

UBCCE QUARTERLY

WINTER 2012 No. 20

“COMPETITIVENESS IN A LOW CARBON ECONOMY PROSPECTS FOR 2012 AND BEYOND”

Istanbul, Turkey, December 22

UBCCE together with the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) organized an international conference entitled “Competitiveness in a Low Carbon Future: Prospects for 2012 and Beyond”, on December 22, 2011 in Istanbul.



Attended by over 175 delegates from Turkey and other regional countries, the event was the final gathering within the framework of “Developing a Green Business Support Strategy for UBCCE” Project, that had been carried out since May 2010 with the support of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment through the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) within its international climate initiative.

The opening speeches of the Conference were delivered by the Minister of Environment and Urban Planning of Turkey Erdoğan Bayraktar, TÜSİAD Chairwoman Ümit Boyner and TÜSİAD Environment Working Group Chairman Musa Galip Eroğlu.

Following the opening ceremony, the outcomes of the Project and the general strategy document entitled “A Green Roadmap – Supporting UBCCE Member Organizations as Green Business Promoters” (available at www.ubcce.org) was presented to the audience, by BAUM (German Association of Green Enterprises) Senior Advisor Herbert Kopnick and General Strategy Reporter Astrid Denker.

IN THIS ISSUE...

P.1/2
UBCCE - GIZ JOINT
PROJECT FINAL
CONFERENCE

P.3/6
BLACK SEA &
CASPIAN EVENTS

P. 7/19
BLACK SEA &
CASPIAN AGENDA

P.20/22
REPORTS IN FOCUS

P.23/27
FROM MEMBERS

P. 28/30
UPCOMING EVENTS

P. 31
EVENT IN FOCUS



UBCCE FIFTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY & EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
13 MARCH, ISTANBUL

UBCCE QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Published by the Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises (UBCCE) Secretariat

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The conference also offered a platform of discussion for evaluating best green business practices in Turkey as well as current and future policy options for Turkey and in particular its business community in the light of the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 17), held in Durban.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Considering the need of finding answers to the multiple challenges related with climate change in the Black Sea and Caspian, UBCCE has identified the necessity to develop a comprehensive strategy, addressing the issue from a private sector perspective.

The overall goal of the project was the elaboration of a business strategy that helps private sector associations and enterprises to respond to the multiple challenges and opportunities of climate change in an efficient and proactive manner.

Within the framework of the project:

- Three pilot countries (Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Georgia) were selected;
- 9 events including two trainings (May 2010 Eschborn, May 2011 Munich), three workshops (October 2010 Donetsk, December 2010 Baku, October 2011 Tbilisi), two project evaluation meetings (March and December 2011 Istanbul), one regional conference (December 2011 Istanbul) and one business forum (June 2011 Batumi) were organized:
- Around 600 persons attended the events;
- 10 site visits were organized in order to present “greening” business and economic benefits of green technologies;
- 4 strategy documents including three national papers and the “Green Roadmap”, were elaborated and disseminated among the related stakeholders (government, private sector organizations, academia, media, etc);
- UBCCE website (www.ubcce.org) was restructured with more focus on green business.

UBCCE **Q** - BLACK SEA & CASPIAN EVENTS

SERBIA OPEN 4 BUSINESS - 4TH MEET THE BUYER BELGRADE, SERBIA, NOVEMBER 15

Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SIEPA) jointly with the EU-funded Support to Enterprise Competitiveness and Export Promotion project, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development of the Republic of Serbia, Serbian Chamber of Commerce, and National Agency for Regional Development organized "Serbia Open 4 Business" - 4th Meet the Buyer event on November 15, in Belgrade. The event focused on food and manufacturing sectors which contributed the most to this growth and where companies gained respectful international experience in production, trade and distribution.

BLACK SEA ENERGY AND ECONOMIC FORUM (BSEEF) ISTANBUL, TURKEY, NOVEMBER 17 - 18

The third annual Black Sea Energy and Economic Forum (BSEEF) took place on November 17-18, in Istanbul, where more than 350 top-level business, government, and NGO leaders from thirty-six countries came together to discuss complex political, economic, energy, and business issues in, and affecting, the Eurasia region.

The Forum, also attended by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, is a regional initiative of the Atlantic Council's Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center annually bringing together an elite circle of panelists composed of senior government officials, chief executive officers and other business leaders who shape the Eurasian and global energy landscape, and noteworthy figures from civil society, media and other fields, to discuss opportunities and challenges in and for Eurasia. It primarily aims to foster multilateral dialogue both among regional leaders and their Western counterparts. The Forum aims to be the preeminent annual gathering of leaders that provides for serious discussions of issues and also becomes sufficiently

Serbia Open 4 Business - 4th Meet the Buyer

Belgrade, Serbia, Nov. 15

Black Sea Energy and Economic Forum (BSEEF)

Istanbul, Turkey, Nov. 17 - 18

8th Vienna Economic Forum "Go South East - The Economy as an Engine of the Regional Development"

Vienna, Austria, Nov. 21

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Poznan, Poland, Nov. 28 - 30

17th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Durban, S. Africa, Nov. 29 - Dec. 9

9th Global Forum on International Investment

Paris, France, Dec. 6

First Black Sea Partnership Forum on Transport and Logistics Services

Istanbul, Turkey, Dec. 6-7

Black Sea 2011 Innovation and Investment Projects Parade

Moscow, Russia, Dec. 14 - 17

The Future of Eco-Innovation: The Role of Business Models in Green Transformation

Copenhagen, Jan. 19 - 20

Renewable Energy Project Finance Summit

Amsterdam, Netherlands, Feb. 7-8

UBCCE **Q** - BLACK SEA & CASPIAN EVENTS

valuable as a regional integrator over the long term as participants become members and gain practical benefits from that membership throughout the year.

Following the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UBCCE and the Atlantic Council in February 2011, our Union was a “strategic partner” of the BSEEF for its 2011 event.

8TH VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM “GO SOUTH EAST - THE ECONOMY AS AN ENGINE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT” VIENNA, AUSTRIA, NOVEMBER 21

The 8th Vienna Economic Forum took place on November 21, in Vienna, Austria under the heading “The Economy as an Engine of the Regional Development”. Various topics, such as Danube regional development, Danube Strategy, potential of the Region, and banking and insurance sector, were discussed during the Event, which brought together around 400 participants from 32 countries throughout the world and from eight international organisations.

Vienna Economic Forum, this year granted with the status of “International Non-Governmental Organisation”, has once again obtained great recognition due to its constantly increasing activities to support the regional economy, its choice of hot topics and its organisation of economic talks for countries of the region.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM POZNAN, POLAND, NOVEMBER 28 - 30

The Third Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) was held in Poznan, Poland on November 28 - 30, in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European External Action Service. Representatives of governments, parliaments, local authorities and NGOs from the EU and Eastern Partnership states had a opportunity to exchange experience and discuss on the issues of empowering civil society. This year's Civil Society Forum included a numerous discussion panels, debates, meetings of four working groups and the new steering committee and NGO Fair.

17TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP17) TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 9

The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol, were held in Durban, South Africa, between November 29 and December 9.

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The Durban event delivered a breakthrough on the international community's response to climate change. In the second largest meeting of its kind, the negotiations advanced, in a balanced fashion, the implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, the Bali Action Plan, and the Cancun Agreements. The outcomes included a decision by Parties to adopt a universal legal agreement on climate change as soon as possible, and no later than 2015.

9TH GLOBAL FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT PARIS, FRANCE, DECEMBER 6

The Global Forum on International Investment was held in Paris, France on December 6, by OECD for the ninth time. Co-sponsored by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Forum focused on important emerging trends in international investment and the activities of multinational enterprises. Three new policy frontiers in particular present challenges and opportunities for governments and policy makers dealing with international investment issues: (1) Reviving private investment in the Middle-East and North Africa, (2) Rise of governments as sources of international investment, (3) International investment in agriculture.

