructurings following its near-collapse.³

- **Ronny Pecik**, Schimanko's long-time partner, and **Austrian financier Georg Stumpf** teamed up with **Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg** through **Renova Group** to take control of Oerlikon in a highly publicized deal.
- **Limberger** was installed as **CEO of OC Oerlikon** from 2005 to 2009, reportedly at the recommendation or initiative of the new majority stakeholders — the Pecik/Vekselberg/Stumpf trio.
- Given Schimanko's advisory roles in high-level M&A operations involving Pecik, and his presence in Switzerland during that period, it is highly probable that **he was involved in the background of the Oerlikon deal**, especially in navigating between Renova (Russia), Pecik (Austria), and Swiss structures.

The Oerlikon episode not only marked Limberger's rise to international prominence as a turnaround manager, but it also anchored him within **the same elite finance circle** that revolved around Pecik, Schimanko, and their Eastern European and Middle Eastern networks — a circle that would later re-emerge in the context of **SilverArrow Capital** and **the World Economic Council (WEC)**.

4.2 Robert Schimanko – The Fixer

4.2.1 Personal Data

LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-schimanko-48756798/>

Nationality: Austrian

Role: Managing Director of WEC GmbH, Board Member of INGBE Foundation (Liechtenstein), Co-Founder of SilverArrow Capital Group, Compliance Manager SilverArrow Capital.⁴

Background: Schimanko has a long track record in Austrian banking, including time at Bank Austria and the now-defunct M&A Privatbank — a firm implicated in feeder fund activity linked to the Madoff Ponzi scheme. He has been mentioned in connection with the Manhattan Investment Fund scandal as well.

Links to Benko: Appointed to the INGBE Foundation board in Liechtenstein in November 2024. In March 2025, while Benko was in custody, Schimanko authorized the sale of 360 kg of gold (approx. €30 million) from the foundation's reserves — now under investigation.

Asset Movements: Also acted as buyer of personal items for Benko from Signa's insolvency estate — including a luxury boat — as confirmed by multiple Austrian media outlets.

WEC Role: Acts as an operator and enabler behind the scenes. With residence in Switzerland, he provides access to cross-border financial services and Liechtenstein's foundation regime.

³ SwissInfo.ch: Vekselberg victor in Oerlikon power struggle (link: <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/banking-fintech/vekselberg-victor-in-oerlikon-power-struggle/6649586>)

⁴ SilverArrow Capital SEC Filing (Jan 2019): <http://www.silverarrowcapital.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/T-Limberger-ADV-2B-Brochure-20190111-00053405xA7D19.pdf>

SilverArrow Connection: Co-owner of SilverArrow Capital Americas, LLC (Delaware), alongside Limberger and William H. Shawn.⁵

Career Background:⁶

- Privatport S.A. (2017 - Present), Member of the Board;
- PRIVATAIR S.A. (2016 - 2018), Member of the Board;
- PLUTO FUND LTD. (12/1/2013 – Present) Kingstown, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Chairman of the Board;
- PLUTO FUND MANAGEMENT LTD. (12/01/2012 – Present) Kingstown, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Director and Owner;
- PRIME CAPITAL MANAGEMENT AG (04/2010 - Present), Baar, Switzerland, Chairman & CEO;
- AQUARIUS WATER HOLDING AG (2011 – 2013) Zug, Switzerland, Chairman
- PRIME CAPITAL MANAGEMENT ANSTALT (07/2006 – 04/2010), Vaduz, Liechtenstein, CEO & Chairman;
- M&A PRIVAT BANK AG (2002 – 2006), Vienna, Austria, Owner & authorized Signatory Partner, Head of trading and sales department;
- EUROINVEST BANK AG (2000 – 2002), Vienna, Austria, Managing Partner - Leading sales and brokerage team;
- BANK AUSTRIA CREDITANSTALT AG (1984 – 2000), Vienna, Austria, Head of International Bonds, Head of Equity Sales, Deputy Head of Investment Banking;

4.2.2 Interesting Legacy

worked closely with investor **Ronny Pecik** at **M&A Privatbank**, where he held the role of **managing director and partner**. M&A Privatbank was **deeply embedded in the Madoff ecosystem** through its investment in **Herald Lux**, one of the major European feeder funds that funneled client capital into Bernie Madoff's now-notorious Ponzi scheme.

According to a 2015 CIA report leaked in Vienna, Schimanko and Pecik avoided legal consequences **largely due to Austria's systemic reluctance to investigate its nationals** involved in international financial crimes — particularly in cases implicating high-profile financiers and politically connected individuals.

Schimanko was also a **board member of the Manhattan Investment Fund (MIF)**, which collapsed in 2000 after its founder, **Michael Berger**, falsified fund performance data and incurred investor losses nearing **\$400–500 million**. Schimanko avoided legal proceedings in the MIF case thanks to legal intervention by **Christian Hausmaninger**, a lawyer also implicated in the Madoff-related defense environment.

