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Crans Montana Forum opens in Sarajevo

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"European Enlargement Processes and Regional Cooperation" is the topic of this year's Crans Montana Forum (CMF) which commenced on Wednesday in Sarajevo attended by 450 participants.

Last April **The Crans Montana Forum** announced the *"1st session Crans Montana Forum in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina)"* signing an agreement with the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina for the organisation of this event.

The signing of the agreement took place in the Kingdom of Bahrain on April 8, 2008 during the Forum 'Central Europe and New Eastern Economies Strategies with the Gulf States' dedicated to the relationships between Central Europe and Gulf Countries.

Signing this agreement in Bahrain was a manifestation of **Bosnia-Herzegovina** to welcome deeper cooperation with Bahrain and the Gulf States.

Like for other South East European Countries, Bosnia-Herzegovina offers a large number of investment opportunities in various fields such as infrastructure, transport networks, energy as well as financial markets.



For more than 20 years, the **Crans Montana Forum** has been committed to the Economic development and the World Integration of new Democracies.

Its mission is to offer a platform where Heads of State and of Governments, Ministers, International Organizations, Academics and Companies can meet in an open atmosphere in order to know each other better and to implement their strategies.

The Crans Montana Forum is an officially recognised International Organization devoted to the construction of a more humane world *'Committed to a more humane World'*.

The aim of the Crans Montana Forum in Sarajevo is to present all opportunities in terms of joint ventures and Foreign Direct Investment.



The main partner of The Crans Montana Forum is the **Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FIPA)**.

This is the most important diplomatic-economic event this year for BiH and the region. At this most renown, most authoritative and biggest political-economic investment forum, the key political leaders, decision markers, inventors, bankers and entrepreneurs will be given a chance to get an insight into all the potentials of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is a first time that BiH is hosting this prestigious event.

The Forum will also have a Regional focus thus gathering Heads of States and Governments from South East Europe as well as the most important representatives of the Business community.

It will provide participants with exceptional opportunities of networking with Government Officials and Businesses from Bosnia-Herzegovina, South East Europe, the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Middle East.

The three proposed topics to be discussed at the Forum are:

1. **regional corridors** (road-railway-energy-gas-corridors etc.);
2. **harmonization of political environment** in the region in order to enter the demanding EU market;
3. **tourism**-the joint development opportunity for the region.

The gathering is expected to be attended by presidents of prime ministers of the countries in the region, as well as representatives of the European Commission, of the key financial institutions, investment funds and banks of the EU, of the countries in the region and of countries in the Gulf, of big corporations and of investors interested in investments in BiH and the region.

The BiH Council of Ministers and the two entity governments recognized the importance of the gathering and provided financial support for its organizing and also authorized the FIPA to sign the agreement on its organizing and coordinate organizational activities.

Considering the above stated reasons and the obvious need for intensified activities toward an additional improvement of the image of BiH, as well as of entire region, it can be expected that the recently done diplomatic-economic visits and the organizing of the Crans Montana Forum will be of the utmost importance for further prosperity and promotion of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This will create a picture of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a safe country, attractive for trans-national capital.



"Countries on the road to accession to EU must cooperate closely and promote economic cooperation in order to satisfy European parameters", stated on Wednesday at the press conference founder and chairman of the Crans Montana Forum (CMF), Jean Paul Certenon.

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