INVESTMENT COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF
THE MEETING XXXVIII

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON
THE DRAFT SME POLICY DOCUMENT 2026–2030
AND
THE DRAFT NATIONAL INDUSTRY STRATEGY 2026–2030 AND ITS ACTION PLAN

Tirana, 30 June 2026 | 16:00–17:30

The meeting was attended by Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, in the absence of the Chair of the Investment Council and Minister of Economy and Innovation, Ms Delina Ibrahimaj, due to her participation in an extraordinary meeting at the Prime Minister's Office. The meeting was attended by 17 members of the Investment Council and 20 observers, representing domestic and foreign business associations, as well as public institutions in Albania.

I. Opening of the Meeting

Ms Diana Leka (Angoni), Investment Council Secretariat, opened the meeting by conveying the apologies of the Chair of the Investment Council, Minister Delina Ibrahimaj, for her absence due to her participation in an extraordinary meeting at the Prime Minister's Office.

She then presented the purpose of the meeting, which was to consult Investment Council members on two strategic policy documents aimed at strengthening Albania's competitiveness: the SME Policy Document 2026–2030 and the National Industry Strategy 2026–2030, both of which had been published for public consultation by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation in early June 2026. Given the strategic importance of these documents, the Chair of the Investment Council had proposed convening this meeting to gather comments and recommendations from the private sector.

One week prior to the meeting, the Secretariat had circulated the draft documents and their executive summaries to Council members, inviting them to submit comments either through the Public Consultation Register or directly to the IC Secretariat. By the date of the meeting, the Secretariat had received written comments from the Albanian Renewable Energy Association (AREA) and ProExport Albania (PEA).[1] In addition, the Secretariat's experts had prepared a set of technical comments based on their work in these policy areas, which were also presented during the meeting.

The floor was then given to Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, to present the two strategic policy documents.

II. Presentation: Main Pillars of the Draft National Industry Strategy and the SME Policy Document

[1] *Following the meeting, on 2 July 2026, additional written comments were submitted by email by the Tirana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Foreign Investors Association of Albania (FIAA), and Confindustria Albania.*

Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, delivered a presentation on the draft National Industry Strategy 2026–2030 and the draft SME Policy Document 2026–2030, prepared by an inter-institutional working group led by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation with the support of GIZ. He emphasized that both documents form part of Albania's obligations under Chapter 20 (Enterprise and Industrial Policy) of the EU accession negotiations and are intended to strengthen the competitiveness of the Albanian economy.

He explained that the National Industry Strategy provides a macroeconomic and sectoral framework to guide the transformation of Albania's industrial base through 2030, promoting integration into European value chains, industrial decarbonisation, digital transformation, and the development of industrial ecosystems. The SME Policy Document, by contrast, adopts a horizontal approach focused on strengthening enterprise capabilities, innovation, digitalisation, the regulatory environment, and access to finance.

During his presentation, Mr Kajo highlighted several structural challenges facing the Albanian economy, including the low contribution of manufacturing to GDP, the limited share of medium- and high-technology exports, low investment in research and development, weak linkages between academia and industry, and institutional fragmentation. Regarding SMEs, he identified key challenges related to skills development, digitalisation, innovation, access to finance, and internationalisation.

He also outlined the strategic objectives and key policy measures envisaged under the two documents, including the establishment of a National Industrial Transition Programme, industrial decarbonisation schemes, eco-industrial parks, innovation voucher programmes, a national digital transformation programme, improvements to regulatory quality, the institutionalisation of the SME Test in policy-making, the expansion of digital public services, and broader access to financial instruments for enterprises.

In concluding his presentation, Mr Kajo invited IC members and other stakeholders to provide comments and recommendations on both draft policy documents. He emphasized that all comments submitted during the public consultation process, including those from private sector representatives, are systematically reviewed and assessed. He further noted that policymakers provide reasoned responses indicating whether each comment has been accepted or rejected, thereby ensuring a transparent and constructive consultation process aimed at improving public policy.

