

ISSUE 6 - APRIL 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

WHAT'S NEW

- COLLABORATION WITH THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL
- CO-OPERATION WITH THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
- SME POLICY INDEX 2009

ACTIVITIES

- 2ND MEETING OF THE SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON REGULATORY REFORM
- 2ND MEETING OF THE SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON INVESTMENT PROMOTION

IN THE MEDIA

- 'SEE: HIGH GROWTH REGION', *SEE.MARKET*
- 'CEFTA AND BEYOND', *SEE.MARKET*
- 'ENTER THE REGIONAL CO-OPERATION COUNCIL', *BIRN*
- 'BULGARIA'S POTENTIAL IS STILL BIG BUT FURTHER REFORMS ARE NEEDED', *THE REGION*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11th REGIONAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES, AND WORKSHOP ON INNOVATION IN SMEs, 05-06 MAY, PRZNO
- WORKSHOP ON INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS FOR ITALIAN BUSINESSES, 07 MAY, MILAN
- 3RD MEETING OF THE SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE, 23 MAY, PARIS
- 2ND MEETING OF THE SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN CAPITAL, 03-04 JULY, SARAJEVO
- PRESENTATION OF PHASE I RESULTS AND LAUNCH OF PHASE II OF THE 'STRENGTHENING SECTOR SPECIFIC SOURCES OF COMPETITIVENESS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS' PROJECT, 03 JULY, SARAJEVO

WHAT'S NEW

COLLABORATION WITH THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL



THE OECD INVESTMENT COMPACT HAS BEEN A CORE COMPONENT OF THE STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE SINCE 2000, UNDER ITS WORKING TABLE II: ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION, CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. ON 27 FEBRUARY 2008, THE STABILITY PACT HANDED OVER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE TO THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC). THE INVESTMENT COMPACT WILL NOW ACT AS THE 'INVESTMENT ARM' OF THE RCC AND AS SUCH, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVALUATING AND SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INVESTMENT-RELATED POLICIES IN THE REGION. THE RCC AND THE OECD WILL DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE ON THE INVESTMENT REFORM INDEX 2009 EVALUATION AT THE FORTHCOMING SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN PARIS ON 23 MAY 2008.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT



THE INVESTMENT COMPACT AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (CEFTA) HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL SEE THE INVESTMENT COMPACT PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO THE CEFTA SECRETARIAT. CONCRETELY, THE INVESTMENT COMPACT WILL: (1) MONITOR THE IMPACT OF CEFTA ON PROMOTING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FLOWS TO THE REGION AND (2) ASSIST IN MONITORING THE 3 INVESTMENT-RELATED CLAUSES OF THE TREATY: CO-ORDINATION OF INVESTMENT POLICY, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT.

SME POLICY INDEX 2009

THE INVESTMENT COMPACT HAS LAUNCHED A SECOND EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES. THIS SECOND EVALUATION WILL BE BASED ON REFINED INDICATORS AND WILL FOCUS ON INNOVATION AND THE SUPPORT PROVIDED TO HIGH GROWTH AND INNOVATIVE SMEs. THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND EVALUATION WILL BE PRESENTED IN APRIL 2009 WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE SME POLICY INDEX 2009 REPORT. THIS EVALUATION WILL AGAIN BE CONDUCTED IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE EC, THE EBRD AND THE EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION. AN INTERIM NEWSLETTER PRESENTING PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE FIRST EVALUATION WILL BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY.

ACTIVITIES

SECOND MEETING OF THE SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON REGULATORY REFORM, 02-03 APRIL, VIENNA

BRINGING TOGETHER GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM ALL SEE COUNTRIES, THE WORKING GROUP SAW PARTICIPANTS DISCUSS PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING THE ENACTMENT PROCESS OF BUSINESS LEGISLATION REFORMS IN PARLIAMENT. PARTICIPANTS ALSO IDENTIFIED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT, POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS AND REGIONAL GOOD PRACTICES, AND REVIEWED THE DIFFERENT METHODOLOGIES FOR MEASURING BUSINESS REGULATION. THE WORKSHOP WAS ORGANISED IN CO-OPERATION WITH AUSTRIA'S FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND LABOUR AFFAIRS.

MEETING DOCUMENTATION



SECOND MEETING OF THE SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON INVESTMENT PROMOTION, 09-10 APRIL, PRAGUE

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INVESTMENT PROMOTION BROUGHT TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES OF ECONOMY FROM ALL SEE COUNTRIES. PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LINKAGE PROGRAMMES AND THE SUSTAINED BENEFITS THESE PROGRAMMES CAN GENERATE FOR BOTH FOREIGN INVESTORS AND LOCAL SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES. THE DISCUSSION BENEFITED FROM PRESENTATIONS OF REGIONAL GOOD PRACTICES AND A REVIEW OF EXPERIENCES FROM OECD MEMBERS. THE MEETING WAS ORGANISED IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE CZECH REPUBLIC'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CZECHINVEST.