These two roles — in MIF and Madoff-linked feeder funds — place Schimanko **at the center of two of the largest U.S. Ponzi scandals**, with Austrian institutions playing a notable and under-prosecuted role. His subsequent reemergence in the **SilverArrow Capital Group** and **World Economic Council (WEC)** further underscores the long arc of elite financial immunity in transnational white-collar crime.

⁵ SilverArrow Capital SEC Filing (Jan 2019): <http://www.silverarrowcapital.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Schimanko-ADV-Part-2B-Brochure-20190111-00053646x7D19.pdf>

⁶ Silver Arrow Capital SEC Filing (Jan 2019): <http://www.silverarrowcapital.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/T-Limberger-ADV-2B-Brochure-20190111-00053405x7D19.pdf>

4.3 William H. Shawn – The Enforcer

4.3.1 Personal Data

LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/william-shawn-942671/>

Nationality: American

Role: Partner at SilverArrow Capital Americas, Legal Counsel to Schimanko, WEC Ambassador

Background: A senior partner at ShawnCoulson, LLP, Washington D.C., Shawn has represented financial clients and private equity firms across multiple jurisdictions. In March 2025, he issued legal threats on behalf of Schimanko to suppress investigative reporting by Wiener Zocker.

Conflict of Interest: Shawn did not disclose his affiliation with WEC or SilverArrow while sending legal threats to FinTelegram's network partner, which raises ethical and strategic transparency concerns.

WEC Role: Listed as Ambassador on wec.global. He represents the transatlantic legal legitimacy of the WEC-SilverArrow nexus.

4.3.2 Background

Shawn is the Co-Managing Partner of **ShawnCoulson International Lawyers**, a law firm based in Washington, D.C., since 1986. He has extensive experience in international commercial litigation, complex transactions, intellectual property, antitrust, and regulatory affairs. His notable cases include high-value financings, joint ventures, and cross-border legal matters involving clients across the U.S., Europe, and Asia.⁷

He has served as special counsel in major corporate bankruptcies and as lead counsel in numerous federal intellectual property cases.

4.4 Moshe Buller – The Spy

4.4.1 Personal Data

LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/moshe-buller-6249479/>

Nationality: Israeli

Role: WEC Ambassador, Cybersecurity Expert, Former Advisor to Signa Group

Background: Former intelligence official and founder of the International Intelligence Agency (IIA), Buller was reportedly contracted by Benko's Signa Group to investigate and spy on business partners in 2023, prior to the company's collapse.

WEC Role: Listed as Director for Israel and a global ambassador with a focus on security and economic intelligence.

Concerns: His role at WEC and past engagement with Benko's intelligence operations suggest a potential continuity of surveillance or influence work within the WEC network.

⁷ ODNB website (link: <https://www.odnb.bank/About-Us/Team>)

4.4.2 The Signa Spy Case

Moshe Buller has come under scrutiny. There is now clear evidence that Buller and his internationally active security firm, the **International Intelligence Agency (IAA)**, were commissioned by the Signa Group in 2023 to spy on then-Signa manager and longtime Benko confidant Dieter Berninghaus and his family.⁸

Buller previously served as a senior officer in the Israeli domestic intelligence service Shin Bet and now runs a private investigative company with former intelligence colleagues, with offices in Israel, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates, and New York. According to internal documents, the IAA was officially tasked by two leading Signa managers and a Vienna law firm with investigating Berninghaus. The goal was to determine whether, from the perspective of the Signa Group or René Benko, Berninghaus should be classified as a “risk person.”

The result was a 39-page dossier containing detailed and highly personal information about Berninghaus and his family, including bank records, securities accounts, and even invoices from service providers such as landscape architects. Many of these details would have been nearly impossible to obtain legally, which raises suspicions about the use of improper methods. Payment for Buller’s services apparently went through Signa Holding and was handled by Benko’s longtime lawyer, Stefan Prochaska.⁹

Buller himself confirmed when asked that he had carried out the investigation and delivered the dossier to Benko and the Signa Group. Publicly, he at times tried to give the impression that the assignment had come from an Asian company—but the documentation clearly contradicts this.¹⁰

4.5 Heinz Peter Nußbaum – The Gatekeeper

LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/peter-nu%C3%9Fbaum-93096664/>

Nationality: Germany

Role: Managing Director of WEC GmbH, Chairman of IWS – Internationaler Wirtschaftssenat e.V. (Germany)

Background: Nußbaum serves as a bridging figure between the commercial WEC GmbH in Austria and the NGO-like entity IWS in Germany. His legal name, Heinz Nußbaum, appears in the Austrian corporate registry, while Peter Nußbaum is used in the WEC and IWS websites.

WEC Role: Co-founder and key corporate administrator. Oversees the Vienna-based WEC operations while acting as public-facing Chairman of the Berlin-based IWS, which brands itself as the NGO arm of the WEC.

Concerns: The dual role raises transparency issues: while IWS operates under the pretense of NGO status, Nußbaum’s controlling position in the WEC GmbH suggests strategic overlap and raises questions about the separation between nonprofit advocacy and private capital interests.

