

**SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS DURING THE MEETING  
OF INVESTMENT COUNCIL (IC)**

**“Challenges faced by the Business in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic and  
Measures Taken by the Government”**

**Tirana, 14 April 2020, 15:00 – 17:00**

Intervention Areas	Suggesting institution	Intervention suggested
<b>Support for employees</b>	FIAA	For a period of 3 months, to be paid 30% of the business employees' salary (from the social security fund)
	UCCIAL	There is a major problem with the employees who are still on the payroll of businesses at a pretty high cost and were expected to be considered in this package. We had proposed that the state cover the minimum wage of employees so that companies would still keep employees on the payroll.
	DIHA	Establishment of a legal framework for the reduced monthly salary based on the real working hours of for businesses affected by quarantine measures.
	DHTTT	To be included in the support packages, the businesses that have a reduction in income of more than 30% from March last year compared to January, February with the compensation of at least 50 to 80% of the salary.
<b>Liquidity</b>	FIAA	The volume of sovereign guarantee is small in comparison to the business needs for longer warranties/collateral.

	DHTTT	Associations / chambers of commerce in cooperation with central institutions to find the right mechanisms, calling on international organizations to provide donations and funding needed by the enterprise
	EBRD	Clear information on timely measures related to the availability of funds, so that businesses have a better understand what is expected to come and when.
	THE BUSINESS CHAMBER OF DIASPORA	It is important that Banks, the state and businesses share the risk of losses and the PPP's that are not yet active should be reviewed and postponed for a period of 1-2 years.
<b>Mobility</b>	FIAA	Air traffic is very important for the economy to move forward, as it affects other sectors such as hospitality and accommodation.
	DIHA	It is indispensable the preparation of a strategic plan for reducing quarantine measures to open up certain sectors, step by step.
	DHTTT	Include the transport sector in support packages
<b>Taxes &amp; Tariffs</b>	UCCIAL	The business has more requests related to deferring payments of fiscal obligations.
	DHTTT	Should be included not only the sectors whose fiscal obligations are suspended, but all enterprises that have a decline of more than 20% in revenue compared to January, February. Therefore, the postponement of payment deadlines until September should be determined not according to the sectors, but according to the decrease in turnover.
	DHTTT	Both local and central governments should postpone fiscal obligations, so there should be no obligations either in the fiscal system or in compliance with contracts for public works that are in operation.

	AGROTECH LTD	We pay local taxes on buildings for barracks and stockyard at the same price as they pay, hotels, business centres, pharmaceutical warehouses. This is unfavourable.
	BE	Timely payment of business administration obligations toward businesses;
	CONFINDUSTRIA	Facilitation of using crediting VAT to repay / compensate business liabilities. Tax audits could be done in a second moment.
	CONFINDUSTRIA	In case of incorrect declarations, fines and penalties should be avoided for payments of up to 20% of the value of liabilities.
	IC SURVEY	Non-distribution of dividends
	IC SURVEY	Postponement of the fiscalisation process
	IC SURVEY	Timely approval of the fiscal amnesty
	IC SURVEY	Entrepreneurship donations offered to face the Covid-19 situation, to be recognized as deductible expenses
	IC SURVEY	At the local level - reduction / cancellation of service fees for the period of pandemics
<b>Subvention/ Incentive/Measures</b>	FIAA	The suspension for a period of 1.5 years (until October 2021) of the EUR 10 passenger tax, which would remove a large financial burden and help the recovery of the whole economy.
	UCCIAL	All together to strengthen at this moment the production/consumption/tourism "Made in Albania". Awareness campaigns are needed to take this initiative.
	AGROTECH LTD	Keeping control of the prices of raw materials corn, wheat, soybeans, etc. as the increase of these prices will have a negative impact on the agribusiness and livestock chain as a whole
	AGROTECH LTD	Subsidies comparable to the ones of the other countries of the region have for livestock (for raising poultry meat). For example, Macedonia has several times higher support and subsidies than us.

	DIHA	Immediate activation of the Reconstruction Fund by the earthquake and the acceleration of procedures for issuing building permits as an important tool for promoting construction sector.
	EBRD	Businesses that are able to pay and meet their obligations on time are encouraged to do so through appropriate incentives.
<b>Unification/Strategic coordination/Procedural e operational</b>	UCCIAL	Provide support for any business without differentiating and categorizing; to achieve a social pact to help all closed companies or those that continue to operate
	EBRD	Global supply chains will be cut and many European producers are expected to move closer to production. Digitalization will be accelerated further. Tourism and the food industry are likely to undergo profound changes. Now is the time to start thinking about how Albania can benefit as much as possible from these opportunities.
	AMCHAM	The division between small and large businesses is not very helpful in this period because their employees are equally affected by the situation.
	BE	Short-term measures in the context of the crisis should be seen in function of measures and reforms to be implemented in the long run.
	THE BUSINESS CHAMBER OF DIASPORA	Regarding the drafting of a recovery strategy, we underline the need to create a national group of experts
	THE BUSINESS CHAMBER OF DIASPORA	Creating an agency that will control the internal market and the rules of the game that will derive from the strategy of economic recovery.
	UN	In some sectors such as of tourism and transport, a dialogue should be established not only between the private sector and MFE or MSHMS but also the Ministry of Health. Such sectors are particularly sensible to the virus, which can lead to changes in their behavior to provide security measures against the spread of the virus.
	IC SURVEY	Improve the operation of the E-Albania platform regarding unemployment benefits.

<b>Increase Capacities</b>		The funds should be planned for the emergency, but also for the mind survival, to prevent an emigration flows so that the young people stay in Albania. Take advantage of the moment for youth digital trainings.
	EASY PAY	
<b>Second level banks</b>	EASY PAY	Some banks apply transfer fees within the bank, this does not make sense.
	CONFINDUSTRIA	Consider the issue of account blocking in relation to the liabilities of companies which are caused by the situation, or because the the foreign citizen administrators of the companies have left and are not present.
	IC SURVEY	Facilitated procedures for lending activities
<b>The role of Bank of Albania</b>	AGROTECH LTD	Keep control of the significant fluctuation of the euro exchange rate
	IC SURVEY	Strengthening the Albanian currency;
	EBRD	The importance of coordination between support packages and existing initiatives to strengthen access to finance for businesses. For example, the risk-sharing program that the Government has in cooperation with the EBRD and a number of second-tier banks for the agribusiness sector should be extended to the tourism sector, with the support of the EU.
	IC SURVEY	Keep control of the inflation rate
	IC SURVEY	Issuance of new money in the market to increase consumption