III. Summary of the Main Discussion Points

Mr Edvin Prençe, ProExport Albania Association (PEA), thanked the organizers, the Investment Council, the experts, and the Ministry of Economy and Innovation for preparing and presenting the draft strategic documents. While welcoming the consultation process, he argued that the current draft strategy remains incomplete and contains several important gaps.

He raised a number of key concerns, including the absence of a clear identification of the priority sectors that would be covered or supported under the "Made in Albania" policy, as well as insufficient clarity regarding implementation costs, funding mechanisms, and the allocation of financial resources, including the role of the Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA). In this context, he also referred to the lack of information on the proposed digitalisation fund, particularly regarding its allocation criteria and the sectors it is intended to support.

Mr Prençe further noted that Albania has not lacked strategic documents, but rather the political commitment to implement them effectively. According to him, this implementation gap has had a negative impact on exports and the manufacturing sector. He concluded by stressing that the strategy should not remain merely a guiding document but should be accompanied by clear implementation commitments and practical enforcement mechanisms, in order to strengthen business confidence and deliver tangible economic results.

Mr Grant Van Cleve, AmCham, noted that Albania's persistent challenges are not related to the design of strategies, but rather to their practical implementation. He emphasized that, while such observations may risk sounding critical, it is equally important to acknowledge the significant progress achieved by both sides, as well as the need for accelerated alignment with EU legislation.

He expressed concern that strategic documents should be accompanied by clear implementation plans, key performance indicators (KPIs), and robust monitoring frameworks. In this context, he raised questions regarding how results are measured and evaluated, as well as the extent of transparent engagement with the business community.

Referring to the AmCham Business Index, he highlighted a decline of approximately 15% in members' perception of the business climate, describing it as a concerning signal. In conclusion, he stated that although AmCham has a broad set of concrete proposals for improvement, these can only be effectively addressed if the government is willing to reinforce the practical enforcement of legislation and policies.

Ms Ines Muçostepa, Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, commended the organization of the meeting and the relevance of the two strategic documents, particularly in the context of the EU integration process. She noted that, although the strategies represent an important step forward, they still contain gaps that need to be addressed, and she informed participants that detailed written comments would also be submitted.

She proposed that industrial competitiveness be established as a horizontal objective across both strategies, accompanied by concrete measures to enhance productivity, support technological modernization, increase value added, and diversify the industrial base. She also recommended that industrial policies be structured around industrial ecosystems, in line with the EU approach, identifying priority ecosystems such as agri-processing, textiles and footwear, construction materials, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, the blue economy, and creative industries.

Furthermore, she emphasized the need to strengthen supply chain resilience, expand access to finance instruments such as guarantee funds, venture capital, and business angels, and broaden the concept of digitalization to include Industry 4.0, automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, and cloud technologies.

In addition, Ms Muçostepa called for the strategies to include concrete objectives on the green transition, circular economy, and efficient use of natural resources, as well as measures to strengthen the innovation ecosystem through cooperation between universities, research institutes, industry, and start-ups. She also underlined the importance of enterprise internationalization, integration into European value chains, investment promotion, regional development, human capital development, and full alignment of the strategies with EU policies and practices.

Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, acknowledged the comments presented and clarified that a significant number of the issues and proposals raised have already been addressed and reflected in the analysis and measures foreseen in the strategic documents.

Ms Ritva Heikkinen, EU Delegation, thanked the organizers for holding the consultation and noted that both strategic documents are currently under review in Brussels, with official comments to be submitted at a later stage.

She stressed that the strategies should function as implementation tools rather than standalone policy documents, underlining the need for clear action plans, budgets, key performance indicators

(KPIs), and monitoring mechanisms. In her view, these strategies represent one of the criteria for the closure of Chapter 20 (Enterprise and Industrial Policy) in the EU accession process and, as such, should be firmly focused on effective implementation.

