
SERBIA

Dear colleagues,

I come from Serbia, country with the central position in South East Europe. I belong to a Government strongly dedicated to improve the conditions of living of our citizens and economy based on the economic reforms, political stability, cooperation within the region and international surrounding.

After a period of stagnation, the economy of Serbia is recovering and is one of the very few countries that have obtained GDP growth in these hard times. GDP growth for Serbia for 2016 is established to about 2.7% and for the next year, prominent world institutions predicted a growth of 3.5 of GDP.

Growth of economy is due to acquired measures of fiscal stability, institutional reforms and reconstruction. In the previous few years we have done a lot in order to enhance legislative framework in Serbia. Business environment is being improved and the needs for investments are huge. Serbia has attracted over €26 billion of inward foreign direct investment since 2000.

The Republic of Serbia dedicated to full extent comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the highest level of General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 September 2015 that we recognize as the key strategy for eradication of poverty and hunger, providing education and health for all, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, transport and sustainable energy and sustainable development of the Planet based on

the fight against climate changes, which is our essential obligation and our debt to the generations to come.

The Republic of Serbia has actively, as a member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, participated in negotiations leading to adoption of this transformative Agenda with the key objective that not a single person is neglected or left aside. Serbia has also been a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, whose work has been crowned by adoption of the Action Agenda from Addis Ababa in July 2015.

We thoughtfully and responsibly approach the realization of the obligations that we participated in formulating and we have incorporated institutional assumptions or Governmental interdepartmental working group for implementation of the Agenda of Sustainable Development with the task to compose a new strategy of sustainable development of the country to 2030 and the strategy of its financing.

The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development includes the sub-goal 11.2 dedicated to sustainable transport, within the global goal dedicated to sustainable cities, by which the international community has committed itself to, up to 2030, ensuring safe, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all and improving traffic safety specifically through the process of expanding public transport and paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable categories such as women, children, disabled and elderly.

The UN Member States have committed themselves, as defined in sub-goal 11.4, to significant decreasing of the cities impact to

deterioration of the environment and specifically the air quality up to 2030, whereby it is known that transport systems and vehicles significantly pollute air.

The International Community committed itself, as defined in sub-goal 3.6 within global goal 3 to ensuring health living for all, to decreasing by half the mortality and injuries in traffic accidents up to 2020 that shall require serious efforts, bearing in mind high mortality in traffic accident.

The comprehensive implementation of the Agenda of Sustainable Development shall not be possible provided the sustainability of global transport systems is not ensured, which is the key goal and task of this Conference.

Serbia makes serious efforts towards the promotion of its sustainable road infrastructure, airport capacities and transport systems for more efficient connection to the Region and the world as a whole.

Total value of all infrastructural projects in Serbia is around 14.7 billion euros. Some of the projects are currently in progress, but some of them will carry out in the future period of time. The finalization of the projects from the area of railways, roads, waterborne transport and air transport will mean that Serbia has fulfilled its mission and become an integral part of modern world.

The way of implementation of ongoing transport infrastructure projects is confirming that regional and at least continental approach is applied. Our main concern was to modernize, reconstruct, and where needed build new facilities on main European transport Corridors. Highway

Corridor 10, from the north-west border of Serbia (Hungary) to the south east (Macedonia) will be fully operational in 2017, when just few missing km will be finished. These projects were mainly financed through EU and other international sources.

A concrete example of construction of the most important corridors, such as the corridor connecting Serbia and Montenegro, i.e. highway E-763, is currently in construction with partners from Azerbaijan and China the result of which will soon be the completion of 120 km of this important highway.

Railway Corridor 10 is also being modernized and reconstructed up till now mainly on EU and international funds.

New element in the railway reconstruction is inclusion of funds and constructors from Russia and China on the Belgrade to Hungary section. Section from Belgrade to Montenegro is also been financed from Russian loan. Through IPA funds we will construct first intermodal terminal in Belgrade, in order to facilitate transport as well as to support sustainable transport development in Serbia.

This brief review of the ongoing transport projects in Serbia confirms our experience in cooperation with regional initiatives such as WB6, main European planning and network development as well as Chinese Silk road, continental and maritime continental initiative.

We are very active in Western Balkan 6 process, with our neighbors and European Commission. Implementing priority transport infrastructure projects recognized through WB6 as well as implementing soft measures, following these projects, we are doing our best in order to facilitate transport and trade through the region. Parallel with this,

together with European Commission, we developed single project list for transport, energy and environment. 24 transport projects have been identified. Main transport routes from Western Balkans has been identified and approved as a part of Trans European Transport Corridors, Mediterranean, Orient East Med and Rhine Danube Corridor.

As you can see from my statement we are aware how much we need modern and sustainable transport system in Serbia and how dedicated to its implementation we are. I hope that next Conference will be the opportunity to show the progress we will have in upcoming days.