⁸ Krone: The evidence: ex-secret agent was commissioned by Signa (link: <https://www.krone.at/3573276>)

⁹ News: Signa-Pleite: Wie René Benko seinen wichtigsten Berater ausspionieren ließ (link: <https://www.news.at/wirtschaft/signa-pleite-wie-rene-benko-seinen-wichtigsten-berater-ausspionieren-liess>)

¹⁰ News: Neue Belege: Ex-Geheimagent war von Signa beauftragt (link: <https://www.news.at/wirtschaft/neue-belege-ex-geheimagent-war-von-signa-beauftragt>)

These five figures illustrate that the WEC is **not merely a business club**, but a **strategically structured elite consortium** with deep ties to asset management, foundation control, financial litigation, and intelligence. Their roles in the post-Benko landscape demand greater scrutiny — and this dossier aims to provide exactly that.

5 The WEC Ambassador System – Global Influence or Strategic Front?

The **World Economic Council (WEC)** presents on its website a decentralized, international structure featuring a select group of individuals designated as “**Ambassadors**” and “**Chapter Directors**.” According to its public-facing materials, these ambassadors represent the WEC in various world regions and industries. The titles often combine diplomatic flair with business strategy, e.g., “Ambassador & Chapter Director for America” or “Ambassador for Southeast Asia.”

5.1 Key WEC Ambassadors (as of April 2025):

- **Moshe Buller** – Ambassador (Cybersecurity expert & private intelligence contractor; reportedly worked for Signa)
- **William H. Shawn** – Ambassador (US lawyer representing Robert Schimanko in legal actions against critics)
- **David Knowler** – Ambassador & Chapter Director for America
- **Prof. Yabin Wu** – Ambassador & Chapter Director for China
- **Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil Alois Knoll** – Ambassador (Technical University of Munich)
- **Alexandre Spatz** – Ambassador
- **Bernhard Schutte** – Ambassador & Chapter Director for Southeast Asia

These ambassadors are a diverse mix of academics, lawyers, entrepreneurs, and consultants, some with high-level political or intelligence backgrounds. They are presented as “global connectors” who facilitate local access to the WEC network and promote its mission of shaping “the new realities of the business world.”

5.2 Hypothesis: What Is the True Purpose of the WEC Ambassador System?

On the surface, the WEC Ambassador system mimics international NGO structures such as those used by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, whose global reach depends on national and regional chapters. However, unlike the WEF, the WEC is a **privately held limited liability company** — not a multilateral institution or recognized NGO.

Given this, the WEC Ambassador network raises important questions:

1. **Is this network intended to provide a veneer of legitimacy for influence operations in strategic regions?**
The diplomatic-sounding titles may serve to open doors in emerging markets, finance circles, or political arenas, especially in jurisdictions where personal connections matter more than institutional affiliations.
2. **Does the system help launder reputation and attract capital or advisory clients?**
With founders and close associates tied to the Benko scandal, the ambassador system could offer a soft-power route to reposition themselves globally.

3. **Is WEC being used as a platform for private deal-making and discreet asset movements?**
Given the **simultaneous roles of Ambassadors in WEC, offshore foundations, and legal/financial advisory**, it is plausible that the system enables the discreet coordination of cross-border asset strategies under the label of thought leadership.
-

5.3 Conclusion

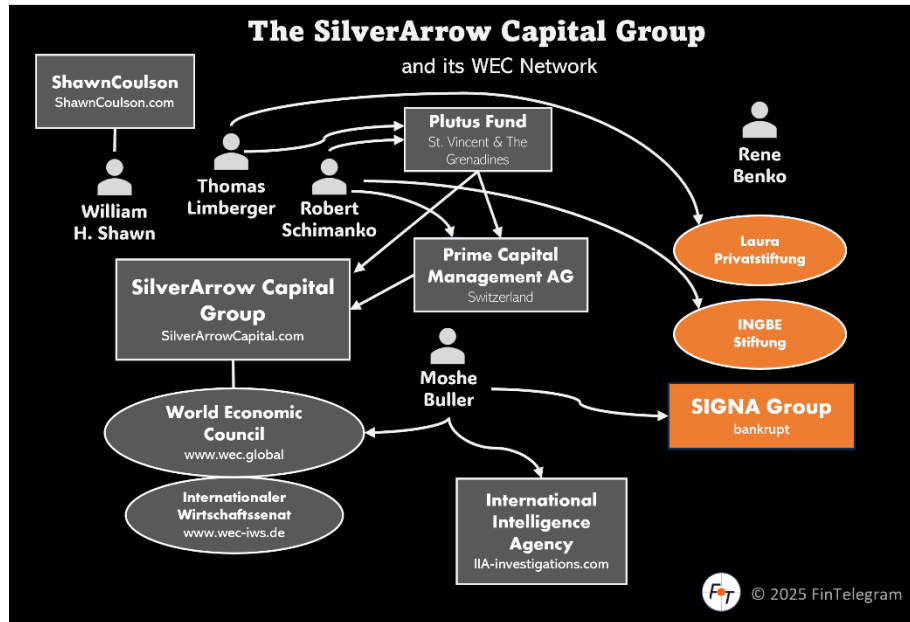
The WEC Ambassador System appears to be less about public policy engagement and more about **strategic positioning and soft power orchestration** by a private network of high-net-worth individuals and shadow finance operatives. Its structure, timing, and personnel suggest the WEC could be **an instrument of influence — not policy**.