She also recalled earlier discussions with the European Commission regarding the possibility of integrating the Industrial Strategy with the Business and Investment Development Strategy (BIDS), rather than maintaining two separate documents. Should the Government decide to keep them separate, she emphasized the need for a strong justification to the European Commission, warning that multiple strategies could lead to overlaps, duplication of measures, and additional administrative burden in implementation and monitoring.

Furthermore, she encouraged stronger alignment with EU industrial policy priorities, with greater emphasis on resilience, priority industrial ecosystems, and a clearer role for foreign direct investment as well as the development of domestic enterprises. Finally, she recommended that the strategies incorporate the planned reform of the investment legal framework, including the Unified Investment Law, which she described as a key EU priority under the Reform Agenda, with the aim of its adoption by December 2026 in order to ensure a unified legal framework and equal treatment for domestic and foreign investors.

Ms Silva Meçaj, Diaspora Business Chamber, proposed that the strategies should more explicitly address the role of diaspora business in the country's economic development. She emphasized the importance of establishing mechanisms for cooperation between domestic enterprises and diaspora entrepreneurs, aimed at encouraging investment in sectors such as real estate, tourism, agriculture, and technology, as well as facilitating access to international markets.

She also noted that the strategic documents do not sufficiently address cooperation with diaspora businesses or the interaction between Albanian enterprises and those of the diaspora, despite their strong potential to stimulate investment and contribute to the development of industry, agriculture, and other key sectors of the Albanian economy.

Mr Bardhyl Baltëza, Edipack sh.p.k./Recycling Association, thanked the organizers for convening the meeting and underlined the need for a more in-depth discussion on the issues addressed. He expressed concern that the strategy does not give sufficient attention to the circular economy, despite its importance in European policies and the increasingly strict recycling targets, referring to the EU's ambitious objectives for higher recycling rates.

He argued that the manufacturing industry in Albania faces very high electricity costs (around 23 cents/kWh compared to approximately 9 cents in regional countries such as Greece), as well as high LPG gas costs (around 1,250 EUR/ton compared to about 500 EUR/ton in the region). According to him, these significant disparities make domestic production uncompetitive, negatively affecting exports and employment, and contributing to youth emigration, as businesses struggle to increase wages. He noted that, unlike 10–15 years ago when his company exported 30–40% of its production to Italy, Greece, and regional markets, the paper factory today operates only around 10 days per month, which he attributed to high production costs and the legal framework restricting the import of waste for recycling.

He also criticized the current legislation in the recycling sector, stating that Albania is, in his view, the only country that prohibits the import of waste for recycling while allowing its export. As an example, he mentioned that some companies in Albania export paper waste for recycling to Serbia, arguing that this policy undermines the domestic recycling industry.

Furthermore, he called for structural issues in the sector to be addressed, including high transport costs and the lack of efficient infrastructure (such as railways and transport delays), as factors that increase losses and hinder economic development and the overall competitiveness of the production sector.

Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, thanked participants for their comments and emphasized that the purpose of the consultations is precisely to improve the strategic documents. He clarified that elements of the circular and green economy are already integrated into the strategies as part of a broader framework of objectives related to productivity growth, economic decarbonization, and the promotion of circular practices across different sectors. According to him, these are not treated as isolated components, but as part of the overall transformation of the economic model.
He underlined that the strategy aims to guide the Albanian economy toward a more modern and competitive model, based on productivity growth, digitalization, the green transition, and the promotion of innovation. In this context, the document is intended to serve as a guiding framework for the structural transformation of the economy.
He also stressed that the strategy is not merely a policy orientation document, but includes concrete measures accompanied by measurable targets, key performance indicators (KPIs), and a costed action plan. This plan sets out defined timelines and budgets, while further detailing of measures and instruments will continue in the subsequent stages of the public consultation process.

Mr Bardhyl Baltëza, Edipack sh.p.k./Recycling Association, noted that the legal framework for municipal waste separation at source still dates back to 1995, implying that there has been insufficient progress in its implementation and updating. He cited the paper recycling sector as an example, highlighting that out of three recycling plants operating around 15 years ago, only his company remains today, due to its closed-loop production system (producing paper, cardboard, and boxes). He also added that the lack of plastic recycling and the practice of burning recyclable materials such as paper and plastic in landfills highlight the need for more open and effective policies for waste management and recycling.

