

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE

INVESTING IN KOSOVO

Berlin, 7th March 2012

Event languages: German / English (simultaneous translation will be provided)

Venue: Commerzbank, Pariser Platz 1, 10117 Berlin

Date: 7th March 2012, 12:00

Register at: register@eciks.org (until 29th February 2012)

Supported by:



ProCredit Bank



Investment Promotion Agency of Kosovo
Office in Vienna - Implemented by ECIKS

Kosovo Economy

Kosovo has achieved remarkable progress in establishing the foundations of a modern market economy, in particular after its independence in 2008. The country's GDP has grown 4 percent in 2010, despite the international financial crisis. The positive trend has also continued in 2011 with Kosovo's economy growing 5 percent.

With the Euro as official currency and an annual average inflation rate of 3 percent in the last five years, Kosovo has built a very stable macroeconomic environment. The banking sector is one of the main success stories of the young state and is strongly supporting the development of the private sector.

Foreign Direct Investments

Due to attractive location factors as well as favorable business and investment climate, Kosovo has had a positive trend of FDI inflows in the recent years. In 2010 with 314 Million Euro of FDI inflows Kosovo has reached a 7 percent FDI growth mark. A further improvement was also noticeable in the first half of 2011, where Kosovo attracted 15 percent more FDI. During the same period, Kosovo managed to attract approx. 10 percent of the total FDI-Inflows in Southeastern Europe.

Kosovo offers a very suitable business and investment climate. It has low taxes and a simple tax system. Through a tax reform introduced in January 2009 Kosovo has lowered the flat Corporate Income Tax to 10 percent. The personal income tax is progressive and amounts to maximally 10 percent. The young state has one of the most liberal trade regimes in Europe with a customs rate of 10 percent for imports and no duties on exports. Kosovo is part of the CEFTA-Agreement and enjoys preferential access to the EU and US markets.

The legal system in Kosovo was built on totally new foundations. Laws in Kosovo are EU-compatible and available in English and online. In 2006 Kosovo has adopted a Law on Foreign Investment that gives foreign investors an equal treatment to local investors and protects them from expropriation, nationalization and retroactive application of laws.

Challenges

Although much progress has been achieved in the recent years, a large trade and current account deficit, a high unemployment rate and significant poverty still characterize the country's economy. The private sector, even if improving on a quick pace, is still facing low productivity, knowhow deficits and lack of markets, and therefore currently can't significantly contribute to job creation, poverty reduction and import substitution.

12:00-13:00 – Registration & Coffee

12:45 -13:00 – Participant’s photo (with invitations only)

13:00-13:10 – Opening Speeches

- **H.E. Dr. Vilson MIRDITA**, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Germany, Berlin
- **H.E. Dr. Ralph SCHEIDE**, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Germany, Berlin

13:10-13:30 – Keynote Speech

- **H.E. Ms. Mimoza KUSARI-LILA**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Kosovo, Prishtina

13:30-14:45 – Panel 1: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN KOSOVO

CHAIR:

- **Dr. h.c. Gernot ERLER**, MP, President of Southeast Europe Association (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft), Berlin

PANEL DISCUSSION:

- **H.E. Mr. Besim BEQAJ**, Minister of Economic Development of the Republic of Kosovo, Prishtina
- **Dr. Erhard BUSEK**, President of Vienna Economic Forum, Former Vice Chancellor of Austria, Vienna
- **Dr. Wolfgang ISCHINGER**, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Munich
- **Helge TOLKSDORF**, Head of Division South-Eastern Europe and Turkey, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Berlin
- **Prof. Dr. Rainer LINDNER**, Executive Director, Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft), Berlin
- **Mr. Kujtim DOBRUNA**, President, Economic Initiative for Kosovo (EIKS), Vienna

Q and A Session with the Audience, led by the Moderator

14:45-15:00 – Coffee Break

15:00-16:30 – Panel 2: INSIDE STORIES FROM KOSOVO

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:

- **Mr. Valdrin LLUKA**, CEO, Investment Promotion Agency of Kosovo, Prishtina

CHAIR:

- **Dr. Franz-Lothar Altmann, Assoc. Prof.**, Member of the Board, Southeast Europe Association (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft), Berlin

PANEL DISCUSSION:

- **Mr. Lorik FEJZULLAHU**, Head of the Department for Public Private Partnership - PPP, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kosovo, Prishtina
- **Mr. Sebastjan GERGETA**, CEO, Brewery Peja, Peja
- **Mr. Christian HAAS**, Head of Water and Waste Management, Southeast Europe and Turkey Division, KfW Bankengruppe, Frankfurt
- **Mr. Philip SIGWART**, CEO, Pro Credit Bank Kosovo, Prishtina
- **Mr. Dastid PALLASKA**, Attorney at Law, Pallaska&Associates, Kosovo, Prishtina
- **Mr. Samir KRASNIQI**, Managing Director, Xella Kosovo, Lipjan

Q and A Session with the Audience, led by the Moderator

Reception