More transparency and public oversight are urgently needed.

6 SilverArrow Capital and the Shadow Finance Network

Title: *Elite Funds, Quiet Structures – The Financial Engine Behind WEC*

Updated: April 2025



SilverArrow Capital is not just another investment firm—it is the financial nucleus around which several of the World Economic Council’s (WEC) most prominent figures revolve. Co-founded and operated by **Thomas Limberger**, **Robert Schimanko**, and **William H. Shawn**, SilverArrow Capital serves as the private capital platform that underpins the elite network of business influence, legal enforcement, and reputation management tied to the WEC.

6.1 Structure and Jurisdictions

SilverArrow Capital is organized as a multi-jurisdictional network, operating through entities in:

- **United Kingdom:** SilverArrow Capital LLP (founded 2010)
- **Guernsey:** SilverArrow Capital Guernsey Ltd
- **United States:** SilverArrow Capital Americas, LLC (Delaware, formed 2017)

According to its brochure and other publicly available filings:¹¹¹²

“SilverArrow Capital Americas, LLC is equally owned by Robert Schimanko, William H. Shawn, and SilverArrow Capital Guernsey Ltd.”

¹¹ SilverArrow Capital SEC Filing (Aug 2018): <http://www.silverarrowcapital.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SilverArrow-SEC-ADV-Part-2A-Brochure-August-27-2018-00053429xA7D19.pdf>

¹² SilverArrow Capital SEC Filing (Jan 2019): <http://www.silverarrowcapital.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Schimanko-ADV-Part-2B-Brochure-20190111-00053646xA7D19.pdf>

The UK LLP continues to operate as the flagship advisory vehicle, while the U.S. and Guernsey entities serve strategic functions for tax optimization, asset shielding, and investor interface.

6.2 Business Focus and Services

SilverArrow Capital markets itself as a **boutique investment group** specializing in:

- Distressed asset acquisition
- Strategic investments in energy, technology, and infrastructure
- Reputation-sensitive client representation
- Wealth structuring and capital deployment for elite families and foundations

The language across its websites (silverarrowcapital.com) reflects a firm focused on **discreet, high-impact investing**, often in complex, post-crisis environments.

6.3 Links to WEC and Benko

Several SilverArrow partners are central to the WEC's leadership and its current entanglements in the **Signa Group scandal**:

- **Limberger** is both managing director of SilverArrow and the WEC, as well as a board member of the **Laura Private Foundation** of Rene Benko.
 - **Schimanko**, also a SilverArrow principal, is on the board of the **INGBE Foundation** in Liechtenstein—another Benko-associated entity from which millions in gold and cash have been liquidated.
 - **William H. Shawn**, partner at SilverArrow Capital Americas, acts as the **U.S. attorney for Schimanko** while simultaneously being a listed WEC Ambassador.
-

6.4 Financial Engineering & Foundation Access

SilverArrow appears to function not only as an investment firm but also as a **financial structuring platform**, allowing for:

- Creation and management of **private foundation networks**
- Handling of **multi-currency liquidity pools**
- Covert acquisition and protection of **sensitive assets** (e.g., Benko's auctioned items, foundation-held gold)

The foundation appointments of Limberger and Schimanko occurred **simultaneously in November 2024**, shortly before key asset movements were registered, suggesting a **coordinated operational role** within the Benko aftermath.

6.5 Concerns and Red Flags

- **Conflict of Interest:** Shawn's legal action on behalf of Schimanko without disclosure of his dual role at SilverArrow and WEC.
 - **Opacity:** No public reporting on assets under management (AUM), governance disclosures, or client vetting procedures.
 - **Proximity to Foundations:** Strategic placement on foundation boards under criminal investigation for asset concealment and money laundering.
-

6.6 SilverArrow as the Financial Engine of the WEC Ecosystem

SilverArrow Capital is **not merely an investor group** — it seems like a **shadow finance apparatus** that enables the World Economic Council's global positioning. It provides:

- Financial discretion,
- Legal muscle,
- Reputation shelter,
- And, increasingly, **foundation control**.

Together, WEC and SilverArrow represent a **next-generation elite network**: one that operates behind layers of legitimacy, in sync with regulatory arbitrage and post-crisis opportunity. The next section will examine how this engine powers **foundation-based asset strategies**, particularly in the case of **Rene Benko**.

7 Foundations and the Gold Trail – The Hidden Wealth Structures Behind WEC and Benko

Title: *INGBE, Laura, and the Shadow Economy of European Elite Foundations*

7.1 Current Status of the Signa and René Benko Case

(as of April 24, 2025)

The collapse of the Signa Group — once a dominant player in European real estate — has triggered a financial and political shockwave across the continent. At the center of this economic supernova is Austrian entrepreneur **René Benko**, who remains in **pre-trial detention** as prosecutors and investigators dig through an ever-expanding web of asset concealment, insider dealings, and alleged economic fraud.

