

**TALKING POINTS BY GENCI MUCAJ, DIRECTOR GENERAL AT THE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ALBANIA AND RCC NATIONAL  
COORDINATOR, AT THE**

**10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SOUTH EAST EUROPE INVESTMENT  
COMMITTEE (SEEIC)**

**SARAJEVO, 24 APRIL 2012**

- Greetings at the 10th SEEIC Meeting, but the first meeting since SEEIC has been transferred to the regional ownership and its management assigned to the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) during the Ministerial Conference: Building 2020 Vision for South East Europe, held in Paris on November 24, 2011.
- Expression of extension of full support and endorsement to the future work of SEE Investment Committee under the umbrella of RCC, and its 2-year Work Program (for the 2012-2013) and Rules of Procedure, which are proposed for adoption at the today's Meeting by the SEEIC Co-Chairs: the Government of Albania and the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat, in consultation with the OECD.
- Dedication to regional cooperation in the investment area is important, bearing in mind the present state of regional economies and the challenges they are facing with the economic crisis. Further regional economic integration and cooperation could help address some of the shared challenges, but for it to materialize in the region, further commitment is needed from the highest level through adoption of these documents that will enable further work and undertakings of the SEE IC.
- The work Program has for its main goals a development of common vision and action in line with South East Europe 2020 Strategy, increasing competitiveness of the region through joint targeted regional action, and presenting the region as an attractive investment destination. The Work Programme not only provides an outline for the SEEIC's work, with assistance of stakeholders and other regional and international partners, but also sets prospects for an ambitious legacy to the next co-chairing country upon 2013.
- These efforts will produce results only if they are nurtured within our members, and this is why I would take an opportunity to call upon Country Economic Team leaders within the SEEIC for close cooperation and strong communication and linkages with all stakeholders in this venture. Their high level of engagement is anticipated in facilitating

further political support of national Governments to the work of SEEIC, as well employment of their highest expertise and resources in this delicate and ambitious endeavor, determining joint regional policies and priorities, enhancing regional value chains and processing determined goals into realities on the ground, that are to be quantified by the end of 2012.

- I am also using an opportunity to express gratitude to the representatives of the European and international institutions, OECD, national IPA coordinators, investment promotion agencies, donor and business community, for being present today and am anticipating their support and contribution to the work of SEEIC to be of high importance for further development of the region.
- Furthermore, allow me to express my confidence that the Work Programme 2012-2012 of the SEEIC that will be presented today will point us in the right direction. Building upon the achievements made so far in the implementation of the Regional Framework for Investment, it is anticipated that SEEIC shall develop this work further into a regional response to the Europe 2020 Strategy process, addressing the region's economic development priorities, and with the ultimate objective of making all SEEIC members more competitive while bringing the enlargement countries closer to EU membership.
- Having said all of this, I also want to re-claim that our support to further regional ownership of the SEEIC, which comes with one main requirement – responsibility. And this is a task for all of us to boost our capacities and resources so that we can successfully address the challenges ahead of us.
- With hope that this cooperation will be sustained in the following period as well, I thank you for your attention.