



PRESS RELEASE

OECD, RCC bring together policy makers and experts in Sarajevo to increase parliamentary involvement in better business regulation in South East Europe

SARAJEVO, 22 October 2009 – Policy makers and experts from South East Europe (SEE) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) gathered today at the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat in Sarajevo to streamline co-operation between parliaments and legislative branches in order to develop a more attractive and competitive business environment in SEE.

The debate took place within the third meeting of the OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe's Working Group on Regulatory Reform, co-organised with the RCC Secretariat. It was based on the preliminary results of the OECD's assessment of country performances in economic reform legislation – part of a more comprehensive OECD evaluation of investment reform in SEE, the *OECD Investment Reform Index 2009*, to be launched in early 2010.

“The preliminary assessment indicates that although they are integral drivers of regional and national competitiveness strategies, SEE parliamentarians are not always sufficiently involved in the design of business regulations”, said Mary O’Mahony, Advisor at the OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe.

“The meeting focused on concrete solutions to this challenge, such as improving standards of regulatory practice and enhancing dialogue between parliaments and governments,” said O’Mahony.

Jelica Minic, Deputy RCC Secretary General, stressed the need to introduce new regulations harmonized with the European Union's *acquis communautaire*, as well as to rationalize and modernize institutional structures. “Inevitably, new skills and capacities have to be developed. This dimension of regulatory reform is especially important and it would be necessary to provide synergies among different stakeholders.”

The participants discussed policy priorities to improve the legislative process from the early stages of drafting to the final stages of enactment, with a focus on improving dialogue with civil society and private sector.

OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe

Launched in 2000, the OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe is designed to increase regional economic development in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia. The objective is to help policy makers find sound policy solutions to improve the business climate for domestic and foreign investment in the region. The regionally owned South East Europe Investment Committee oversees special Working Groups dedicated to strategic reform projects, amongst them the Working Group on Regulatory Reform.
www.investmentcompact.org

Regional Cooperation Council

As the successor of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the RCC fosters regional cooperation and support European and Euro-Atlantic integration in South East Europe. Its work focuses on six priority areas: economic and social development, infrastructure and energy, justice and home affairs, security cooperation, building human capital, and parliamentary cooperation as an overarching theme. The RCC is based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
www.rcc.int