

Business Council of Italy and Serbia Formed

Draginja Đurić, President of the Executive Board of Banca Intesa was Appointed President of the Business Council on the Serbian Part

With the aim of improving economic cooperation, Italy and Serbia have founded a Business Council, and Draginja Đurić, President of the Executive Board of Banca Intesa has been appointed president on the Serbian part. The Declaration of the Founding of the Business Council was signed by Mlađan Dinkić, Minister of Economy and Regional Development and Deputy Prime Minister in the Serbian Government and Claudio Scajola, Italian Minister of Economic Development. The fact that Italy sets up business forums with the countries it considers to be the most significant partners, and among which are, apart from our country, only Germany and France testifies to the importance of this Declaration.

Mlađan Dinkić emphasized the importance of further developing of economic cooperation, bearing in mind that in the first months of this year exportation from Serbia increased by 13 percent, and the biggest growth was achieved in the area of exports to the Italian market. The need for establishing tighter cooperation was stressed, as well as its speedier realization in the food processing and furniture sector.

Partnership with Italy is particularly important if we bear in mind the potential for big investment projects to be realized with the aid of Italy, and which will contribute to the creation of new facilities, more employment opportunities as well as to the accelerated development of infrastructure. With such an incentive, a GDP growth higher than two percent is expected. Claudio Scajola, Italian Minister of Economic Development pointed out that 205 Italian enterprises are operating successfully in Serbia, and added that many are interested in entry into the Serbian market. Scajola stated that political relations between Serbia and Italy should be intensified, and that chances should be used to help Serbia enter the European Union, with wholehearted support from Italy.

Draginja Đurić, President of the Executive Board of Banca Intesa, stated on this occasion: "It is a great pleasure that by the founding of the Business Council a route has been market out for a permanent strengthening of economic links between Serbia and Italy. By signing this Declaration, Italy has demonstrated once again that it recognizes a significant strategic partner and a promising market in our country. Banca Intesa, as part of the leading Italian Group Intesa Sanpaolo, which itself has been a leader in the Serbian banking market for a few years now, represents one of the best examples of good cooperation between Italy and Serbia. The business mission of Banca Intesa and its Parent Group remains permanently oriented towards economic development and the advance of both countries, which implies our readiness to support all future business ventures, investments and exchange between Serbia and Italy."

Around 100 enterprises will participate in the Business Council of Serbia and Italy, and the plan is for meetings to be held at least twice a year, in Serbia and Italy alternately.