

## SOUTH EAST EUROPE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) was established in 2007, based on the decision by participants of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and countries from South East Europe (SEE), to create a high-level decision-making and coordination body to support the reform and implementation of policies promoting foreign and domestic investments in SEE region.

In order to empower SEEIC to directly manage regional dialogue and coordinate efforts related to investment reforms in the SEE economies, an initiative to transfer the management of the SEEIC from the OECD to the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) was endorsed at the Ministerial Conference *Building a 2020 Vision for South East Europe*, held in Paris, France, in November 2011, when the SEEIC was empowered to engage in building the SEE 2020 Strategy.

The SEE 2020 Strategy, currently being jointly developed by the SEE countries, in coordination of the SEEIC and the RCC Secretariat, calls for the development, implementation and monitoring of mutual regional goals, consistent implementation of economic reforms to foster integrated, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth underpinned by good governance and the rule of law.

Furthermore, under the RCC umbrella, the SEEIC is focusing its efforts to intensify regional cooperation with regards to investment reforms and improve business and investment environment in the Western Balkans.

In addition to creating a common regional vision for economic development in South East Europe, other SEEIC objectives include reform-related, but also pragmatic efforts in increasing competitiveness of the region through joint targeted action and presenting the region as an attractive investment destination and an economic location. To reach these objectives the SEEIC is focusing on the following activities:

- SEE 2020 Strategy:
  - Identifying priority policy areas for the achievement of SEE targets;
  - Setting regional targets in line with SEE 2020 Strategy;
  - Rolling-out of monitoring instruments;
  - Implementing policy peer reviews;
  - Implementing actions in support of five economic growth pillars: integrated, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth underpinned by good governance and the rule of law.
- Identifying and selecting mutual priority sectors in the region;
- Developing and supporting actions to enhance regional value chains (trade, innovation, etc.) through establishment of inter-governmental working groups on various subjects;
- Reviewing available investment promotion mechanisms and setting joint regional investment promotion instruments and activities;
- Establishing a communication strategy and communication platform.

The SEEIC, currently co-chaired by the Government of Albania and the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat, comprises of high-level officials at the level of deputy minister or state secretary from the respective ministries from South East Europe, namely, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo\*, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

*\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*