Ms Diana Leka (Angoni), IC Secretariat, noted that the concerns raised by Mr. Baltëza were in line with previous comments from business representatives, emphasizing the need for the strategy analysis to take greater account of specific economic sectors. She suggested that the costs and challenges faced by sectors during the process of transformation and integration into the European market should be assessed more thoroughly, in order to identify the potential and specific needs of each sector.

Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, clarified that the strategy is not limited to a macroeconomic analysis, but rather sets as its first strategic objective the strengthening of the productive base and the orientation of the economy toward the green and digital transition. He explained that the document foresees industrial transition pathways and mechanisms for identifying and supporting industrial ecosystems, in line with the European Union's approach and taxonomy.

He emphasized that at this stage the strategy does not aim to select specific sectors for targeted support, but rather to establish the mechanisms and processes through which the relevant institutions and stakeholders will identify, assess, and support priority ecosystems in the course of implementing industrial policy.

Mr Bardhyl Baltëza, Edipack sh.p.k./Recycling Association, cited the example of natural gas in Delvina, Albania, which, according to him, has been purified by a foreign company due to its sulfur content, and for which contracts have also been established with producers. He argued that this gas would be more advantageous for industry, as it is around 25% more efficient than LPG and could offer lower costs, comparing LPG prices with those of natural/liquefied natural gas. He

expressed concern that the strategy does not address the exploitation of this potential, despite energy being one of the main cost drivers for the manufacturing sector.
He reiterated that high electricity and fuel prices make Albanian industry uncompetitive and argued that public policies are needed to reduce energy costs for producers, even if this requires support from the state budget. According to him, such a policy would increase production, productivity, and industrial investment.
He also raised concerns regarding the lack of domestic oil refining capacity, comparing the situation with regional countries such as North Macedonia, and stressed that transport costs constitute an additional burden for businesses and negatively affect the competitiveness of the industrial sector.

Mr Nikolin Jaka, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tirana, thanked the IC for creating a permanent platform for dialogue between public institutions, business associations, and chambers of commerce, and commended the support of GIZ as well as the work of the Ministry of Economy and Innovation in drafting the National Industrial Strategy and the SME Policy Document.
He emphasized that the strategies should provide clear signals to investors regarding the country's economic development direction and be grounded in a thorough analysis of Albania's competitive advantages and potential. Referring to concerns raised by industry representatives, he argued that many productive sectors are losing competitiveness due to high production costs, citing the dairy industry as an example, which, according to analyses, faces costs approximately 40% higher than those in EU and regional countries. In his view, businesses need clear guidance on priority sectors and the industrial policies that will be supported by the government.
Mr Jaka raised concerns that public decision-making often focuses on short-term fiscal impact rather than policies that enhance economic competitiveness. In this context, he highlighted the need to reduce energy and gas costs for industry, lower VAT for the food industry to levels comparable with those in the region and the European Union, and expand financial support programs for farmers and the productive sector.
He also noted that businesses face high operating costs, bureaucratic barriers, a lack of regional competitiveness analysis, and significant challenges in meeting circular economy and green transition standards. As an example, he stated that building a waste and industrial wastewater treatment facility for a food industry plant costs no less than EUR 700,000, an investment that, in his view, is unaffordable for many enterprises without dedicated support mechanisms. He called for the strategy to be accompanied by clear objectives, timelines, budgets, and concrete financing instruments that would enable enterprises to invest in modernization, circular economy practices, and improved competitiveness.
In conclusion, Mr Jaka stressed that investment attraction depends on ensuring a favourable business environment based on legal certainty, investment security, and predictable returns on capital. He underlined the importance of strengthening dialogue between the administration and the business community, proposing closer cooperation to better understand real entrepreneurial challenges and to address administrative delays in processing business requests.

Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, emphasized that the strategy is based on a detailed analysis of the manufacturing sector, which shows that processing industry accounts for only around 6.5% of the economy and has recorded a decline over the past year. According to him, the main objective of the document is to expand the productive base, increase domestic production, and boost exports.
He clarified that the strategy does not aim to dictate where the private sector should invest, as Albania operates as a free market economy, but rather to establish a policy framework that supports businesses and guides economic development toward European Union standards. In this

context, he stressed that the future development model should be based on productivity, innovation, the green transition, and digital transformation, moving away from a model driven by low labour costs and high-carbon-intensive activities.
Mr Kajo underlined that the strategy does not create new institutions or measures, but instead seeks to coordinate and reorganize existing instruments, legislation, and institutions through cooperation between government, the private sector, and academia. He explained that the document foresees mechanisms for identifying and supporting priority ecosystems such as energy, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, and critical raw materials. For these sectors, the Ministry of Economy and Innovation, in cooperation with line ministries and business representatives, will develop detailed transition roadmaps identifying challenges, potential, and concrete development measures.
He added that the strategy also aims to establish a cooperation framework between public institutions, businesses, the banking sector, and international partners in order to mobilize investment and support the development of priority sectors.
In conclusion, Mr Kajo stressed that the document is not only a guiding framework, but also a legal document that will be accompanied by an action plan, budget, timelines, objectives, and performance indicators, representing an institutional commitment to implementing reforms and improving the competitiveness of the Albanian economy in line with EU standards.

Mr Zak Topuzi, Albanian Tourism Association, appreciated the work of the experts in drafting the strategic documents, but called for greater emphasis on the tourism sector as one of the main pillars of the Albanian economy and a significant contributor to exports. He stated that current policies do not fully reflect the real weight of tourism and that a clearer approach is needed to steer development toward "real tourism" rather than primarily real estate-driven investment. In this context, he also expressed reservations about the Strategic Investors Law, noting that it should be revised to better direct investments toward genuine tourism development rather than mainly real estate projects.
He proposed strengthening the link between tourism and SMEs, particularly in agribusiness and agrotourism, and referred to international models such as Germany to highlight the importance of domestic tourism and dedicated sectoral policies. He also stressed the need for concrete measures to support employment in the sector, especially through the subsidization and training of seasonal workers to transform them into a more stable and qualified workforce. In conclusion, he called for these measures to be accompanied by dedicated funding and to begin implementation from the first year of the 2026–2030 strategy.

Ms Diana Leka, IC Secretariat, announced that the next IC meeting will focus on standardization and quality infrastructure in tourism. She noted that the tourism sector has benefited from significant investments and incentives in recent years, but emphasized that productivity must now be more seriously assessed.

According to her, these policies have also influenced market structure, leading to a shift from small businesses toward larger companies with stronger corporate governance, particularly after the pandemic. However, she underlined that despite these developments, productivity challenges in tourism remain significant and should be addressed more thoroughly in future IC discussions.

Ms Natasha Ahmetaj, Bank of Albania, underlined the need for sectoral strategies to be preceded by a clear vision of the structuring of the Albanian economy, identifying the sectors with the highest potential for productivity and development. According to her, strategies should be tailored to the specific characteristics of the Albanian economy and should not take the form of generic documents applicable to any economy.

She also recommended that strategic documents be drafted in simple, clear, and easily understandable language for businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, avoiding overly complex or ambiguous terminology.
Ms Ahmetaj noted that future economic development should be based on a sustainable, modern, and automated economy, supported by infrastructure that meets the requirements of international markets. In this context, she informed participants that the Bank of Albania is in the process of finalizing the Green Taxonomy, which will serve as a guiding framework for the banking sector and businesses in directing investments toward sustainable activities and in assessing the costs of the green transition.
Regarding access to finance, she emphasized that the banking sector is aware of the importance of supporting businesses, but that risk assessment remains essential to ensuring the security of deposits. She underlined that, in the absence of developed capital markets, the banking sector covers around 78% of business financing needs in Albania, confirming its commitment to supporting sustainable economic development.