FIRST BLACK SEA PARTNERSHIP FORUM ON TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SERVICES ISTANBUL, TURKEY, DECEMBER 6 - 7

The Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme organized in cooperation with the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, the First Black Sea Partnership Forum for Logistics and Transport on December 6-7, in Istanbul. The event was addressed to all companies active in the field of transport services and infrastructures, technical services, storage, safety and Logistics. The Forum gathered executives from participating countries (namely Albania, Armenia, Azerbaidjan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldavia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine) as well as many Turkish companies. All participants had the opportunity for B2B meetings in order to identify new partners for establishing agreements of collaboration.

"BLACK SEA 2011 - INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT PROJECTS PARADE" MOSCOW, RUSSIA, DECEMBER 14 - 17

In the framework of Russian chairmanship to Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) "Black Sea 2011 - Innovation and investment projects parade" International Exhibition and Forum was organized in Moscow, between December 14-17. Exhibition covered innovations, scientific and high technology production, investment projects, energy, transport, transport infrastructure, environment protection and ecological safety, fuel-energy and raw material resources extraction and effective usage, agriculture and agri-industry projects, competitive consumer products and services, science, education and culture, construction and modern urban infrastructure projects, health, medicine, pharmaceuticals, labor protection, tourism and recreation, sport and service infrastructure sectors.

UBCCE **Q** - BLACK SEA & CASPIAN EVENTS

OECD/EUROPEAN COMMISSION/NORDIC INNOVATION JOINT WORKSHOP THE FUTURE OF ECO-INNOVATION: THE ROLE OF BUSINESS MODELS IN GREEN TRANSFORMATION COPENHAGEN, JANUARY 19 - 20

Firms and entrepreneurs are exploring green business opportunities, increasingly based on systemic thinking and radical innovations, aiming to capture and create value from new business models. Both the OECD and Nordic Innovation are currently conducting business case studies on business model-based eco-innovation.

The workshop entitled “The Future of Eco-Innovation: The Role of Business Models in Green Transformation” held in Copenhagen on January 19-20, aimed to showcase good practices from these studies and to enhance understanding of the role that new business models can play, as well as to establish a network of experts and innovators in this area.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT FINANCE SUMMIT AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, FEBRUARY 7 - 8

There is no doubt that renewables is becoming the most substantial sector of energy industry. European countries are facing important tasks related to energy issues and the emerging CEE countries have also focused on developing their renewable energy sectors. Wind, solar, hydro, biomass, as well as lately developed waste-to-energy projects are providing great opportunities for developers and investors.

The Renewable Energy Project Finance Europe Summit held on February 7-8, in Amsterdam, gathered under one roof renewable energy experts, decision makers, investment professionals, private equity managers, government officials, and other specialists in the field. These outstanding people provided a valuable information and insight into the market tendencies, financial and technological peculiarities of the industry. Both private and public sector will take advantage of building new relationships as well as hearing from prominent industry leaders.

ENERGY

Russia's Gazprom to double Azeri gas purchases

Gazprom announced on January 17, it had signed a deal to double its gas imports from Azerbaijan, which has been courted by the EU as a way to reduce its dependence on Russian imports. According to the announcement, in 2012 the volume of gas purchases from Azerbaijan will grow from 1.5 to 3.0 billion cubic metres, and from 2013 will exceed 3.0 billion cubic metres.

Azerbaijan and Turkey establish TANAP gas consortium

Azerbaijan and Turkey signed on December 26, a memorandum establishing a consortium for the construction of the trans-Anatolian gas pipeline TANAP. The pipeline is to be used to transport gas from Azeri gas fields, including the Shakh Deniz deposits, across Turkey into Europe. Construction work on the Azeri - Turkish gas pipeline is expected to begin in 2012 and finish in 2017. The pipeline's initial annual capacity is estimated at 16 billion cubic metres. The estimated cost of the project is set at \$5 billion. The TANAP gas pipeline has been envisioned as an integral part of the future Southern Corridor.

Turkey and China ink gas storage deal

Turkey's state-run pipeline company Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (BOTAS) and China's Tianchen Engineering (TCC) signed a \$559 million deal to build a 1 billion-cubic-meter gas depository under Turkey's Lake Tuz in Central Anatolia. Turkey is keen on building the gas depository because of its current reliance on Russia, Azerbaijan, and Iran for natural gas.

Azerbaijan-Kyrgyzstan energy cooperation

Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan have reached a preliminary agreement on cooperation in the construction of a refinery in Kyrgyzstan, with an annual capacity of two million tonnes. The plant is expected to be up and running in the second half of 2013. The deal was struck during SOCAR CEO Rovnag Abdullayev's visit to Bishkek on January 19.

Gazprom reduces gas prices for 5 European companies

Gazprom has reduced gas prices for five of its European clients - Germany's Wingas, France's GDF Suez, Austria's Ecomgas, Italy's Sinergie and Slovakia's SPP, which together purchase 35 billion cubic metres of gas, that is, roughly a quarter of Russia's annual gas supply to Europe.

PRIVATIZATION

Ukraine adopts privatisation plan for 2012-2014

The Ukrainian parliament passed on January 13, the state privatisation programme for 2012-2014. The programme is to be implemented in three stages. In stage one, scheduled for the first six months of 2012, the government plans to create a legal and organisational framework for the privatisation programme. During this time, Ukraine will privatise individual companies of strategic importance and those enjoying a monopoly status.

During stage two – the second half of 2012 and 2013 – the state hopes to sell its remaining SMEs, as well as to complete the privatisations launched prior to the adoption of the new programme. Stage three – 2014 – will see the completion of this “large-scale socio-economic process”. Currently, Ukraine is carrying out the privatisation of regional energy companies.

INVESTMENT & COMPANIES

Kazakh company acquires Viennese luxury hotel

The luxury hotel Shangri-La on Vienna’s Schuberttring was recently acquired by the Kazakh private equity company Cerny Capital. The total investment amounts to €120 million. The Ritz Carlton Group will serve as the operator of the hotel starting in the 2012 summer season.

Ford to build new LCV production plant in Turkey

Ford Otosan, a JV between Ford Motor Company of USA and Turkey’s Koc Holding, has announced its plans to build a new auto production facility in addition to its existing plant in Kocaeli in northwestern Turkey. The company manufactures light commercial vehicles and lightweight trucks in Turkey and exports to 70 countries worldwide. The investment cost of the new plant, which will take Ford’s vehicle production capacity in Turkey to 400,000 units per year, is around €250 million.

Turkish Airlines in talks to acquire Polish carrier

Turkish Airlines is set to start acquisition talks with Polish LOT Airlines following Warsaw’s promises to privatize the air carrier, which posted a \$17 million loss in 2010. Turkish Airlines owns 49 percent of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Airlines. The carrier is also interested in acquiring Serbia’s JAT and other airlines in the Balkans.

GREEN NEWS

Global Organizations to Expand Cooperation on Green Growth for Development

Governments looking to design and implement green growth policies and move towards a green economy have a new source of information and assistance. Four leading global organizations signed on January 11, a MoU to create the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, a cutting edge global initiative that will identify and address major knowledge gaps in green growth theory and practice. The agreement was signed by the Global Green Growth Institute, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank.

The Green Growth Knowledge Platform will improve local, national, and global economic policy-making around the world by providing rigorous and relevant analysis of the various synergies and tradeoffs between the economy and the environment. It will complement other efforts by emphasizing policy instruments that yield local environmental co-benefits while stimulating growth, providing a compelling set of incentives for governments.

SCCF funding to help build catastrophe and weather risk insurance markets and enhance adaptive capacity to climate change in Southeastern Europe

The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) administered by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is providing \$5.5 million to fund the technical and regulatory work needed to develop catastrophe and weather-risk insurance markets and mitigate the negative impact of climate change in Albania, FYROM and Serbia, through the project “Southeastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility”.