[MEETING DOCUMENTATION](#)



IN THE MEDIA

'SOUTH EAST EUROPE: HIGH GROWTH REGION' & 'CEFTA AND BEYOND', *SEE.MARKET*, SPRING 2008



IN THE MAIN ARTICLE OF ITS SPRING 2008 ISSUE, *SEE.MARKET* MAGAZINE LOOKS AT THE WORK OF THE INVESTMENT COMPACT, INCLUDING THE INVESTMENT REFORM INDEX AND THE SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE, AND DESCRIBES IT AS "ONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BODIES OPERATING IN THE REGION WITH THE CLEARER MANDATES SPECIFIC TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

IN A SEPARATE PIECE, ERHARD BUSEK, SPECIAL CO-ORDINATOR OF THE STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE, DESCRIBES THE INVESTMENT COMPACT AS AN "INITIATIVE THAT REALLY COMPLEMENTS CEFTA... AND THAT PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT FORUM FOR CO-OPERATION ON IMPROVING THE REGION'S ATTRACTIVENESS TO FOREIGN INVESTORS".

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

'COMMENT: ENTER THE REGIONAL CO-OPERATION COUNCIL', *BALKAN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING NETWORK*, OCTOBER 2007



IN AN OPEN-EDITORIAL FOR THE *BALKAN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING NETWORK* IN WHICH HE DESCRIBES THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STABILITY PACT AND INTRODUCES ITS SUCCESSOR, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR CO-OPERATION, ERHARD BUSEK WRITES THAT "CO-ORDINATION, PEER-REVIEW MECHANISMS AND EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION HAVE A MAJOR ROLE IN IMPROVING THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN EACH OF THEM, AND IN IDENTIFYING AND IMPLEMENTING KEY REFORMS. THIS IS THE AIM OF THE RECENTLY LAUNCHED SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE, A MODERN TOOL ASSISTING SEE COUNTRIES IN DEVELOPING POLICY GUIDELINES AND IMPLEMENTING REFORMS IN THE FIELD OF INVESTMENTS, MIRRORING IN SEE MECHANISMS ALREADY ADOPTED BY THE MOST ADVANCED ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD".

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

'BULGARIA'S POTENTIAL IS STILL BIG BUT FURTHER REFORMS ARE NEEDED', *THE REGION*, DECEMBER 2007



THE REGION MAGAZINE PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT COMPACT'S BULGARIA OFFICE MANAGER IN ITS OCTOBER 2007 ISSUE.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

11th REGIONAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES, AND WORKSHOP ON INNOVATION IN SMEs, 05-06 MAY, PRZNO, MONTENEGRO

THE INVESTMENT COMPACT IS ORGANISING THE 11TH REGIONAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES AND, IN PARALLEL, A WORKSHOP ON INNOVATION IN SMEs. BOTH EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON 05-06 MAY 2008 IN PRZNO, MONTENEGRO, AND ARE ORGANISED IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY.

THE INVESTMENT COMPACT IS SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY BY

- AUSTRIA
- THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE
- THE CZECH REPUBLIC
- THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- FLANDERS (BELGIUM)
- FRANCE
- IRELAND
- ITALY
- NORWAY
- SLOVENIA
- SWITZERLAND
- THE UNITED STATES

TO SUBSCRIBE OR UNSUBSCRIBE, PLEASE E-MAIL INVESTMENTCOMPACT@OECD.ORG

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE INVESTMENT COMPACT CAN BE OBTAINED AT: WWW.INVESTMENTCOMPACT.ORG OR FROM: THOMAS.DANNEQUIN@OECD.ORG

WORKSHOP ON INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS FOR ITALIAN BUSINESSES, 07 MAY, MILAN

THIS WORKSHOP WILL BRING TOGETHER ITALIAN BUSINESSES AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS TO DISCUSS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REGION FOR ITALIAN COMPANIES. THIS EVENT FALLS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE INVESTMENT COMPACT/WORLD BANK PROJECT ON 'STRENGTHENING SECTOR SPECIFIC SOURCES OF COMPETITIVENESS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS' AND WILL FOCUS ON THE FOUR SECTORS (AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES, BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING, AND TEXTILE AND GARMENT) IDENTIFIED IN THE SECTOR PRIORITISATION ANALYSIS CONDUCTED DURING THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT. THE WORKSHOP IS ORGANISED IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE WORLD BANK'S INVEST IN THE WESTERN BALKANS PROGRAMME AND THE ITALIAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN TRADE (ICE).

PRESENTATION OF PHASE I RESULTS AND LAUNCH OF PHASE II OF THE 'STRENGTHENING SECTOR SPECIFIC SOURCES OF COMPETITIVENESS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS' PROJECT, 03 JULY, SARAJEVO

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN ORGANISED TO PRESENT THE RESULTS OF PHASE I OF THE 'STRENGTHENING SECTOR SPECIFIC SOURCES OF COMPETITIVENESS' PROJECT AND TO LAUNCH PHASE II. THIS SECOND PHASE WILL AIM TO IMPLEMENT TARGETED ACTIONS TO REDUCE CERTAIN BARRIERS HINDERING INVESTMENT AND TRADE WITHIN THE SECTORS IDENTIFIED IN PHASE I.

SOUTH EAST EUROPE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 3RD MEETING OF THE SOUTH EAST EUROPE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE, 23 MAY, PARIS
- 2ND MEETING OF THE SEE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN CAPITAL, 03-04 JULY, SARAJEVO