7.1.1 Legal Proceedings and Charges

Benko was arrested in January 2025 and remains in **custody at Vienna's Josefstadt prison**, following multiple extensions of detention.¹³ The Austrian Economic and Corruption Prosecutor's Office (WKStA) justified the remand with persistent **risk of collusion, evidence tampering, and continued criminal activity**. The charges include:

- Fraud and breach of trust (notably in capital increase schemes)
- Fraudulent bankruptcy (diversion and concealment of funds)
- Forgery of documents
- Cross-border money laundering
- Insolvency-related offenses

A dedicated task force — **Soko Signa** — has been formed, working with counterparts in **Germany, Italy, and Liechtenstein**. This multi-jurisdictional investigation increasingly focuses on **foundations, offshore accounts, and precious metals** — notably the **INBG** and **Laura foundations**, where Benko's associates have taken leading roles.

7.1.2 Prosecutorial Strategy and First Indictments

Prosecutors intend to proceed with an indictment **while Benko remains in detention**, potentially as early as April 2025. Surveillance tapes, forensic audits, and investor testimonies reportedly comprise a substantial part of the evidence base. Particular scrutiny surrounds the so-called **“money carousel”**, where Benko allegedly convinced investors to contribute new capital while secretly funding his own stake with redirected funds from other stakeholders.

¹³ Press Release WKStA: Verfahrenskomplex Signa: Festnahme von René Benko (link: <https://www.justiz.gv.at/wksta/wirtschafts-und-korruptionsstaatsanwaltschaft/medienstelle/pressemitteilungen/pressemitteilungen-2025/verfahrenskomplex-signa-festnahme-von-ren-benko.f7b.de.html>)

7.1.3 The Foundation Connection

As previously reported by FinTelegram, the two foundations central to the Signa asset structure — **INBG (Liechtenstein)** and **Laura Private Foundation (Austria)** — were strategically re-staffed in late 2024 with **Robert Schimanko** and **Thomas Limberger**, both directors of the **World Economic Council (WEC)** and partners at **SilverArrow Capital**. These appointments occurred mere weeks before Benko's arrest and coincided with the liquidation of high-value assets, including **over €30 million in gold reserves**.

Authorities suspect these foundations were used to **shield Benko's personal wealth** from creditors and the insolvency estate — a suspicion reinforced by reports that Schimanko, acting as a trustee, **acquired luxury items** for Benko during official insolvency auctions.

7.1.4 Political Ties Under Scrutiny

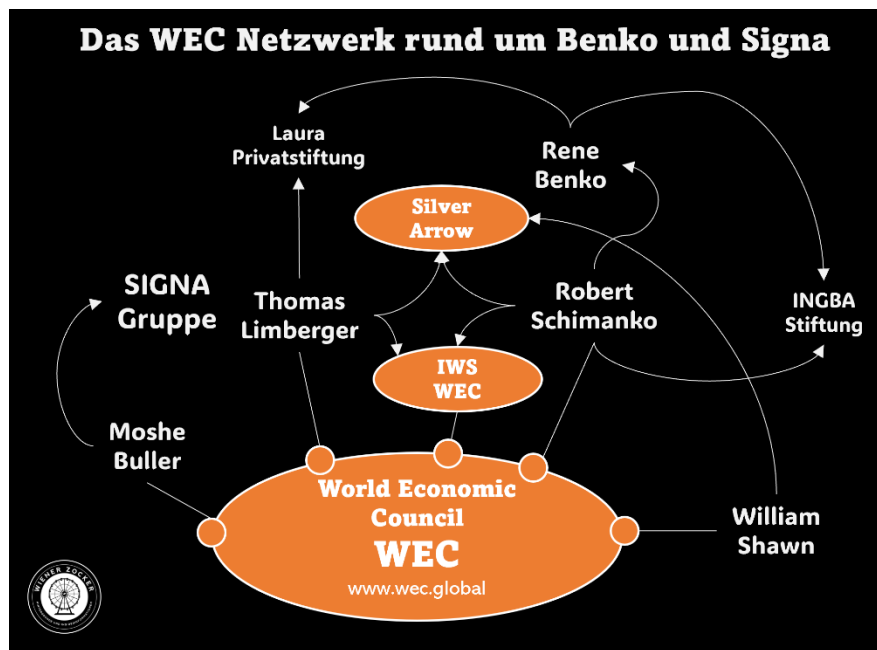
The fallout from the Signa collapse has also drawn former Austrian chancellors into the fray:

- **Alfred Gusenbauer**, a long-time Signa board member, is being examined for possible conflicts of interest related to investments in Chile and multimillion-euro consulting fees.
- **Sebastian Kurz**, after leaving politics, acted as an international consultant for Signa, traveling with Benko to attract investors and issuing invoices through his own company. While no criminal charges have been filed against Kurz in connection with Signa, questions persist about **influence-peddling** and the **monetization of political networks**.