EUROPEAN UNION

EU boosts regional cooperation in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia

The Commission adopted on November 28, the second part of the 2011 regional action programme for the Eastern Neighbourhood. It will address challenges in a wide range of sectors relevant for the whole region, such as integrated border management, territorial cooperation, youth, climate change and transport. Actions, among others, to be taken will consist of border management support on the Belarusian - Ukrainian border as well as the Moldavian-Ukrainian border; wider territorial cooperation programmes between border regions of the EU Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries; regional cooperation in the field of youth work; the fostering of improved climate change policies in the whole neighbourhood area and Russia and the provision of technical support to the beneficiary countries to improve the connection between the Trans-European Transport Network and EU's Eastern neighbours. The programme is worth €62.5 million.

EU support for public sector and governance in Armenia

The European Commission adopted on November 28, a programme that will further improve public finance management systems in Armenia. It is the second part of the Annual Action Programme for Armenia for 2011, worth €24 million. The programme will contribute to the improvement of public sector transparency and performance, including the broadening of e-governance systems. Moreover, it will assist achieve regulatory convergence with the EU and international laws and standards in the areas of trade, for instance improving customs legislation.

EU launches trade negotiations with Georgia and Moldova

The EU decided on December 5, to launch negotiations on a deep and comprehensive free trade area with Georgia and Moldova in order to boost economic growth and investment with the Eastern European partners. The negotiations will tackle a broad range of trade and economic issues so as to achieve a closer economic integration with the EU.

EU announced substantial new funds under European Neighbourhood Instrument

The European Commission adopted on December 7, budget proposals for its external instruments from 2014-2020, which will allow the Union to fulfill its responsibility on the global stage: fighting poverty and promoting democracy, peace, stability and prosperity. The range of instruments will support developing countries as well as countries in the European neighbourhood and those that are preparing accession into the EU.

UBCCE Q - BLACK SEA AND CASPIAN AGENDA

Under the new principle of “differentiation”, the EU will allocate a greater proportion of funds where aid can have the highest impact: in the regions and countries that are most in need, including in fragile states. Countries that can generate enough resources to ensure their own development will no longer receive bilateral grant aid and will instead benefit from new forms of partnership; they will continue to receive funds through thematic and regional programmes. This will be complemented by different innovative cooperation modalities such as the blending of grants and loans.

One of the major innovations and a key external policy tool is the new Partnership Instrument. Building on the achievements, the new ENI will contribute to strengthening bilateral relations with partner countries and bring tangible benefits to both the EU and its partners in areas such as democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance and sustainable development. The proposed budget for the new ENI is €18.2 billion for the period 2014-2020. This represents a significant increase compared to the budget of the previous ENPI instrument. This significant increase reflects the increased priority of the ENP in the overall foreign policy of the EU.

Accession treaty with Croatia signed on December 9

The Treaty of Accession with Croatia was signed on December 9, at a special ceremony held in Brussels, in the margins of the European Council. The signing of the Treaty of Accession paves the way for the ratification procedures that will allow Croatia to become the 28th member of the European Union on July 1st, 2013. Croatia's accession will complete the sixth wave of enlargement in the Union's history.

EU to invest for fostering reforms in the Western Balkans, Turkey and Iceland

The European Commission has finalised on December 20, a series of aid programmes to support reforms in countries wishing to join the EU. The funding, totalling almost €1 billion, comes under the 2011 budget of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), and will be available to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo, Turkey, and Iceland.

This year's funding focuses on better governance, with projects aiming at further reinforcement of administrative capacity, more efficient use of EU assistance, adoption and enforcement of EU standards, further support to reforms in public administration, as well as in the judiciary and fundamental rights and the continued support to the fight against organised crime and corruption.

Country	Amount (€)	Main sectors financed
Albania	82.000.000	Justice, home affairs and fundamental rights, public administration reform, transport, environment and climate change, social development, agriculture and rural development
B&H	91.280.000	Public administration reform, justice and home affairs, private sector development, transport, environment and climate change, social development

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Croatia	39.159.128	General administrative strengthening relevant to the post-accession period, with a particular focus on the justice, home affairs and fundamental rights sector
FYRoM	28.903.410	Justice, home affairs and fundamental rights, public administration reform, social development
Iceland	12.000.000	Preparation for acquis implementation, strengthening of administrative capacity, contribution to socio-economic development
Kosovo	62.900.000	Justice, home affairs and fundamental rights; private sector-led economic development; public administration reform
Montenegro	26.493.599	Justice, home affairs and fundamental rights, public administration reform, social development, environment and climate change
Serbia	178.556.810	Strengthening of the rule of law and public administration, overcoming of the economic crisis and improvement of competitiveness, support to social inclusion and reconciliation
Turkey	232.968.023	Justice, home affairs and fundamental rights; environment and climate change; support to Turkey's participation in Union programmes; economic and social development in the Black Sea region
Multi-beneficiary and other programmes	210.436.237	SME development and infrastructure, statistical cooperation, regional cooperation in trade, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection, Audit and Evaluation, Information & Communication, overall support to civil society organisations, technical assistance on the transposition of EU legislation (TAIEX), Office of the High Representative in B&H, International Civilian Office in Kosovo, Cross Border Cooperation programme Kosovo-Montenegro.

EU reinstates trade preferences for the Western Balkans until 2015

The EU re-established on December 30 the exceptional autonomous trade preferences, which it grants to all Western Balkans until the end of 2015. Western Balkan economies will therefore continue as of 1 January 2012 to benefit from an unlimited duty-free access to the EU market for nearly all products.

ECB and partner institutions successfully complete programme for the western Balkans and Turkey

The European Central Bank (ECB), together with 14 national central banks (NCBs) of the euro area and the European Commission, successfully completed on January 16 a two-year technical assistance programme for the benefit of the central banks and supervisory authorities of Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo.

UBCCE Q - BLACK SEA AND CASPIAN AGENDA

Through the programme, intensive regional training was organised for some 150 bank supervisors and financial stability experts from the beneficiary institutions. The Eurosystem central banks also supported the implementation of specific national measures – which were defined in agreement with international financial institutions, partner central banks and beneficiaries – and conducted region-wide technical simulations of cooperation between the supervisory authorities of the countries concerned.

EU agrees oil embargo on Iran

The EU agreed on January 23 to slap an embargo on Iran's oil exports as the West ramped up pressure on Tehran's suspect nuclear drive and urged it to return to the negotiating table.

BUSINESSEUROPE

BUSINESSEUROPE launches its own youth opportunities initiative

Youth unemployment currently stands at more than 20 percent in the EU. European companies are convinced that this high number of young people without work stands in sharp contrast to the real potential of the young generation. Therefore, at the request of the European Commission, BUSINESSEUROPE has set up a task force in order to get more apprenticeships. It will look at concrete proposals on how the EU can better support apprenticeships / dual learning systems through the use of EU funds. This work will deliver a business contribution to the implementation of the Youth Opportunities Initiative published by the Commission.

EU CSR Strategy: more focus needed on positive role of business in society

BUSINESSEUROPE published a position paper on the Commission's Renewed EU Strategy 2011-2014 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). As recognised in the strategy, progress has been made in the development of CSR at company level. The EU should support and promote this growing engagement, by focusing on how CSR can help improve business performance. Moreover, the strategy should more clearly highlight the positive role of business in society by creating growth and jobs. Combined with a voluntary approach to CSR, this should be the basis to ensure a positive evolution of CSR in the coming years.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)

Armenia

A €5 million contribution from the EU is helping the EBRD's Business Advisory Services (BAS) to deliver business advice and consultancy services to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Such businesses are the main drivers of economic growth and job creation. The EBRD's BAS, launched in 1995, assists individual enterprises to engage with local consultants on specific projects with a rapid payback.

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Bosnia & Herzegovina

The EBRD is further promoting energy efficiency in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a €5.4 million loan to finance implementation of advanced energy saving measures in one of the leading retail chains in the country: Bingo, which is the second largest retailer in the country, operating 43 supermarkets and 24 hypermarkets, with a total trading area of more than 150,000 square metres.

Russia

The EBRD has signed a loan agreement under which it is to provide \$155 million in long-term financing to promote environmental safety in Russian seaports as part of a drive to establish internationally competitive port infrastructure and professional port management systems in these key gateways for Russia trade.

