



Media release

Serbian-Italian Business Council discusses cooperation in agriculture, infrastructure development, energy

Serbian-Italian Business Council holds first workshop

Belgrade, February 13, 2013 – The Serbian-Italian Business Council held today its first workshop to discuss economic cooperation between Serbia and Italy, with a particular focus on agriculture, infrastructure development and energy.

The gathering at Hyatt Regency was opened by council co-presidents – Banca Intesa Executive Board President Draginja Djuric and Confindustria Anie President Guidalberto Guidi. Italian Ambassador to Serbia Armando Varicchio addressed participants in the workshop, along with Finance and Economy Minister Mladjan Dinkic, Regional Development and Local Government Minister Verica Kalanovic, Energy, Development and Environmental Protection Minister Zorana Mihajlovic and State Secretary at the Agriculture Ministry Senad Mahmutovic.

The workshop comprised two roundtables that tackled a number of topics including ways to provide financial assistance for Italian companies in Serbia, the interest of Italian firms in supporting agriculture development and the infrastructure system, as well as cooperation in the energy sector.

The Serbian-Italian Business Council was established in 2010 at the initiative of the Serbian Economy and Regional Development Ministry and the Italian Economic Development Ministry as a non-profit, non-governmental organization seeking to improve economic cooperation between Serbia and Italy, promote trade, industrial and cultural ties between the two countries, and support cooperation among corporative members of the council.

Italy is Serbia's second largest foreign trade partner, and bilateral commerce has been recording continuous growth over the past ten years. Italian companies employ over 20,000 people in Serbia and have invested around 2 billion euros in the local economy so far.