



EU Information Day - Transport Infrastructure Opportunities in Montenegro, 28 January 2025

Key Messages of the salutations made by:

Mr Milojko Spajic, Prime Minister of Montenegro:

Infrastructure development is a priority for this Government to further develop the country and connect it with the region and Europe. In the next few years, the objective is to build around 500 kilometres of motorways and express roads, which will completely transform Montenegro. In addition, investments are planned in the railways, airports, and the Port of Bar, with the goal of fully utilising the undeniable potential of Montenegro. It is believed that European companies will find interest in becoming partners on this journey of building a new chapter in the country's history.

Mr. Johann Sattler, Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Montenegro:

The EU and Montenegro are committed to better and greener transport, aimed at achieving a transformation in this sector and of the country. The EU's construction industry holds vast experience and innovative capacities that can play a key role here. We want to see EU companies partner with Montenegrin businesses for mutual benefit, turning knowledge into opportunity. In recent months, Montenegro has accelerated its road development plans, putting the country on a fast track to transformation. Delivering infrastructure projects in line with EU rules and regulations ensures fair access to the market, attracts investments that benefit everyone involved and delivers the opportunities the people of Montenegro truly deserve.

Ms. Marijana Stanic, State Secretary, Ministry of Transport:

Improving transport infrastructure in Montenegro will increase tourist accessibility, regional connectivity and enhance regional economic growth. The most important infrastructure falls under Trans-European Networks (TEN-T) and includes: Bar – Boljare highway, the Ionian – Adriatic and the Coastal expressways as well as the rehabilitation of the railway lines in the country.

The necessary funding for these projects will be sourced from multiple channels, including the Western Balkans Investment Framework, favorable loans from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), grants from the European Commission, public-private partnership models, state budget financing, and eventually EU funds, which Montenegro will be able to access upon becoming a full EU member.

Mr. Matej Zakonjšek, Director, Transport Community Secretariat:

Montenegro, can be instrumental to linking Asia with Europe, exploiting the position of the Port of Bar, which can serve many important cities and economic centers located in a radius of 500km around it.

It is necessary to improve railways not only in Montenegro but in the region too, because their current condition does not support connectivity, The improvements should be according to EU standards, while the necessary reforms have to be implemented, because:

infrastructure without reforms is not sustainable and reforms without infrastructure are not useful.

Mr. Damien Sorrell, Head of the Regional Hub for the Western Balkans, European Investment Bank:

EIB, since it started its activities in Montenegro, has invested €1.2billion which have been pivotal in advancing among others, key infrastructure projects. EIB is committed to sustainable and inclusive growth with strong focus on green and digital transitions. Projects are prioritized to projects that foster regional integration.

Mr. Remon Zakaria, Head of Office in Montenegro, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development:

The Western Balkans is a priority region for the EBRD where the Bank stands as the region's largest institutional investor. In 2024 the EBRD invested, with allocations of €1.6 billion, following a record €1.8billion in 2023. Montenegro has a strong infrastructure development potential and the EBRD is engaged in this sector alongside the EU and other IFIs.

Among the many supported project, Bar – Boljare highway is a flagship in the connection of Montenegro with Serbia and Central Europe.

All projects financed by the EBRD (as a lead IFI) are procured in line with EBRD procurement policy. We encourage contractors to register to our e-procurement website (ECEPP) to be immediately notified of new tenders.