7.1.5 Summary (Key Points):

- René Benko remains in custody on suspicion of fraud, embezzlement, and money laundering.
- Prosecutors are targeting a sophisticated structure of foundations and gold holdings, managed by individuals tied to the WEC.
- The INBG Foundation reportedly liquidated €30 million in gold after Benko's arrest, raising questions of concealed wealth transfers.
- Former chancellors Gusenbauer and Kurz are under scrutiny for their deep involvement in Signa's global operations.
- The Signa case is fast becoming **Europe's most high-profile white-collar scandal**, with implications stretching from political elites to international banking networks.

7.2 WEC Meets Benko



While private foundations often serve as legitimate instruments for succession planning and philanthropy, they can also function as opaque vehicles for asset shielding, reputation laundering, and capital flight. The collapse of **Rene Benko's Signa Group** has brought this reality into stark relief — and at its center are **two foundations** now under prosecutorial scrutiny: the **INGBE Foundation (Liechtenstein)** and the **Laura Private Foundation (Austria)**.

Both entities are now linked to the **World Economic Council (WEC)** through the strategic appointments of two of its managing partners:

- **Robert Schimanko** to INGBE Foundation (Nov. 2024)
- **Thomas Limberger** to Laura Private Foundation (Nov. 2024)

These appointments occurred shortly before the discovery of asset transactions that have stunned both investigators and the European financial press.

7.3 INGBE Foundation – Liechtenstein's Golden Vault

The INGBE Foundation, headquartered in Vaduz, is legally structured under Liechtenstein's foundation law — a regime long associated with **confidential asset protection**.

As of **2021**, INGBE held:

- **Over €81 million in gold**, stored at:
 - LGT Bank
 - VP Bank
 - Liechtensteinische Landesbank (LLB)
- **€23 million in cash** across multiple currencies

- Currency safes with holdings in Swiss francs, US dollars, and euros

At the time, Benko's Signa Group was already approaching technical insolvency.

In March 2025, the **INGBE Foundation sold approximately 360 kilograms of gold** for around 30 million euros.¹⁴ The foundation, whose beneficiary is Benko's mother Ingeborg, transferred the proceeds to an account at a Liechtenstein private bank. This transaction triggered a money laundering suspicion report by the Liechtenstein authorities, prompting investigations by both the Austrian Economic and Corruption Prosecutor's Office (WKStA) and the Liechtenstein FIU.

7.3.1 Status of Investigations and Suspicions

Investigators suspect that the gold sale was not primarily economically motivated but may have served to protect assets from creditors or judicial authorities, possibly by moving them to less accessible offshore financial centers.¹⁵ The WKStA considers this a possible attempt to remove assets from the reach of European authorities, especially given the excellent performance of the gold price and the tense situation surrounding Benko's Signa Group. The foundation's defense denies these allegations, arguing that the sale was made to realize capital gains and to reallocate the funds into securities.

7.3.2 Role of INGBE Board Member Robert Schimanko

Robert Schimanko, an Austrian financial manager residing in Switzerland, was appointed to the board (foundation council) of the INGBE Foundation in November 2024. Shortly before René Benko's arrest in January 2025, Schimanko met with Benko at his chalet in Lech—a meeting Benko deliberately kept secret and which investigators see as evidence of ongoing influence.

Thus, at the time of the gold sale in March 2025, Schimanko was directly involved in the leadership of the INGBE Foundation as a board member. The foundation's board members, including Schimanko, defend the gold sale as a purely economic decision and emphasize that no asset shifting or concealment was intended. However, investigators see the close connection between Benko and Schimanko, as well as the timing of their meeting, as indications that Benko continued to exert influence over the foundation's affairs and thus also over the gold sale.

7.3.3 Summary of Allegations and Defense

- Authorities are investigating whether the INGBE Foundation's gold sale was intended to shift assets and launder money to protect Benko's wealth from creditors and investigators.
- Robert Schimanko played a central role as a board member in the decision and execution of the gold sale.
- The foundation's board denies any illegal motivation and cites economic reasons for the sale.
- Investigators nevertheless see a connection between Benko's ongoing influence, Schimanko's role, and the timing of the transaction.

¹⁴ News: 30 Millionen Euro: Abverkauf im Benko-Goldbunker im Visier der Ermittler (link: <https://www.news.at/wirtschaft/rene-benko-goldbunker-abverkauf>)

¹⁵ FinTelegram: Update: Gold, Foundations, and a Web of Influence – New Developments in the Benko Case, (link: <https://fintelegram.com/update-gold-foundations-and-a-web-of-influence-new-developments-in-the-benko-case/>)

7.3.4 Conclusion

The sale of 360 kilograms of gold by the **INGBE Foundation is at the center of prosecutorial investigations**. Robert Schimanko, who has served as an INGBE board member since late 2024, was significantly involved in the transaction. While the foundation emphasizes economic motives, investigators suspect the sale was part of a strategy to secure assets in the context of Benko's insolvency. The actual role and influence of Schimanko and Benko remain the subject of ongoing investigations.

