



European
Investment
Bank



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



CEB
COUNCIL OF EUROPE DEVELOPMENT BANK

DECLARATION IN RESPECT OF THE WESTERN BALKANS INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

WE,

the Member of the European Commission, representing the European Union, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, co-chair of the Western Balkans Investment Framework–Joint Grant Facility Steering Committee, the Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), the First Vice President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB);

Recognising that closer cooperation among International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Bilateral donors and the European Union is required for streamlining the access to finance, required for the development of the Western Balkans region;

Recalling the Resolution of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council of the European Union in May 2008, as subsequently endorsed by the European Council in June 2008, calling for the establishment of a Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), as proposed by the European Commission, the EIB, the EBRD and the CEB, with the aim of enhancing harmonisation and cooperation in investments in the socio-economic development of the Western Balkans;

Committed to ensuring maximum efficiency and effectiveness of loan and grant financing instruments made available for supporting priority projects in the Western Balkans, it being understood that co-financing, also through the Joint Lending Facility, and pooling of grant resources are at the heart of the integrated financing envisaged in the WBIF;

Reaffirm our commitment to the spirit, principles and the achievement of the objectives of the WBIF, as set out in the Terms of Reference of the WBIF Joint Grant Facility;

Signed in Brussels on the 9 December 2009

For the European Commission



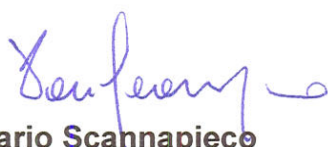
Olli Rehn
Commissioner for Enlargement

For the Government of Sweden



Carl Bildt
Minister for Foreign Affairs

**For the European
Investment Bank**



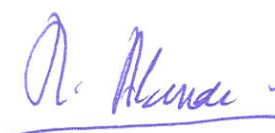
Dario Scannapieco
Vice President

**For the European Bank for
Reconstruction and Development**



Varel Freeman
First Vice President

**For the Council of Europe
Development Bank**



Raphaël Alomar
Governor