



Challenges for Sustainable Growth

Draft agenda as of November 15, 2018

The Plaza Tirana Hotel, December 7, 2018

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DRAFT AGENDA (as of November 15, 2018)

CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Friday | December 7

08:30 – 09:00 Registration - arrival of guests & participants

09:15 – 09:30 **Opening statement**
H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania

09:30 – 11:00 **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?

Opening statement

Ditmir Bushati, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Albania

Discussants

Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2012-2017

- ✓ H.E. Sanja Bujas Juraga, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Republic of Albania
- Leyla Moses-Ones, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of the US to the Republic of Albania
- H. E. Luigi Soreca, EU Ambassador to 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
- H.E. Murat Ahmet Yoruk, Ambassador of Turkey to the Republic of Albania

✓ confirmed speakers

Working languages: English and Albanian



- 11:00 – 13:00** **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?
- 11:00 – 11:15 **Keynote statement**
Arben Ahmetaj, Minister of Economy & Finance, Albania
- 11:15 – 12:00 **Challenges for Sustainable Economic Growth**
✓ **Sokol Nano**, Executive Director, Albanian Investment Development Agency
✓ **Ines Mucostepa**, Chair, Union of Chambers of Commerce & Industry in Albania
✓ **Nikolin Jaka**, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Albania
✓ **Julien Roche**, Chairman, French Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Albania
✓ **George Papanastasiou**, CEO, Alpha Bank Albania
- 12:00 – 12:45 **Developments and Foreign Direct Investments proposals**
✓ **Maksim Caslli**, County Leader, Deloitte, Albania & Kosovo
✓ **Tom Kristian Larsen**, President, Foreign Investors Association in Albania
✓ **Antonio Nidoli**, Chairman, Italian Chamber of Commerce in Albania
✓ **Silvio Pedrazzi**, Council Advisor of Confindustria Albania & CEO, Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Albania
✓ **Rohan D'Souza**, Chairman, Shell Companies in Albania
- 12:45 – 13:00 **Keynote statement**
Gent Sejko, Governor, Central Bank of Albania
- 13:00 – 13:45** **Light lunch**



- 13:45 – 15:45 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?
- 13:45 – 14:00 **Opening statement**
Damian Gjikhuri, Minister of Energy and Industry, Albania
- 14:00 – 14:30 **Infrastructure and connectivity**
✓ **Achilleas Kanaris**, CEO, Vodafone, Albania
✓ **Yannis Kirkinzis**, Business Development Director, Hill International
Martin Mata, CEO, American-Albania Development Foundation
✓ **Stephanie Sieg**, General Manager, Tirana Business Park
Edmond Spahiu, CEO, Albstar
✓ **Dimitris Tsolkas**, Representative, Egnatia Odos S.A., Albania Branch
- 14:30 – 15:00 **Setting targets towards a viable energy model**
Ilia Gjermani, Head of Oil Sector, Ministry of Energy and Industry, Albania
Agron Hetoja, CEO, KESH Albania
Frident Kuqi, CEO, Europetrol Albania
✓ **Stathis Natsis**, Executive Director, Overseas Business, TERNA
✓ **Erlet Shaqe**, Chairman, Albania Energy Association
✓ **Anita Shushku**, Chair, Albanian Renewable Energy Association
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Financing prospects**
✓ **Guido Clary**, Country Manager, European Investment Bank, Albania
✓ **Matteo Colangeli**, Head of EBRD, Albania
✓ **Dmitry Pankin**, President and CEO, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank
✓ **Björn Thies**, Country Head, KfW Albania
- 15:30 – 15:45 **Keynote statement**
✓ **Erion Veliaj**, Mayor, Tirana Municipality



15:45 – 16:45 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

- ✓ **George Kremlis**, Honorary Director, European Commission, Brussels
- ✓ **Stela Dhami**, Managing Director, Colliers International, Albania
- ✓ **Edlira Muka**, CEO, Balfin Group, Albania
- Albin Gega**, Director, Albanian National Tourism Agency
- ✓ **Arlinda Çausholli**, Director Communication Department, Tirana International Airport
- Silvija Lovreta**, Director SEE International Hotel Development, Marriott International

16:45 – 17:00 Closing remarks – end of conference

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✓ confirmed speakers

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