Prosecutors now suspect that **Benko moved assets from Signa into private foundations under trusted associates**—a classic concealment strategy.

7.4 Laura Private Foundation – The Austrian Outpost

Less liquid, but equally sensitive, is the **Laura Private Foundation** in Austria. This entity is directly tied to **Rene Benko's family and legacy planning**, and has traditionally been considered a key node in his opaque wealth architecture.

In November 2024, **Thomas Limberger** was appointed to its board. This came shortly after regulators began tracing Signa asset transfers involving luxury items, personal trusts, and boardroom reshuffles.

While the Laura Foundation is not accused of wrongdoing, prosecutors are investigating whether it received diverted funds, auctioned items, or **functioned as a façade** during the Signa asset unwind.

7.5 A Coordinated Web of Influence?

The dual appointments of Limberger and Schimanko — both WEC directors and SilverArrow Capital partners — to **Benko-linked foundations in different jurisdictions** within the same month is **not coincidental**. It reveals a coordinated architecture that:

- Spans Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland
- Combines legal, financial, and strategic communications functions
- Suggests advance planning in the event of legal jeopardy

Investigators describe Benko's foundation strategy as exhibiting **"considerable criminal energy"** and a **habitual willingness to obscure beneficial ownership**. The gold reserves, bank safes, and auctioned luxury items reflect a **classic playbook of elite financial misdirection**.

7.6 Prosecutorial View: Risk of Absconding

In its April 2025 extension of Benko's detention, the Austrian WKStA cited for the first time a new reason: **risk of absconding**. The foundation-controlled assets abroad, combined with access to private air travel and non-EU legal protections, form the core rationale.

The WKStA states:

“The accused has considerable means at his disposal abroad. His foundations are well-capitalized, his name removed from ownership structures, and his networks remain active. The risk of escape is concrete and imminent.”

This section illustrates how the World Economic Council and SilverArrow Capital are not just intellectual or financial players — they are **instrumental actors in one of Europe’s most significant post-crisis asset strategies**. In the next section, we explore how this influence extends into **global regulatory gaps, legal intimidation, and the shaping of new elite narratives**.

8 Legal Pressure, Regulatory Arbitrage & Elite Influence in the Post-WEF Era

Title: *Silencing Scrutiny – WEC, SilverArrow, and the Weaponization of Legal Systems*

As the WEC expands its influence into the opaque aftermath of Europe's largest real estate collapse, its operatives have increasingly adopted a strategy that combines **legal aggression, regulatory maneuvering, and reputational containment**. This section explores how WEC-associated figures have responded to growing media exposure and criminal investigations — not through transparency, but by using legal threats and transnational complexity to deter scrutiny.

8.1 Threatening the Press: The Case of Wiener Zocker

In early 2025, investigative platform **Wiener Zocker** published a series of reports based on a CIA document detailing historical financial misconduct involving **Robert Schimanko**. These reports linked Schimanko to:

- The Madoff feeder fund network
- The Manhattan Investment Fund scandal
- Post-bankruptcy asset movements in the Benko case

The response? **Immediate legal threats.**

Two law firms — **Nesselhauf (Germany)** and **ShawnCoulson LLP (USA)** — issued cease-and-desist letters and threatened lawsuits. What made these threats notable was the **failure to disclose key conflicts of interest**:

- **William H. Shawn**, the U.S. attorney who issued the threat, is also a business partner of Schimanko and Limberger via **SilverArrow Capital Americas LLC**.
- Shawn is additionally listed as an **ambassador of the WEC**, the very network under journalistic scrutiny.

These omissions, combined with **aggressive legal language**, bear the hallmarks of **SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation)** — lawsuits intended to intimidate rather than to vindicate truth.

8.2 Regulatory Arbitrage: The Dual Structure of WEC/IWS

The **WEC network thrives on jurisdictional complexity**. As described in Section 3, WEC is structured as:

- A **GmbH (limited liability company)** in Austria
- A **NGO-style entity (IWS)** in Germany

By maintaining this duality, WEC:

- Avoids the **transparency requirements** of public interest NGOs
-

- Leverages **corporate protections** while adopting **nonprofit optics**
- Facilitates **cross-border financial structuring** through Austrian, German, Swiss, and Liechtenstein entities

This **legal arbitrage** allows WEC figures to:

- Maintain offshore bank accounts
- Direct foundations without public disclosure
- Shield personal liability through “ambassador” and advisory roles

8.3 Narrative Control in the Vacuum of WEF

As the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** stumbles from the resignation of Klaus Schwab and allegations of misused resources, WEC fills the vacuum with:

- High-end branding
- Private events
- Ambassadors and private equity figures from multiple continents

Yet WEC’s structure is entirely **privatized, undisclosed, and unregulated**.