Serbia

In its first private sector transaction in Serbia's transport sector, the EBRD is providing a €2.8 million loan for the construction of a factory for manufacturing rail track parts. The proceeds of the EBRD loan will be used to build a factory to produce pre-stressed concrete rail sleepers – one of the core components of rail tracks.

The EBRD is promoting green energy in Serbia with a €45 million sovereign-guaranteed loan to Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS), the state-owned power company, to renovate existing and build new, small hydropower plants. The proceeds of the EBRD loan will be used to refurbish 15 small hydropower plants with a combined capacity of 18 MW and to build seven new ones on existing dams. The new, small hydropower plants will have a combined capacity of 13 MW.

The EBRD is further increasing the availability of financing to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Serbia with a €30 million credit line to ProCredit Bank Serbia. ProCredit Bank Serbia is a leading institution for financing MSMEs and agricultural producers in the country, with a broad regional network, offering universal banking services.

Turkey

The EBRD is continuing to support the availability of financing to SMEs in Turkey's agribusiness sector with a €40 million credit line to Denizbank for on-lending to local companies operating predominantly in rural areas.

Ukraine

The EBRD launched a \$100 million lending facility for MSMEs in Ukraine. The facility, which will be utilised by the end of 2013, will provide much-needed support for smaller businesses in the country and will concentrate on the development of new loan products, including rural and agricultural lending through local commercial banks.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)

IFC and EIB collaborate to strengthen private sector development in emerging markets

IFC and the EIB agreed on December 20, to improve collaboration between the two institutions when financing private sector development projects in emerging markets. Increased cooperation will improve the effectiveness of funding by reducing the administrative burden on borrower companies and allowing quicker completion of financial documentation.

EIB, European Commission and EIF team up to help SMEs get loans for RDI

The EIB and EU Commission launched a new guarantee facility for innovative SMEs to help them access finance from banks. This builds on the success of the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF), launched in 2007, that has so far helped 75 companies benefit from over €7 billion in EIB loans to projects enhancing European growth and competitiveness. The new risk-sharing instrument for SMEs will be managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF).

EIB provides loan for [Austria's](#) windpower sector

Austria's windpower sector is continuing to grow. The EIB is granting the company ImWind a €140 million loan to build new turbines in Burgenland and Lower Austria. The first loan agreements were signed recently in Vienna and Luxembourg. A total of 45 new wind turbines with an overall capacity of 131 MW will be built in Großhofen (Lower Austria) and Nickelsdorf, Mönchhof and Halbturm Süd (Burgenland). The project owner, ImWind, will be responsible for both the construction and operation of the turbines.

JASPERS technical assistance extended to [Croatia](#) ahead of EU accession

JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions), the technical assistance partnership between the EIB, the EU Commission, the EBRD and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, will assist Croatia in the identification and preparation of projects eligible for grant assistance under the EU Structural Funds and the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA).

New € 135 million EIB support to real economy in [Greece](#)

The EIB has signed two agreements totalling €135 million in support of the real economy in Greece: €85 million is for the establishment of an Urban Development Fund with the National Bank of Greece to invest in urban projects in a number of regions in Greece. The EIB acted in its capacity as the Manager of the JESSICA Holding Fund Greece. Aimed at creating more competitive, socially inclusive and sustainable urban areas in Greece, the UDF will invest the above sum in the next four years.

EIB supports Bucharest's metro and electricity generation in [Romania](#)

The EIB is providing two loans in Romania amounting to almost €500 million: €465 million to finance the design, construction and commissioning of Section II of the Bucharest Metro Line 5 to develop a new east-west underground public transport corridor in the Romanian capital and €33 million for environmental improvements to Unit 4 of the Paroseni coal-fired combined heat and power plant.

EIB supports the upgrading of pulp and paper production in [Russia](#)

The EIB is lending €100 million to finance the modernisation and expansion of an integrated pulp and paper mill in Syktyvkar in the Russian Federation. This is the first EIB loan provided by the Bank under the Eastern Partners Facility (EPF). The EIB loan will finance the upgrading of pulp, paper and paperboard production, increased power generation from renewable resources, the extension of the wood yard and investments improving environmental performance and energy efficiency and enable the use of vast previously underutilised wood resources. After completion, the project is expected to result in greenhouse gas savings of some 455 000 tonnes/year.

Western Balkans: €3 million WBIF grant for Corridor X motorway in [Serbia](#)

The EIB and the Republic of Serbia signed a funding agreement for a €3 million grant for the preparation of the Corridor X motorway project. The agreement was signed at the EIB's headquarters in Luxembourg by Dario Scannapieco, Vice-President of the EIB responsible for operations in the Western Balkans, and the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister, Bozidar Djelic, on the occasion of the Fifth Western Balkans Investment Framework Steering Committee meeting.

EIB provides €400 million for Istanbul-Ankara High Speed Rail Line in [Turkey](#)

The EIB provided €400 million in favour of the Turkish State Railways TCDD as a further contribution to the country's main transport corridor between Ankara and Istanbul. The additional funding brings the total EIB support for the high speed railway line to €1.25 billion and the total value of EIB support for the Turkish rail system in the last decade to some €2.4 billion. This facility further consolidates the position of EIB as Turkey's key financial partner for the funding of priority railway projects and the country's efforts to re-balance its transport mode mix in favour of the railways.

WORLD BANK

New Apps for Climate Competition launched

The World Bank Group announced on December 2, the launch of a new "Apps for Climate" competition, to discover extraordinary ways to use open climate data. The competition encourages scientists, software developers, development practitioners and others to create applications that use open data to help solve the development problems that climate change poses. It aims to promote innovative use of open climate data – for example, through apps that help understand and manage weather-related disasters, to agriculture, food and water supplies, rising sea levels and other climate related development challenges. Cash prizes will be awarded to winning entries. Apps must be submitted by March 16, 2012.

Third Development Policy Loan to [Romania](#) worth €400 million

The World Bank approved an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan worth €400 million for Romania on December 19. The objective of this loan is to support the Government's reforms in fiscal management, social protection, and the financial sector in order to position Romania to emerge from the economic and financial crisis on a

stronger footing, and resume and sustain convergence to the living standards of more advanced EU economies and withstand better any further shocks.

Russian Federation Country Partnership Strategy 2012-16

The World Bank discussed on December 20, a new Country Partnership Strategy for the Russian Federation for the period 2012 - 2016. The 2012-2016 Country Partnership Strategy will support Russia to increase growth and diversification through better management of public finances, improved investment climate and innovation, stronger financial sector, better infrastructure, and more effective protection of the environment, expand human potential by strengthening skills and social services through improvements in education, health, and social protection.

World Bank continues support to Serbia over next four years

The World Bank discussed on December 15, the new Country Partnership Strategy for Serbia for the period 2012 - 2015. The Bank will support reform efforts in Serbia in two areas: strengthening competitiveness of Serbia's economy, and improving the efficiency and outcomes of social spending. Within the first two years, Serbia will have access to \$340 million of IBRD resources, while the IFC expects to provide \$600-800 million to the private sector over the four-year period. The Bank will consider increasing budget support by an additional \$200 million in the next 18 months if Serbia is severely affected by the economic turbulence in the Eurozone and continues to maintain its strong reform program and sound macroeconomic management.

OECD

Russian economy is recovering, but faster modernisation needed

The Russian Federation must further modernise its economy to meet long-term development and income inequality challenges, according to the OECD. A combination of sound macroeconomic management, improved business climate, effective social policies and greater energy efficiency is required. These are key conclusions of two newly published reports - a Review of Labour Market and Social Policies in the Russian Federation and the latest Economic Survey of the Russian Federation - launched in Moscow on December 12, by OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría and Russian Minister of Economic Development Elvira Nabiullina. The reports identify modernisation and social inclusion as vital to Russia's future economic development. The Survey notes a number of areas where Russia is performing relatively well, such as public debt management, education and unemployment.

INVESTMENT AGENCIES

Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO)

AZPROMO organized 190 events in the country and abroad in 2011 • 2011 became a successful year in the context of the raising of public awareness of economic potential of Azerbaijan and a favorable business environment in the country, and expansion business-like relations among local businessmen.

