



AGENDA

CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The Plaza Tirana Hotel, Queen Geraldine room

Friday | December 7

- 08:45** **Registration - arrival of guests & participants**
- 09:30** **Opening statement**
H.E. **Edi Rama**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania
- 09:45** **Welcome remarks**
Erion Veliaj, Mayor, Tirana Municipality
- 10:00** **Global Power Changes: The Impact for Albania and the Region**
Almost a decade after Albania joined NATO, and a few months after EU leaders reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans and the latter aligned themselves with the “Sofia Declaration” at the May 2018 EU-Western Balkans Summit, what is the current geopolitical state within and around Albania and the Western Balkans? And how are these geopolitics affected by the current global power shift from West to East?
- H.E. **Sanja Bujas Juraga**, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Republic of Albania
H.E. **Eleni Sourani**, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the Republic of Albania
H.E. **Christina Vasak**, Ambassador of France to the Republic of Albania
- 10:45** **Keynote statement**
H. E. **Luigi Soreca**, Head of the EU Delegation in Albania



11:00

Challenges for Sustainable Economic Growth and FDI proposals

According to the latest OECD index on Competitiveness in South Eastern Europe, Albania is among the leading economies for FDI inflow measured as a percentage of GDP. Nevertheless, Albania has no good ranking in terms of FDI as a portion of GDP compared to the EU, the World Bank predicts the FDI inflow decline by 2019, and the country's economic policies do not yet facilitate environmentally sustainable economic growth. What are the challenges hampering necessary structural reforms and how can they be effectively tackled?

Keynote statement

Ines Mucostepa, Chair, Union of Chambers of Commerce & Industry in Albania

11:15

Challenges for Sustainable Economic Growth

Genc Celi, Foreign Investment Director, Albanian Investment Development Agency

Nikolin Jaka, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Albania

Radmilo Vlacic, General Manager, Philip Morris Albania

Julien Roche, Chairman, French Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Albania

Georgios Papanastasiou, CEO, Alpha Bank Albania & President of HBAA

12:15

Developments and Foreign Direct Investments proposals

Maksim Caslli, Country Leader, Deloitte, Albania & Kosovo

Tom Kristian Larsen, President, Foreign Investors Association in Albania

Antonio Nidoli, Chairman, Italian Chamber of Commerce in Albania

Dario Grassani, Council of Confindustria Albania & Deputy CEO, Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Albania

Rohan D'Souza, Chairman, Shell Companies in Albania

13:15

Keynote statement

Shpend Balija, CEO, European Investors Council, Kosovo

Moderator: Marinela Jazoj, Executive Director, Foreign Investors Association of Albania

13:30 – 14:15 **Break - Light lunch**



14:15

Infrastructure, Connectivity and Energy: Drivers of Long-term Prosperity

Producing the greatest part of its locally consumed energy from hydropower, Albania is well ahead of all the EU member states in terms of the proportion of energy consumed from renewable sources. Nevertheless, unstable energy supply and frequent outages coupled with less developed transport and telecoms networks account for an aggregate index of average infrastructure development that is 70% lower than the EU average. How can Albania boost investment (public and/or private) in infrastructure so as to reap the relevant growth and FDI benefits?

Opening statement

Damian Gjiknuri, Minister of Energy and Industry, Albania

14:30

Infrastructure and connectivity

Achilleas Kanaris, CEO, Vodafone, Albania

Yannis Kirkinzis, Business Development Director, Hill International

Stephanie Sieg, General Manager, Tirana Business Park

Dimitris Tsolkas, Representative, Egnatia Odos S.A., Albania Branch

15:00

Setting targets towards a viable energy model

Erideta Bashi, Director Strategic Planning & Management, KESH Albania

Stathis Natsis, Executive Director, Overseas Business, TERNA

Erlet Shaqe, Chairman, Albania Energy Association

Anita Shushku, Chair, Albanian Renewable Energy Association

15:30

Financing prospects

Guido Clary, Country Manager, European Investment Bank, Albania

Matteo Colangeli, Head of EBRD, Albania

Ghinea Arminio Lorga, Head of Policy and Strategy, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank

Björn Thies, Country Head, KfW Albania

Moderator: **Nevila Jones**



16:00

Realizing the Travel & Tourism Potential

According to London-based World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC) Economic Impact 2018 country report, Albania's tourism and travel sector's direct contribution to the country's economy is expected to grow to 9.3% by 2028 (from 8.5% in 2017), forecast to grow by an average of 4.7% per annum over the next decade. How can enhancements in infrastructure, connectivity and FDI unlock Albania's untapped potential in the sector and make the travel and tourism industry one of the key drivers of economic growth?

Opening statement

Blendi Klosi, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Albania

Discussants

Stela Dhami, Managing Director, Colliers International, Albania

Edlira Muka, CEO, Balfin Group, Albania

Albin Gega, Director, Albanian National Tourism Agency

Arlinda Çausholli, Director of Communication, Tirana International Airport

Moderator: Stela Dhami

16:45

Closing remarks – end of conference