CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF SERBIA

EVENING DEBATE

Serbia and the EU: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

The Square Meeting Centre | Rue Ravenstein, 2 - 1000 Brussels
Hall 300, 3rd floor

Friday 24 April 2015 | 18:00—19:30

From 2003 to 2009 Serbia was one of the most attractive investment destinations in the South Eastern Europe region thanks to its natural resource endowments, highly skilled labor force, and favourable tax regime. These elements enabled an average growth of Serbia's GDP of 2.45% a year over the past 10 years, double the EU average.

Today, after the global financial crisis, just like many other countries in the region, Serbia needs to find its place on the global map as an investment destination. The EU integration process plays a crucial role in this process.

The evening debate will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss risks and opportunities that lie ahead for Serbia one year after the official opening of EU accession negotiations. There will be particular focus on the key adjustments that Serbia needs to make to fully implement the EU *acquis communautaire* and how this will affect its business climate. The debate will also reflect on the Western Balkans Six initiative and the opportunity it offers to both Serbia and the region to speed up their energy and transport infrastructure development through closer regional cooperation.

PROGRAMME

17:30-18:00 Registration

18:00-18:30 **Opening speeches:**

Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia -*Video Message*
Aleksandar Antić, Serbian Minister of Energy and Mining
Urban Rusnák, Secretary General, Energy Charter Secretariat

18:30-19:10 **Discussion panel:**

Kirill Kravchenko, CEO, NIS j.s.c.
Milan Petrović, President of the Serbian Association of Managers
Bratislav Čeperković, Director for South East Europe, Medcomtech Group
Ivan Miletić, Director Corporate Affairs, Philip Morris Services j.s.c.

Moderator:
Urszula Szalkowska, Energy Expert

19:00-19:30 **Conclusions:**

Miloslav Ransdorf, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-President ITRE Committee
Michael Karnitschnig, Head of Cabinet of EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn
Graham Coop, Partner, Volterra Fietta and Former General Counsel, Energy Charter Secretariat

Closing remarks:

Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission for the Energy Union

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