UBCCE **Q** - BLACK SEA AND CASPIAN AGENDA

Last year approximately 190 events were organized in the country and abroad by AZPROMO for the purpose of promotion of export and investment opportunities of Azerbaijan, further expansion of business-like ties among local companies and allurements of investment into country's economy.

Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Forum ▪ Azerbaijan-Turkey Business Forum was held on November 28, in Baku supported by Ministry of Economic Development and organized by AZPROMO and Embassy of Turkey to Azerbaijan. About 80 companies operating in food processing, textiles, chemical industry, construction, heavy industry and other members of Turkey's Aegean region Chamber of Industry participated in the Forum.

Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of Bosnia Herzegovina

The most important foreign investors in B&H in 2010 ▪ FIPA organized the traditional event of awarding the most significant investors in BiH for 2010 in four categories on December 14, in Sarajevo. "Eco Line doo Petrovo" dealing in production of the solid oak furniture was chosen as the most significant investor in the "Greenfield" category. "Hotel Bristol Sarajevo" was chosen as the most successful project of privatization and also was awarded in the category of "Opening new working places" within the same project. "Šișecam Soda Lukavac", dealing in production of light and heavy soda and of other products from soda, was chosen as the most significant investor in the category of "joint venture".

Invest in Bulgaria

InvestBulgaria Agency has awarded Bulgaria's top investors ▪ InvestBulgaria Agency has awarded for a sixth year in a row Bulgaria's top investors for 2011 in five different categories at a special ceremony in Sofia. Investor of the Year Awards are given to companies that have made big steps in their development through effective and sustainable investments. The awards recognize companies that have achieved significant progress in 2011, which contributed to the development of Bulgarian economy, created new jobs and stimulated faster economic growth, adhering to high standards of corporate social responsibility.

- Lufthansa Technik (The asset investment category for large companies)
- Amer Sports, one of the largest global producers of sports gear (The asset investment category for SMEs)
- Hewlett-Packard (The category for creating high-added value jobs)
- Asarel Medet Jsc, a copper mining and processing company (Green Investment category)
- Power utility EVN Bulgaria (The category for innovations)

Invest in Greece

First International Investment Forum ▪ The First International Investing Forum of the Hellenic Electricity Association (HELAS) entitled "Recharging Growth: Strategic Investments in Green Energy in Greece", took place on January 20-21, in Athens, with the participation of over 70 Greek and international leading investors and representatives of the energy sector.

Draft Bill on Fast Track, Investment and Business Enhancement ▪ The Greek cabinet approved a draft bill presented by the Development, Competitiveness and Shipping Ministry

UBCCE Q - BLACK SEA AND CASPIAN AGENDA

that lowers the minimum limits for including proposed investments in the “Fast Track” process, as well as fully lifting cabotage on Greek seas. The bill also included measures designed to cut down on the red tape and speed up investments. It also calls for a single reception centre for investments at Invest in Greece where applications will be responded to within 60 days. The full deregulation of cabotage will completely liberalise the cruise market and allow cruise ships to embark from Greek ports. Other measures bring forward the deadlines for concluding archaeological investigation so as not to delay investment plans and reduce the bureaucracy involved in exporting, cutting this back from around 38 different documents to a one-day approval process.

Call for Hydrocarbon Extraction ▪ On January 2, the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (YPEKA) invited investors through an Open Door process to bid to exploit hydrocarbon reserves in three blocks estimated to hold around 250 million barrels of oil. The first two blocks, Patraikos Gulf and Katakolo, are located off the western coast, and the third block - Ioannina - is in the northwest of the mainland. Investors must submit offers by July 2.

National Agency on Export and Investment (KAZNEX INVEST)

Kaznex Invest arranged road show in Europe ▪ Kaznex Invest arranged the first road show in Spain, Portugal and Switzerland between December 1 and 8. The primary purpose of the event was to inform the prospective investors on investment attraction of Kazakhstan, implementation of the State Program of Forced Industrialization, measures on support of investors.

Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SIEPA)

The 15th Round of Financial Assistance for Investment Projects ▪ SIEPA has announced a public call for another round of financial assistance for new investment projects in Serbia. The funds may be used for financing investment projects in the manufacturing sector, the internationally marketable services sector and strategic projects in the field of tourism.

BILATERAL

Ukraine’s president visits Turkey

The presidents of Ukraine and Turkey – Viktor Yanukovich and Abdullah Gul – met in Ankara on December 22, to discuss the prospects for the development of cooperation between the two states. Yanukovich also held talks with prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan as part of the first meeting of the Ukraine-Turkey high-level strategic council.

The politicians signed a joint statement expressing desire to develop a strategic partnership, while their accompanying delegations inked a number of other documents, including a deal on the liberalisation of visa regulations for visits of up to 30 days and a plan for the development of bilateral relations for 2012-2013. At a joint press conference, Yanukovich and Erdogan announced the launch of negotiations on a free trade zone of Turkey and Ukraine.

Iranian president visits Armenia

Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad paid a one-day visit to Armenia on December 23, where he met with president Serzh Sarkisian as well as the country's prime minister and parliament speaker. The discussions focused on measures aimed at stepping up bilateral cooperation, including in the energy and transport sectors, the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and current international affairs. During the visit the delegations signed a number of cooperation documents, including a memorandum on support for Armenia and a protocol for an agreement on the construction and use of a hydro-electric power station on the border river Araks.

Medvedev, Lukashenko and Nazarbayev meet in Moscow to discuss integration

The presidents of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan - Dmitry Medvedev, Alexander Lukashenko and Nursultan Nazarbayev - held a meeting in Moscow on December 19, to discuss the future of a common economic space. During the meeting the leaders approved the structure and make-up of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EurEC) - the permanent, supranational body which will begin to operate from 2012 and will replace the current trilateral Customs Union Commission. Moreover, the politicians agreed to appoint Viktor Khristenko, Russian Minister of Industry and Trade, as chairman of the executive board of the EurEC. The leaders also signed two international agreements on customs tariffs and measures aimed at preventing money laundering.

5 documents have been signed under the Kazakh-Ukrainian Business Forum

Astana has witnessed on November 24, the Kazakh-Ukrainian Business Forum under the first formal visit of Prime Minister of Ukraine Nikolay Azarov with the participation of Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Massimov and business representatives of both states. The Forum has been arranged by Kaznex Invest with the participation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kazakhstan. Business event has resulted in signing of the number of bilateral economical documents.

OTHER

Russia became WTO member

Russia has finally joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) on December 16, after 18 years negotiating its membership. The removal of trade barriers is likely to stimulate greater and more diversified trade between Russia and the rest of the world.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION EU ENERGY ROADMAP 2050

The European Commission adopted on December 15, the Communication “Energy Roadmap 2050”. The EU is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80-95 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 in the context of necessary reductions by developed countries as a group. In the Energy Roadmap 2050, the Commission explores the challenges posed by delivering the EU's decarbonisation objective while at the same time ensuring security of energy supply and competitiveness. The Energy Roadmap 2050 is the basis for developing a long-term European framework together with all stakeholders.

OECD SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING TOOLKIT

The OECD Sustainable Manufacturing Toolkit is designed to help businesses around the world, particularly supply chain firms and SMEs, develop a more viable, socially responsible business approach and make the most of green growth opportunities. It provides a set of 18 internationally applicable, common and comparable key performance indicators to measure and improve the environmental performance of manufacturing facilities. This indicator framework owes to much to the existing variety of environmental and CSR initiatives and offers a potential for future standardisation in this area. The Toolkit includes a Start-up Guide, which provides a step-by-step approach to measuring and benchmarking environmental performance, and a web portal (www.oecd.org/innovation/green/toolkit) which provides additional technical guidance, data tools and useful links.

