

October 17, 2016

After finishing their mandate as non-permanent IC Members from the Business Community for the period 2015 – 2016, the Secretariat met individually each leaving IC Members to hear their thoughts about their experience in the IC, their suggestions for the improvement of the IC & Secretariat's work as well as suggestions regarding investment climate in the country.



Mr. Silvio Pedrazzi, Chairman of Foreign Investors Association in Albania (FIAA) and CEO of Intesa SanPaolo Bank in Albania



Mr. Christian Canacaris, Chairman of Association of Banks in Albania and CEO of Raiffeisen Bank in Albania.



Mr. Luan Muça, President of Delta Group.



Ms. Linda Legisi, President of Omega shpk.



*Mr. Adamantios Frantzis, Managing Director,
TITAN - Antea Cement*



Mr. Nikolin Jaka, CCI Tirana

Experience being part of the Investment Council

How was your experience as a member of the Investment Council?

- ✚ Positive step for the public – private dialogue in Albania;
- ✚ A platform for dialogue and professional follow-up;
- ✚ Discussions in the meetings based on real situations/cases and technical analysis
- ✚ The most efficient structure in tackling problems. In the quality of the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), as well as a member of the Investment Council, I was satisfied with the preliminary consultation and the way the problems and concerns that the CCI Tirana put forward as a member of the Council were tackled by the Council.

Format of the Council

What do you think on the format and organization of the Investment Council meetings? Do you see IC as the proper format focused on investment climate issues, considering the triangle of members: national institutions; donors and international institutions; businesses and business associations?

- ✚ Format is acceptable and a well-designed platform
- ✚ Potential upgrade to the Prime Minister Office
- ✚ Participation of Foreign Investors Associations from countries with the highest contribution such as Italy, Greece, Austria.
- ✚ The format creates lack of continuity of the debate and information because the rotation procedure interrupts the continuous communication with the members leaving the council. Regarding the raised issues and focus in my judgment, also based on my experience, I think that the Council performed well.

Approach of the Council

Please provide your evaluation regarding the approach used in addressing the subjects tackled by the IC.

- ✚ Providing technical notes and business voice is the right approach;
- ✚ The IC need to focus more on specific issues and concerns as the capacities are limited;
- ✚ Generate debate on business/investors issues related to investment climate;
- ✚ The Government to use IC agenda to discuss its priorities, initiatives and reforms.
- ✚ The Secretariat of IC to remain as technical, unbiased and convey the concerns of the businesses to the government and vice versa. Use of a bottom up approach;
- ✚ Regarding the approach and methodology in tackling the problems, I give my maximal assessment for the objective and professional way in handling all the issues and problems.

Impact of the Council

Do you think that the work of the Investment Council has provided an impact and it has made some difference from similar public - private dialogue formats?

- ✦ IC Recommendations should be endorsed by the Government;
- ✦ Expectations on the IC were higher at the beginning in terms of being an inductive platform to government decisions;
- ✦ There are some results but is still early to assess;
- ✦ More commitment by the Government members in the IC as well as EBRD to further advocate the endorsement of recommendations;
- ✦ IC brought the best model of dialogue in the country.

Suggestions for Improvement

Do you have any suggestions for the improvement of the Secretariat's work as regards to the consultation process, analysis provided, the nature of recommendations, organization of meetings, members voting, the process of monitoring the recommendations, etc.?

- ✦ Monitoring the consideration of IC recommendations;
- ✦ Pay attention to the monitoring of recommendations as well as to the sustainability of the IC members based on the role that an IC Member of public or private interest plays. CCI Tirana as one of the most important institutions in the country, in the protection of private entrepreneurship's interests, should have been a permanent member of this Council.

Visibility

In relation to the visibility of the work of Investment Council do you think it has been made enough known to the business community?

- ✦ The IC work should be more visible especially on the results endorsed by the Government;
- ✦ IC Platform to be used more by the Government when launching initiatives with impact on businesses;
- ✦ The Secretariat to remain a technical body;
- ✦ There is still room for the entrepreneurship to be informed regarding the work and role of the Council.

Areas to Focus

- ✦ Working force skills

- ✚ Attraction of FDIs
- ✚ Energy sector
- ✚ Unfair competition
- ✚ Exports related sectors such as BPO, manufacturing, etc.
- ✚ Permits
- ✚ Tax Issues

Sustainability

Do you see the Investment Council as a self-sustainable and long-term platform? Do you think that the business should contribute in such initiatives?

- ✚ Platform needed for the country in a long term;
- ✚ Although a consultative body, it will help in structuring the debate, opinions and analysis;
- ✚ To be considered in the future, paying a membership fee by the businesses for continuing this platform.
- ✚ The number of endorsed recommendations and actions proposed will determine the sustainability of the initiative.

On Investment Climate

How do you see your collaboration in the future with the Investment Council and its Secretariat? Any suggestions for the topics to be tackled in the future by the Investment Council?

- ✚ Implementation of justice reform
- ✚ Capacities and education of fiscal administration
- ✚ Education of farmers to cooperate together
- ✚ Getting energy and private investments in energy sector
- ✚ Investments products for potential investors
- ✚ Labour market not meeting the needs of businesses
- ✚ Implementation of construction permits legislation