



EMportal in Tirana

Albania's opportunities unveiled to foreign investors

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The participants in the Forum took part in many events on economic issues including development and investments.

The Albanian Government was represented in the Forum by Prime Minister Sali Berisha, Minister of Economy , Trade and Energy Dritan Prifti as well as many other government officials who praised the economic development of Albania as well as the determination of the Albanian government to provide the necessary infrastructure to foreign businessmen and companies to invest in Albania.



On the Agenda for debate were also Peace and Stability in the SEE, NATO integration and the new position of Albania and Croatia in the Western Balkans, impact of the crisis on SEE, the new and performing investment climate, and investment opportunities through privatization - top Albanian Government priorities to attract long -term investments.

[Prime Minister said in the opening of the Forum](#) that Albania offered a very favourable business climate to investors as well as a very solid economy.

Albanian PM Sali Berisha said during the Crans Montana Forum that the right reforms undertaken by the government helped the country not to be seriously damaged by the global crisis.

The energy sector is one of the absolute priorities of the government,. PM said adding that foreign businessmen and companies could profit from the facilitations offered by the government in the country's energy sector.

According to him, Albania has signed very important energy agreements with the governments of Italy, Montenegro, Kosovo and was expecting to do so also with the Macedonian government.

PM Berisha said that major Canadian, Australian, Russian, and Chinese companies had expressed their interest to invest in the Albanian mining sector. According to him Albanian plays a very important role in the global mineral market.

According to Albanian PM another sector which could be interesting for foreign investors is tourism. He said that Albania's tourism had increased by 36% in the previous year which showed the increasing interest of the customers.

The Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy Dritan Prifti said during the CMF that the government would turn Albania into a regional renewable energy superpower.

He made a presentation of Albania's energy sector mentioning the reforms undertaken by the government as well as the objectives to be achieved in the future. The Economy Minister said that a lot of investments had been made and would continue to be made in the country's energy sector.



Prime Minister Sali Berisha greeted during a reception the participants to Crans Montana Forum which opened its proceedings in Tirana on Thursday.

While taking the floor in this event, the President and Founder of this Forum Jean-Paul Carteron said that Albania is making positive progress despite difficulties because of the global crisis and that the business leaders are turning their eyes more and more to this country to project their investments.

PM Berisha ensured that GoA will do its best to support foreign investors with their projects so that they have success stories in this country.

“Honored ministers,

Dear participants to Crans Montana Forum, Thank you for joining me in this evening. I would like to thank Mr. Jean-Paul Carteron, this great friend of my country for organizing such an important activity for the business life in Albania.

Crans Montana Forum has turned into an annual event in Albania. It has been an important support for my country and encouraged investors from all over Europe to consider bringing their projects to Albania.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This current year the Forum assumes double importance because it is held in hard times. But, I believe the best thing to do, in the context of the global financial crisis, is to strive for a favorable business climate.

I am happy that despite of the global financial crisis, Albania managed to have economic growth, the highest in Europe. Irrespective of concerns that prevail in euro-zone, our economy is euro-like, although we are not within the zone.

We maintained the macro-economic stability, our currency resisted better than other regional currencies.

There is encouraging news of the first three-month period of the current year. But, your presence here adds to my optimism; it makes Albania a safer country and with a more enthusiastic economy.

Also I assure you that GoA and other local agencies will do the best to support foreign investors with their projects so that they have success stories in this country.

Albania is a small country, but of enormous potentials. You have the opportunity of getting to know more during these two days of the forum from our public agencies and from your Albanian counterparts present in this

forum.

I would like to thank you Jean-Paul from the bottom of my heart. Your help and love have always moved me deeply. You have been following developments here for 20 years and have made a great contribution. Thank you once again my friend.”