OECD FACTBOOK 2011 – 2012 ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

OECD Factbook 2011/12 is a comprehensive and dynamic statistical annual publication from the OECD. More than 100 indicators cover a wide range of areas: agriculture, economic production, education, energy, environment, foreign aid, health, industry, information and communications, international trade, labour force, population, taxation, public expenditure, and R&D. This year, to commemorate the OECD 50th anniversary, the OECD Factbook features a focus chapter on 50 years of OECD statistics.

OECD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, VOLUME 2011 ISSUE 2

The OECD Economic Outlook is the OECD's twice-yearly analysis of the major economic trends and prospects for the next two years. The Outlook puts forward a consistent set of projections for output, employment, prices, fiscal and current account balances. Coverage is provided for all OECD member countries as well as for selected non-member countries. This issue includes a general assessment, chapters summarising developments and providing projections for each individual country and an extensive statistical annex.

OECD SYNTHESIS REPORT: TRADE AND INNOVATION:

Innovation is critical to creating new sources of growth. Trade is one of the framework conditions that can strengthen innovation in the business sector, as set out in the OECD Innovation Strategy in 2010. This newly published synthesis report broadly sets out three channels through which trade affects innovation. First, imports and FDI as well as trade in technology serve as channels of technology diffusion. Second, imports, FDI and technology licensing contribute to intensifying competition, which can affect incentives for innovation. Third, exports can affect innovation as it serves as a learning opportunity and gives incentives for innovative activities. Multilateral trade liberalisation, including both tariff and non-tariff liberalisation as well as protection of intellectual property, contributes to ensuring the link between trade and innovation discussed in this paper.

WORLD BANK GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS (GEP) 2012

Developing countries should prepare for further downside risks, as Euro Area debt problems and weakening growth in several big emerging economies are dimming global growth prospects, according to the World Bank's newly-released Global Economic Prospects (GEP) 2012. The Bank has lowered its growth forecast for 2012 to 5.4 percent for developing countries and 1.4 percent for high-income countries (-0.3 percent for the Euro Area), down from its June estimates of 6.2 and 2.7 percent (1.8 percent for the Euro Area), respectively. Global growth is now projected at 2.5 and 3.1 percent for 2012 and 2013, respectively.

Regional Summary - Europe and Central Asia *(<http://go.worldbank.org/RWLJPPA0D0>)*

GDP growth in Europe and Central Asia remained stable at 5.3 percent in 2011, despite the disruptive effects of the global financial turmoil and weakening external demand, especially from the Euro Area. Although the global economic slowdown in the second quarter also affected the region, the third quarter saw activity rebound, driven by robust domestic demand, in several large middle-income countries, notably Russia, Romania and Turkey.

However, a projected recession in high-income Europe, still troublesome inflationary pressures in the Europe and Central Asia region and reduced capital inflows are projected to slow regional GDP to 3.2 percent in 2012.

Risks and Vulnerabilities

There are considerable downside risks to the region's economic outlook. The primary risk facing the global economy is a deterioration of the situation in high-income Europe, which could result in a significantly weaker external environment for Europe and Central Asia's main trading partners but also a significant exacerbation of negative confidence effects.

Such deterioration would magnify a number of pre-existing vulnerabilities in the region, including those arising from direct trade and banking-sector exposures, as well as more indirect effects running through both financial and real channels, including possibly sharp reductions in global external financing conditions, lower commodity prices and weaker remittances.

Policy Recommendations

Countries in the region should evaluate their vulnerabilities and prepare contingencies to deal with both the immediate and longer-term effects of an economic downturn.

Most countries in the region have less fiscal space available for counter-cyclical policies to cope with a sharp deterioration in global conditions as compared with 2008/09. In such eventuality, where fiscal space exists, governments could use countercyclical policy to support growth, by increasing spending on social safety nets that would limit poverty impacts, and on infrastructure projects that would benefit growth. Countries with limited fiscal space could increase the effectiveness of countercyclical fiscal policy, improving the targeting of social safety nets and prioritizing infrastructure programs necessary for longer-term growth. In such situation, monetary policy could also become more accommodative provided that inflation expectations remain anchored.

Countries where credit has increased rapidly in recent years should engage in stress testing of their domestic banking sectors. A much weaker external environment could result in sharply lower domestic growth and falling asset prices that could result in a rapid increase in the number of non-performing loans and domestic banking stress. Countries with large external financing needs should pre-finance these needs to avoid abrupt and sharp cuts in government and private sector spending. With growth in high-income countries likely to remain subdued for an extended period, countries in the region may need to identify new drivers of growth and to address structural problems that negatively affect competitiveness.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM GLOBAL RISKS 2012 REPORT

The seventh edition of Global Risks 2012 report of the World Economic Forum features more refined risk descriptions and rigorous data analysis covering 50 global risks. It aims to improve public and private sector efforts to map, monitor, manage and mitigate global risks. It is also a “call to action” for the international community to improve current efforts at coordination and collaboration, as none of the global risks highlighted respects national boundaries. This report captures the input of risk leaders in thought and practice. Underlying all these risks are velocity, multiplicity, and interconnectivity – creating a global system where mastering complexities will be the foremost challenge.

UBCCE Q - FROM MEMBERS

AZERBAIJAN TURKEY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (ATIB)

ATIB General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Azerbaijan Turkey Business Association took place in Baku, on February 4, where Cemal Yangin, the president of Istanbul Carsi Import & Export Ltd was elected as the new chairman of the Board. New compositions of management, audit committee as well as organization's budget for 2012 have been also approved by the General Assembly.

IRANIAN CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS (ICEA)

ICEA attended the 15th ILO Asia Pacific Regional Meeting

The 15th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organization originally planned for April 2011 and postponed following the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan, was held between December 4 and 7, in Kyoto. The Meeting considered the challenges of realizing decent work across Asia and the Pacific, mindful of the region's great diversity, the impact of natural disasters and rapidly changing social, economic and political developments in the Middle East. The central message of the regional meeting, as originally planned, continues to be highly relevant to all countries, social partners and people in this region. Employment and social protection, backed by fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue, are critical to the recovery and to the pursuit of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Upon the invitation extended by the ILO as well as the IOE, an ICEA delegation, comprising four employers' delegates-headed by ICEA Secretary-General Mohammad Otaredian, also attended the event. In his speech, Mohammad Otaredian considered the Asia Pacific region as an extra ordinary engine for growth. He further stressed that the Asia and Pacific emerging economies have anchored the global economic recovery; but still the widening economic disparity among countries within the region has highlighted the need for increased regional integration by promoting intra-regional trade.

TURKISH CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS (TISK)

TISK represented Turkish employers at the G20 Summit

Gathered on November 2 - 3, on the eve of G20 Summit in Cannes, the "B20 Business Summit" assembled for the first time 23 representative organisations of companies from all G20 countries, thus addressing all major economic and social issues related to globalisation along with 150 international business leaders. TISK represented Turkish Employers from the beginning of the process by attending the meetings and providing inputs to the reports that is produced by B20. TISK President Tuğrul Kudatgobilik, Secretary General Bülent Pirlir and TISK External Relations Commission Member Erol Kiresepi attended the Summit.

For the first time, a joint meeting allowed the adoption of a joint statement of the B20 and L20 (Labour 20), showing the desire to establish the foundations for a social dialogue at the

G20 level. TISK will continue to follow the process and effectively represent the Turkish Employers at B20.

B20 L20 JOINT STATEMENT

The B20 (Business Organisations of the G20 countries) and the L20 (Trade Union Organisations of the G20 countries) express their deep concern at the gravity of the world economic situation: workers and companies face global market instability, including deepening unemployment and uncertainty in the labour market, and economic perspectives do not suggest any improvement. We therefore wish to seize the opportunity of social issues being put on the agenda of the G20 to draw the attention of governments to some major issues on which they have developed a common vision. The economic, social and financial crisis has indeed created space for discussing labour market and social protection challenges in a comparative perspective, within the G20. We think that a proper exchange of views in the G20, between the social partners and the governments, can help to tackle these issues and also help non-G20 countries to develop policies to address the employment situation in all its dimensions. We urge the G20 to make these issues a priority in order to reduce unemployment and prevent the risk of a growing share of the population losing faith in the global economy. In doing so, we echo the contribution of the International Organization of Employers and of the International Trade Union Confederation to the current debate on the same issues being held at the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Employment

Both the B20 and the L20 recognise the efforts made during the crisis by many governments to focus their action on the protection and the development of productive employment. However with the decline of growth across most of the G20 and worsening unemployment, priority now has to be put firmly on creating an environment conducive to enterprise and job creation. Policies implemented with G20 coordination and by G20 leaders should be consistent with this overarching aim. In order to achieve this, we support the mission of a G20 Task Force on employment, along the lines agreed by the G20 Labour Ministers in September 2011.