Its **LinkedIn and web presence mimic WEF language**, but its **legal base as a GmbH in a virtual office in Vienna** and its actual **operational core in Liechtenstein and Switzerland** make it a distinctly **post-WEF hybrid** — part think tank, part holding structure.

8.4 Risk Assessment for Democratic Institutions

The WEC/SilverArrow ecosystem demonstrates how elite influence adapts to modern vulnerabilities:

- Exploiting **offshore banking jurisdictions**
- Weaponizing **legal representation** to silence critics
- Embedding into **insolvent structures (e.g. Signa)** at moments of legal vulnerability

Without proactive regulation, **WEC-type entities may increasingly replace public institutions** as platforms for reputation engineering and asset protection among the ultra-wealthy.

In the final section, we synthesize these findings and call for transparency, accountability, and a new international legal doctrine to confront this post-crisis elite architecture.

9 Conclusion & Recommendations

Title: *Demystifying the WEC – The Rise of a Post-WEF Shadow Elite*

This dossier has traced the complex and increasingly influential network surrounding the **World Economic Council (WEC)** and its affiliated structures, from the **SilverArrow Capital Group** to the **Benko-linked foundations** INGBE and Laura. The findings suggest that WEC operates less as a traditional economic forum and more as a **strategic alliance of financiers, lawyers, and reputation architects** who thrive in the regulatory gaps between jurisdictions.

WEC presents itself as a global think tank akin to the World Economic Forum (WEF). However, unlike the WEF — a non-profit foundation under Swiss law with some degree of transparency — WEC is run as a **privately held company (WEC GmbH)** headquartered at a **virtual office in Vienna**, with additional influence channels via the **Internationaler Wirtschaftssenat (IWS)** in Berlin.

At its center are five key figures:

- **Thomas Limberger** – Strategy and foundations
- **Robert Schimanko** – Finance and legal structuring
- **William H. Shawn** – Legal enforcement and U.S. linkages
- **Peter Nußbaum** – Administrative and NGO interface
- **Moshe Buller** – Intelligence and security consulting

These actors are not merely thought leaders; they are functionaries in **asset management, risk deflection, legal intimidation, and post-crisis positioning**. Their involvement in **the foundations of fallen real estate mogul Rene Benko** signals a calculated strategy of post-collapse asset insulation and reputation rehabilitation.

9.1 Key Conclusions

1. **WEC is not an NGO in the classic sense**, but a private firm using NGO optics for legitimacy and access.
2. **SilverArrow Capital functions as the financial engine** behind the network, facilitating discreet asset movement, legal shielding, and post-crisis investment strategies.
3. **Legal intimidation tactics** deployed against critical media — notably Wiener Zocker — raise serious concerns about freedom of the press and democratic oversight.
4. The network's **deep entanglement in the Benko bankruptcy**, including foundation-based gold and asset transfers, suggests a need for urgent regulatory scrutiny.
5. WEC positions itself as a **successor entity to WEF** in the narrative space, while circumventing WEF's transparency and accountability frameworks.

9.2 Policy & Regulatory Recommendations

To address the emerging risks posed by such post-crisis elite networks, we recommend:

- **International Register of Economic Influence Networks:** All transnational economic councils or private think tanks operating across borders should register beneficial ownership, funding sources, and board affiliations.
- **Foundation Transparency Reforms:** Jurisdictions like Liechtenstein and Austria must enhance disclosure standards for foundations tied to high-net-worth individuals and politically exposed persons (PEPs).
- **Anti-SLAPP Protections:** Legal protections should be strengthened for journalists and whistleblowers exposing networks of economic or reputational power.
- **Cross-Border Prosecution Taskforces:** Regulators and prosecutors should create fast-track investigative frameworks for asset shielding across Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, and Luxembourg.
- **Public Database of Legal-Commercial Networks:** Similar to company registers, a global open-source platform should map connections between legal, financial, and reputational actors in high-risk sectors.

9.3 Call to Whistleblowers

If you have information about WEC, SilverArrow Capital, or related individuals and foundations, contact us securely via [FinTelegram Whistleblower Hub](#). You may help uncover one of the most influential and least understood elite networks operating in the wake of Europe's largest economic scandals.

FinTelegram Editorial Board, April 2025

9.4 Legal Disclaimer

This dossier does not assert criminal liability. All information herein is based on publicly available sources, leaked documents, verified reporting, and investigative work. All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

9.5 Sources & Documentation

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9.6 Additional Profiles

9.6.1 Christoph Jauschnegg

Benko's long-time private pilot and a director at the Laura Private Foundation. He reportedly managed operations for Benko's private lifestyle, including aircraft scheduling and foundation administration, raising questions about his knowledge of internal asset flows.

9.6.2 Ernst Tanner

Chairman of the Board at Lindt & Sprüngli and one of the investors affected by the Signa capital increase scheme. His financial exposure places him among the most prominent individuals damaged by the Signa collapse.

9.6.3 Arthur Eugster

Owner of Eugster/Frismag AG. Lost approximately CHF 650 million in the Signa collapse. He is considered one of the largest private victims of the scandal and has cooperated with prosecutors.