

BANJA LUKA

## BiH Foreign Investors Council Presents White Book for 2009

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Foreign Investors Council (FIC) while presenting the White Book for 2009 referred to political instability, grey economy, inadequate structure of labor force and administrative obstacles and barriers as key obstacles to foreign investments in BiH, offering at the same time number of recommendations on how to remove those obstacles.



"The greatest number of recommendations refers to the area of FBiH, which of course means that the problems and difficulties are present in RS as well. Nevertheless, the fact is that some reforms, legal solutions and activities in RS are evident and they have been recognized on the part of FIC as well", the RS Minister for Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation Jasna Brkic told the press in Banja Luka.

She stressed that at the presentation representatives of the RS Government informed FIC representatives on the progress in this area the Government realized since March last year, when the White Book for 2008 was presented until present day.

"Some laws, primarily Law on Companies which entered into force at the beginning of the year, followed by determined Draft Law on Construction and Physical Planning, and certain reforms in the area of financial sector, analysis of laws from the area of work relations we intend to work on this year improved sufficiently the business environment and of course, as a result, this year we expect considerably greater inflow of direct foreign investments in RS than last year", Brkic said. Member of FIC administration and chief of

the EBRD's mission to BiH Giulio Moreno said that the activities of the RS Government that were presented represent a signal indicating to which extent the RS Government understands what it has to do in order to advance the existing business ambient.

"Taking into account the effects of the global, financial crisis it is very important to act determinately, so as to remove all those obstacles and problems with which new investors face and then, when the financial situation permits, enable inflow of new investments", Moreno said.

He stressed that all efforts of the RS Government to invest represent only a part of global endeavors, which should be joined not only by RS and FBiH, but by BiH as a whole.

Member of FIC Governing Board Stevan Dimitrijevic said that, together with his colleagues, he tries to transfer experiences to authorities from both BiH entities, because regulations on paper are one thing, while in practice they are something completely different. This is being done all in the name of joint welfare and in order to make BiH more attractive for foreign investments and the best investment option in the region.

"The RS Government obviously found the time and dedicated attention to the things we wrote about, but also for something to happen in normative sphere and practice, therefore we all expect positive breakthroughs for foreign investors in practice, which have already been recorded when compared to the previous year", Dimitrijevic said, adding that the progress will continue.

The White Book is being published by the FIC on annual basis, the purpose being providing recommendations for resolving key obstacles for foreign investments.

I. S.

<b>BIFX</b>	1.644,83 (-0,66%)	↓
<b>SASX-10</b>	1.016,67 (-0,48%)	↓
<b>SASX-30</b>	1.032,84 (0,50%)	↑
<b>BIRS</b>	902,81 (0,58%)	↑
<b>ERS10</b>	654,46 (2,26%)	↑
<b>FIRS</b>	1.545,84 (-1,19%)	↓

## Independent Audit of Bosnalijek Confirms 109 Mln BAM Income for 2009

An independent audit of 2009 business operations of Sarajevo's pharmaceutical firm Bosnalijek, with positive opinion of independent auditors, confirmed overall income from sale of company's products at 109.8 million BAM, up two percent from 2008, Bosnalijek said on Thursday. Net profit was nine million BAM, up 9.5 percent on annual level.

The company has 70 million BAM income in BiH, on the 2008 level. Leading export region was Eastern Europe and Russia, where 36 percent annual sale growth was recorded. The company recorded nine percent annual income growth in Southeast Europe. Overall value of Bosnalijek's property amounts to 173 million BAM. Overall value of company's capital was 113.9 million BAM at the end of last year, up six percent on annual level.

The company said the results matched Bosnalijek's 2009 business plan. "Due to the consequences of the economic crises, which are further present in full intensity, Bosnalijek management expects that doing business in 2010 will additionally be difficult. This especially relates to decline of general liquidity caused by small volume of economic activities of real and financial sector", the company said in a statement.

A. G.