The situation of young people is particularly alarming in almost all countries, both developed and developing. Urgent efforts from governments and social partners are needed to provide real jobs, including apprenticeships and internships linked with training opportunities that provide qualifications, deepen work related skills and improve employability. We call on the G20 to make the youth employment situation their priority, and we are willing to contribute. Targets such as youth employment, entrepreneurship, the greening of jobs and the fight against the informal economy could be shared issues that the G20 might be willing to peer review.

Social protection

Business and workers' representatives have joint interest in the creation or the reinforcement of social protection, on the basis of strong shared principles. The discussion on the social protection floor in the International Labour Office in 2011 has shown that agreement exists on those principles.

The B20 and the L20 draw the attention of the governments gathered in Cannes on 3-4 November 2011 to the key elements that can make nationally-defined social protection floors relevant in all countries. This includes planning to ensure the sustainable financing of social protection floors nationally, the help that international organisations can provide in the capacity building necessary for implementation, the role of international assistance in establishing social protection floors where none exist, the benefit of drawing conclusions from the experience of countries having defined sustainable social protection nets, the introduction of incentives to encourage formalisation of the economy and employment, the importance of both a demographic and a rights based approach to social protection and the need to design the floors preferably after consultation of social partners.

Fundamental principles and rights at work

The implementation of fundamental principles and rights at work is a responsibility of governments. Various ILO tools exist to achieve concrete improvements, including the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up.

As regards the B20 and the L20, we will contribute to the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights adopted by the Council of Human Rights of the UN last June and we recognise the relevance and usefulness of other international instruments on multinational enterprises including the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social policy. The ILO Declaration does not only cover the fundamental principles and rights at work, it also deals with matters such as employment promotion, safety and health, conditions of work and training. We therefore want to re-emphasise its importance and will support its promotion through our respective constituents in the G20 as an important means to build confidence in the actions of companies and to try and deliver concrete results in terms of competitiveness and for the people.

Coherence of actions in the multilateral system

In recent years, some international organisations, including the ILO, the International Monetary Fund, the World Health Organisation and the World Bank, have increased their cooperation and joint research in domains which sometimes overlap. They have engaged in a number of structured joint projects on the ground. We can only approve such efforts to link their actions, and to achieve more effective results.

UBCCE Q - FROM MEMBERS

The B20 and L20 think that in addition to cooperation agreements signed between the International Labour Office and other organisations, concrete work between these bodies should be fostered, for instance on pilot joint projects voluntarily involving countries most hit by the crisis, or on particular items such as youth employment and social protection floors. Cooperation involving the ILO has the further advantage of enabling the contribution of the social partners as provided for under the constitution of the Organisation.

TURKISH INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (TÜSİAD)

TÜSİAD elected a new Board of Directors

TÜSİAD's 42nd General Assembly which met on January 19, elected a new Board of Directors under the leadership of President of the Board of Directors Ümit Boyner. Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan participated to the Assembly as keynote speaker.

TÜSİAD attended the 5th International Corporate Governance Summit

Ümit Boyner, President of the Board of Directors of TÜSİAD delivered an opening speech at the 5th International Corporate Governance Summit hosted by the Turkish Corporate Governance Association of Turkey on January 17.

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

TÜSİAD will institutionally participate in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) to be held on June 21 - 23 and organize a session entitled "Russia-Turkey Business Dialogue" on June 21.

9th eTR Awards

TÜSİAD and the Turkish Informatics Foundation (TBV) organised the 9th eTR Awards on December 19, at Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM). TÜSİAD and the Turkish Informatics Foundation (TBV) have been organising the "eTR Awards and Congress" since 2003. This event is aimed to contribute to the eTR transformation that will provide an enhancement of quality, productivity and competitiveness in public administration, economy and social life.

TÜSİAD partnered with the Atlantic Council in the framework of the BSEEF

The Black Sea Energy and Economy Forum took place in Istanbul, on November 17 - 18, where TÜSİAD Chairwoman Ümit Boyner delivered a speech during the opening ceremony. In the noon of 17th of November, a Special TÜSİAD Session was organized within the framework of TÜSİAD 40th anniversary activities.

Entitled "Global Governance in a Time of Economic Turmoil and Change", the lunch meeting was enriched with the valuable contributions of Egemen Bagis, Turkish Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator, Dr. Otaviano Canuto, Vice President of the World Bank, Dr. Thomas Mirow, EBRD President along with Chairwoman Boyner.

CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS OF UKRAINE (CONFEU)

Unifying Congress of Federation of Employers of Ukraine took place in Kyiv

Dmytro Firtash, Chairman of Unified Employers' Movement and Chair of Directors Board of DF Group headed the employers' movement in Ukraine and was elected as Chairman of the FEU Board on November 29, in the course of Unifying Congress of Federation of Employers of Ukraine that took place in Kyiv. Nearly 400 delegates and participants including owners and directors of major Ukrainian companies who represent Ukrainian business and industry sectors have taken part in the Congress' activities. Mykola Azarov, Prime Minister of Ukraine, Sergiy Tygipko, Vice Prime Minister and Iryna Akimova, First Deputy Head of President's Administration were invited to the Congress as special guests.

This year FEU Congress was attended by delegations of employers organizations from 15 countries including organizations from Russia, Poland, Georgia, Estonia, Latvia, Turkey, Greece and others.

The Unifying Congress' motto was "Make more for Ukraine!". Ukrainian employers discussed background of Ukraine's economic growth, improvement of business environment and investment attractiveness of Ukraine. Newly elected FEU Chairman Dmytro Firtash stressed the importance of business security in Ukraine. Dmytro Firtash also underlined that voice of Ukrainian employers must be heard and will be heard in Ukraine and over the world. However, he noted that Federation will be powerful and influential just after it has defined clear objectives and managed to achieve specific results.

Delegates finalized the unifying of over 20 regional and sectoral employers' organizations on the basis of Federation of Employers of Ukraine and elected new FEU managers. Hanna Bezludna, Dmytro Oliynyk, Oleksiy Miroshnychenko, Viacheslav Bykovets and Oleg Shevchuk were elected as Deputy Chairman of Federation's Board. After unification of employers' organizations FEU represents nearly 8 thousand enterprises with over 5 million workers.

Establishment of Civil Society Platform in Ukraine gets into practice

Procedure of setting working group on establishment of Civil Society Platform as provided by the draft Agreement on Association between Ukraine and EU was discussed at a meeting held on December 22, in Kyiv. According to the Agreement, the abovementioned Civil Society Platform acts as a body responsible for monitoring of Agreement implementation on the part of Ukraine and EU. Platform shall be composed in compliance with the organizational chart of EU Economic and Social Committee which is composed with representatives of employers, trade unions and other civil society institutions.

UBCCE Q - UPCOMING EVENTS

OECD GREEN SKILLS FORUM

“SKILLS FOR A LOW CARBON ECONOMY – WHAT NEXT?”

PARIS, FRANCE, FEBRUARY 27

OECD together with Cedefop (European Center for the Development of Vocational Training) are organising a joint Green Skills Forum to be held in Paris, France, on February 27. The aim of this international forum of researchers, government advisers, employment and policy analysts and social partners actively involved in skills development and training needs for a low carbon economy is to review and discuss new research and policy approaches to foster a greener, more sustainable future. It will identify tools, strategies and local initiatives from theory to practice.

