

# THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING COMPETITIVENESS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH BY IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN WESTERN BALKAN ECONOMIES


## AGENDA

**Regional Workshop:**  
**Hosted by the Deputy President of  
the National Assembly of the  
Republic of Serbia**  
Serbian Parliament  
Belgrade, Nikola Pašić Square 13  
March 6-7, 2009



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA    РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА    REPUBLIKA SRBIJA  
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Despite the political turbulence and economic challenges faced by the economies in South East Europe, the region has posted relatively healthy real average annual growth rates of roughly 5% since 2000. In 2007-8, robust growth in manufacturing, construction, and financial services contributed to this performance, as foreign direct investment continued to increase.

However, in light of the widening global financial crisis and its projected impact on levels of growth, competition for private investment and trade significantly increases the challenges faced by the economies in this region in attracting and retaining private investment and strengthening the regulatory frameworks for markets.

Increasingly the parliaments in this region are taking an active role in designing policies and laws aimed at promoting economic growth and private investment. It is recognized that regulatory burdens on business is significant but efforts to address this issue must move beyond regulatory simplification and focus on regulatory quality.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Discuss the role of parliaments in assuring regulatory quality and smart regulation to promote private investment and generate economic growth
- Discuss regional integration and EU accession, specifically focusing on the implications for regulatory approximation and reform
- Draw from the experience of the European Parliament and recent EU accession countries in developing and implementing an agenda for regulatory reform
- Outline elements of a strategy for regulatory governance and next steps for parliamentary bodies in the region

Friday, March 6, 2009

**12:00-12:15**

**Bus transfer from Hotel Balkan**

**12:00-13:00**

**REGISTRATION**

**13:00-13:30**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**Gordana Čomić**, Deputy President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

**Slavica Đukić Dejanović**, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

**Hido Biščević**, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council SEE

**Uwe Stumpf**, Head of GTZ Office in Serbia, GTZ

**Antoine Courcelle-Labrousse**, Principal Operations Officer, IFC

**13:30 – 15:00**

**REFORMING THE BUSINESS ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: The Financial Crisis presents opportunities for enhancing competitiveness and improving the quality of market regulation**

**Moderator**

**Gordana Čomić**, Deputy President National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

**Keynotes**

**Beriz Belkić**, President of the House of Representatives, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Vesna Pusić**, Chairman of the National Committee for Monitoring the Accession Negotiations of the Republic of Croatia to the EU, Parliament of the Republic of Croatia

**Ljubisav Ivanov Singo**, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Economy, Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia

**Miodrag Iličković**, Chairman of the Constitutional and Legislative Committee, Parliament of Montenegro

**Discussion**

**15:00-15:30**

**Coffee break**

**15:30-17:00**

**PROMOTING REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS: REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND EU HARMONIZATION IMPLICATIONS FOR REGULATORY QUALITY**

**Moderator**

**Thomas Meyer**, Sector Manager, Open Regional Fund for South East Europe, Legal Reform, GTZ

**Keynote**

**Safet Softić**, President of the Assembly of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, BiH

**Nikola Novaković**, Deputy President of National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

**Slavica Penev**, Senior Research Fellow, Economics Institute, Belgrade

**Discussion**

**17:00- 18:30**

**BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT REFORM: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS**

**Moderator**

**Margo Thomas**, Manager, Business Enabling Environment, IFC Advisory Services

**Keynote**

**Fabio Franchino**, Professor, University of Milan

**Igor Radojičić**, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska, BiH

**Aleksandar Damjanović**, Chairman of the Committee for financial system and public consumption, Parliament of Montenegro

**Nataša Vučković**, Member of Parliament, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

**Discussion**

**18:30 – 19:00**

**Tour of the House of the National Assembly**

**19:00 – 21:00**

**Cocktail dinner hosted by Gordana Čomić, Deputy President of the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, in the House of the National Assembly**

**21:00 – 21:15**

**Bus transfer to Hotel Balkan**

Saturday, March 7, 2009

**08:45 – 09:00**

**Bus transfer from Hotel Balkan**

**09:00 – 12:00**

**WELCOME REMARKS**

**Veljko Odalović**, Secretary of the National Assembly of Serbia

**STRENGTHENING REGULATORY QUALITY AND  
IMPLEMENTATION: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS**

- Lessons from the European Union
- Concepts and Principles of Regulatory Governance
- Strategies and Tools for Strengthening Regulatory Quality

**Moderator**

**Margo Thomas**, Manager, Business Enabling Environment, IFC Advisory Services

**Speakers**

**Claudio Radaelli**, Professor, University of Exeter

**Scott Jacobs**, Managing Director, Jacobs & Associates

**Andreja Marušić**, Secretariat for Regulatory Reform, Serbia

**10:20 – 10:30**

**Coffee break**

**12:00 – 13:30**

**ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL NETWORK OF ECONOMIC  
COMMITTEES: Next Steps**

**Moderator**

**Gordana Čomić**, Deputy President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

**Keynote**

**Aleksandar Damjanović**, Chairman of the Committee for the Financial System and Public Consumption, Parliament of Montenegro

**Ljubisav Ivanov Singo**, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Economy, Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia

**Velimir Jukić**, Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Economy, House of Representatives, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Sead Dizdarević**, Head of the Working Bodies, Assembly of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, BiH

**Uroš Gostić**, Chairman of the Committee on Economy and Finance, National Assembly, Republic of Srpska, BiH

**Miloš Jeftić**, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Development and International Economic Relations, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

**13:30 – 14:00**  
**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

**Margo Thomas**, Manager, Business Enabling Environment,  
IFC Advisory Services

**Gordana Čomić**, Deputy President of the National  
Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

**Thomas Meyer**, Sector Manager, Open  
Regional Fund for South East Europe, Legal  
Reform, GTZ

**14:00 – 16:00**  
**Lunch at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, in  
the restaurant in the House of the National Assembly**

**16:00 – 16:15**  
**Bus transfer to Hotel Balkan**



## IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS:

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