Ms Elona Lekloti, Foreign Investors Association of Albania (FIAA), appreciated the National Industrial Strategy and the SME Policy Document, noting that FIAA had also contributed during the earlier consultation phases. She explained that the association had presented comments not only on the long-term objectives toward 2030, but also on the need for a deeper analysis of how the Albanian market currently functions.
She called for more coordinated intervention by the Ministry of Finance and the General Directorate of Taxation to address structural market issues, including competition challenges, enforcement of legislation, and market supervision. According to her, gaps in the fiscal and regulatory framework create conditions that undermine fair competition and negatively affect the protection of both domestic and foreign investments, leading some investors to reconsider their presence in Albania.
Ms Lekloti stressed that the Ministry of Economy and Innovation should take a more active role as an inter-institutional catalyst and coordinator in addressing these issues. She argued that the strategy will only be effective if it is accompanied by concrete reforms in fiscal legislation, market oversight mechanisms, and market functioning, in order to create a more competitive and healthier business environment.
She also emphasized the importance of protecting existing investments, noting that current investors in Albania serve as the main reference point for new foreign investors. In her view, beyond access to finance, it is essential to strengthen financial literacy and limit unhealthy practices that distort the market. In conclusion, she reaffirmed FIAA's commitment to contributing to the improvement of the business climate and expressed the desire to see an increasing number of Albanian-made products present in European markets.

Ms Diana Leka, IC Secretariat, appreciated the comments made by the FIAA representative, underlining that support instruments for industry may distort market equilibrium if they are not preceded by a comprehensive analysis of the current market situation, existing investors, and their investment plans. She noted that public investments should be planned in coordination with private sector investments, with a prior assessment of benefits and risks, and emphasized that the Ministry of Economy and Innovation should take a leading role in coordinating stakeholders toward the objectives of the 2030 Strategy.

Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, emphasized that the role of the state in a market economy is to facilitate and support the development of the private sector by creating the necessary conditions for its growth. He underlined that this principle distinguishes a market economy from a centrally planned one, and noted that the Government's policy orientation is aligned with the EU model, where the state acts as a facilitator rather than a direct driver of economic activity.

IV. Comments and Recommendations of the Investment Council Secretariat on the Draft Industrial Strategy and the Draft SME Policy 2026–2030

Ms Diana Leka (Angoni), IC Secretariat, noted that the draft SME and Industrial Development strategies provide a clear framework focused on competitiveness, productivity, and economic transformation, and include mechanisms for monitoring and public–private dialogue, reflecting progress in addressing structural challenges such as institutional fragmentation and lack of coordination.

The Secretariat highlights the need to strengthen the analytical foundation through more detailed data disaggregated by sector, enterprise size, and regions, as well as to clarify the legal and institutional framework to ensure effective implementation. It also emphasizes the importance of stronger monitoring and reporting indicators related to productivity, exports, innovation, and human capital, as well as the need to further reinforce public–private dialogue in both policy design and implementation.

Regarding the Industrial Strategy, the Secretariat underlines the importance of a clearer definition of priority sectors, enhanced support for SMEs, improved access to finance, digitalization and innovation, as well as addressing labour shortages and emigration as key factors for improving competitiveness and advancing EU alignment.

Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, acknowledged the Secretariat's comments but emphasized that the documents are extensive and based on in-depth analyses prepared by expert teams and the line ministries. According to him, each objective and measure is supported by its own analytical foundation, and the methodology applied already includes prioritization and phased implementation, even if this has not been fully understood in the comments received.
He noted that certain sections may appear unclear or implicit, particularly in relation to practical implementation, but stressed that many of the responses to the concerns raised are already embedded within the strategy itself. In this context, he expressed readiness for further review and to address the comments one by one, suggesting that a significant part of the criticism stems more from a lack of clarity in the understanding of the document's structure and content rather than from substantive shortcomings.

Closing of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the discussions, Ms Diana Leka thanked all participants for their contributions and informed them that all comments and suggestions would be compiled by the IC Secretariat into an official document, which would be submitted to the Ministry of Economy and Innovation and the team of experts responsible for drafting the strategies. She also reminded participants that the public consultation process remains open until 2 July, encouraging all interested stakeholders to submit any additional comments within the set deadline.

List of Participants

Government representatives

1. Mr Martin Kajo, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation, delegated by Ms. Delina Ibrahimaj, Chair of the Investment Council / Minister of Economy and Innovation
2. Ms Natasha Ahmetaj, Deputy Governor, Bank of Albania
3. Ms Laura Plaku, CEO, Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA)

Business representatives

1. Mr Nikolin Jaka, President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tirana
2. Ms Ines Muçostepa, President, Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
3. Ms Elona Lekloti, representative, delegated by Mr. Balazs Revesz, President, Foreign Investors Association of Albania (FIAA)
4. Ms Silva Meçaj, Founder of the Albanian Diaspora Business Chamber and Board Member, delegated by Mr. Ardian Lekaj, President of the Chamber
5. Mr Grant Van Cleve, President, American Chamber of Commerce in Albania (AmCham)
6. Mr Spiro Brumbulli, Secretary General, Albanian Association of Banks, delegated by Mr. Bledar Shella, Chairman of the Supervisory Board
7. Ms Helisabeta Caco, Executive Director, delegated by Mr. Denald George Tafani, President, Greek Business Association in Albania
8. Ms Gerta Bilali, CEO, delegated by Mr. Davide Rogai, President, Confindustria Albania
9. Ms Ardita Seknaj, Secretary General, ICC Albania, delegated by Mr. Nicholas A. Rana, President
10. Mr Bardhyl Baltëza, CEO, Edipack sh.p.k. / Chairman, Albanian Recycling Association *(ad hoc)*
11. Mr Zak Topuzi, CEO, Hotel Mondial / Vice President, Albanian Tourism Association *(ad hoc)*

International partners

1. Ms Ritva Heikkinen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Albania
2. Ms Endrita Xhaferaj, Senior Expert, delegated by Ms. Ekaterina Solovova, Director, EBRD Albania Office
3. Ms Laura Qorlaze, Representative, IFC

Absentees:

1. Mr Massimiliano Paolucci, Country Manager, World Bank Albania
2. Ms Antonela Hako, President, Women Economic Chamber (WECA)
3. Mr Valer Pinderi, President, Albanian E-Commerce Association (AECA)

Observers:

1. Ms Jenni Lundmark, Programme Officer, EU Delegation to Albania
2. Mr Serxho Matraku, Head of Economic Diplomacy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
3. Mr Bernard Zeneli, Expert, National Industrial Strategy 2026–2030 and SME Policy Document 2026–2030, GIZ
4. Mr Enton Duro, Expert, National Industrial Strategy 2026–2030 and Action Plan, GIZ

5. Ms Ermonela Myrtezani, Advisor, GIZ ProSeed project
6. Mr Erald Buzi, GIZ ProSeed project
7. Ms Florenca Haxhi, CEO, Durana Tech Park
8. Mr Edvin Prençe, Chairman, Pro-Export Albania Association (PEA)
9. Ms Marjeta Xhabrahimi (Kodra), Head of Office, Advantage Austria
10. Mr Renato Civili, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Gener 2
11. Representative, Gener 2
12. Ms Albana Laknori, Secretary General, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tirana
13. Mr Bashkim Sykja, Chief of Staff, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tirana
14. Ms Ema Kasapi, Business Manager, British Chamber of Commerce
15. Ms Enxhi Duka, Office Manager, British Chamber of Commerce
16. Ms Borana Kalemi, Swisscontact
17. Ms Klea Rodhani, Legal Affairs Specialist, Public Oversight Board (POB)
18. Mr Gledis Shehu, Expert, Albanian Advisers Group
19. Mr Ermal Dajci, Finance Specialist, Albanian Investment Corporation