The conference papers, discussions and exchanges are expected to: (1) facilitate the understanding of the limitations and potentials inherent in research and policy approaches tackling key skills issues for a successful transition to a low carbon economy; (2) compare methods and tools used in monitoring and evaluating developments in the green economy and local labour markets; (3) indicate how research can support better targeted policy making and skills strategies; (4) provide inspiration and ideas for future research and collaboration; and (5) provide information for processes towards the Rio+20 and G20 related meetings.

FOR MORE:

events.cedefop.europa.eu/GreenSkills-Forum2012

WORKSHOP ON PROMOTION OF ENERGY INVESTMENT IN THE INOGATE COUNTRIES BRUSSELS, MARCH 6

Under the INOGATE, which is the energy technical cooperation programme, the European Commission is organising a workshop on “Promotion of Energy Investment in the Inogate Countries” that will take place on March 6, in Brussels.

Renewable Energy Project Finance Summit

Amsterdam, Netherlands, Feb. 7-8

“Vienna Economic Talks - Sofia Meeting”

Sofia, Bulgaria, April 3 - 4

Black Sea Business Forum “Increasing Trade and Investment to Reach Growth”

Thessaloniki, Greece, Feb. 23

OECD Green Skills Forum “Skills for a Low Carbon Economy – What next?”

Paris, France, Feb. 27

----- SAVE THE DATE -----

UBCCE General Assembly and Executive Committee

Istanbul, Turkey, March 13

GIOGIE 2012

Tbilissi, Georgia, March 28 - 29

South-East European Forum on Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Waste Management, Recycling and Environment

Sofia, Bulgaria, March 28 - 30

Vienna Economic Talks - Meet Turkey in Vienna

Vienna, Austria, June 18 - 19

15th Eurasian Economic Forum

Istanbul, Turkey, April 10 - 11

Caspian Telecoms 2012

Istanbul, Turkey, April 19 - 20

10th European Business Summit - Skills for Growth

Brussels, Belgium, April 26

5th Astana Economic Forum

Astana, Kazakhstan, May 23

UBCCE Q - UPCOMING EVENTS

The aim of the workshop is to analyse and discuss the possibilities on how INOGATE can best serve the mutual interests of the companies in the EU and partner countries (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan).

GIOGIE 2012 - THE 11TH GEORGIAN INTERNATIONAL OIL, GAS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY CONFERENCE & SHOWCASE TBILISSI, GEORGIA, MARCH 28 - 29

The Georgian International Oil, Gas, Infrastructure and Energy Conference (GIOGIE 2012) will take place on 28 - 29 March 2012, in Tbilisi, Georgia, for the eleventh time. Officially supported by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia, the Ministry of Environment Protection, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, the Georgian International Oil & Gas Corporation, the American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia and the British Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the event is expected to attract over 150 participants. During the event, key challenges facing the world's gas markets will be discussed focusing on reliability and security of supply.

FOR MORE: www.giogie.com

SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN FORUM ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, WASTE MANAGEMENT, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT SOFIA, BULGARIA, MARCH 28 - 30

The latest green energy and waste management technologies will be presented at the South-East European Forum, incorporating Congress and Exhibition on Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy (RES), SEE Solar Exhibition and Conference and Exhibition on Waste Management, Recycling and Environment - "Save the Planet".

The event aim is to outline good business opportunities in this part of Europe and promote best environmental practices, the implementation of which will speed up the development of low carbon and sustainable economy in the Region. Through the years, the Forum has established itself as a preferred place for direct entering the local market - over 50 percent of the exhibition area will be covered by foreign companies. The exhibitors will be able to create close ties with new partners - over 7 000 professional visitors are expected to get involved. Alukoenigstahl, Canadian Solar, Diehl AKO Stiftung, ETEM, Fronius International, Global Wind Power, Hewalex, juwi Solar, KPV Solar, kWpower, LCS Solarstrom, Neon Energy, Power One, REC Solar, Refusol, Sky Solar, Solarzentrum Allgau, Solea, Sputnik Engineering, Vestas, EREMA Engineering Recycling Maschinen und Anlagen, IFE Aufbereitungstechnik, Polytechnik Luft - und Feuerungstechnik, Recycling Bulgaria - that is a part of the exhibitor list so far.

High-level speakers from 20 countries will present good practices and new technological developments related to EE & RES financing, energy efficiency, biomass resources and bionergy, waste management and recycling. PvXchange and Via Expo organize the First

UBCCE Q - UPCOMING EVENTS

Discussion Forum “Photovoltaics”. A workshop entitled “Italian Integrated Waste Management Experience” will be held on the first event day. The Round Table with municipality representatives will focus on the problems and solutions for improvement of waste management.

UBCCE is partnering with Via Expo for the organization of this event and special discount is offered for our members. For more information please contact Ms. Desislava Ivanova (T.+359 88 67 92 943 / international@viaexpo.com).

FOR MORE: www.viaexpo.com

15TH EURASIAN ECONOMIC FORUM ISTANBUL, TURKEY, APRIL 10 - 11

The Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation will hold the Eurasian Economic Summit for the 15th time this year, on April 10-11, at the Istanbul Convention Center. The Bronze Anniversary of the important regional event will be celebrated with the participation from senior representatives from the Region.

FOR MORE: www.marmaragrubu.org

CASPIAN TELECOMS 2012 ISTANBUL, TURKEY, APRIL 19 - 20

Caspian Telecoms Conference & Showcase which will be held for the 11th time this year on April 19 - 20, is the only event for the telecoms industry for Turkey, CIS, the Black Sea States and their neighbouring Caspian and Central Asian regions. The event has grown steadily over last years and has now become an essential meeting point for many professionals in the telecoms industry.

FOR MORE: www.caspiantelecoms.com

FIFTH ASTANA ECONOMIC FORUM ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN, MAY 22 - 24

The Fifth Astana Economic Forum will be held on May 22-24, in Astana. The Astana Economic Forum annually brings together over 5000 delegates from 80 countries, including CEOs, leading politicians, journalists, famous scientists, Nobel Prize laureates and representatives of business elite.

Agenda of the Forum, consisting of more than 30 sessions is a reflection of the modern world, covering the most relevant issues of reforming the world monetary system, food security, tourism development, alternative energy, scientific and medicine discoveries, social and art industry development, implementation of innovation and attraction of investment. The main outcome of the Forum is an annual open letter to the leaders of the G20 countries, the practical application of which helps unite the views of Asia, Europe, overseas countries and the Islamic world.

FOR MORE: www.aef.kz

UBCCE Q - EVENT IN FOCUS

BLACK SEA BUSINESS FORUM “INCREASING TRADE & INVESTMENT TO REACH GROWTH” THESSALONIKI - GREECE, FEBRUARY 23

The Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV), the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece (FING) and the Greek International Business Organization (SEVE) with the support of UNDP and UBCCE are organizing the Black Sea Business Forum, in Thessaloniki, Greece on February 23, 2012. Entitled “Increasing Trade & Investment to Reach Growth”, the aim of the Forum is to provide a practical platform for enterprises of the region to engage in bilateral discussions and business meetings to engage in direct discussions for eventual new synergies, partnerships and agreements.

Participants in the Forum will be companies from Greece, Albania, FYROM, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Turkey whose business is in the following sectors: (1) food & beverages; (2) packaging, plastics, glass; (3) chemicals, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, hygiene products and services; (4) building materials.

It is expected that 100 Greek companies which are manufacturers and producers in the above sectors and more than 40 foreign companies, which are importers, distributors or wholesalers will participate to this trade-focused event. For each participating foreign company the organizers will prepare a series of pre-arranged B2B meetings, from 15 to 20 in average, with Greek counterparts. The meetings will be arranged based on activities and demands and will be communicated in advance to the interested parties. In addition, foreign participants may have the opportunity to visit Greek companies in their premises or factories for further discussions. The working sessions of the Forum will also touch upon new services and mechanisms to facilitate internationalization, financing tools, trends and prospects in the markets including presentations of relevant case studies.

In order to facilitate attendance, the Organizers are offering to cover travel expenses for a number of foreign participants on first come first served basis. In particular, they will book and pay directly to Holiday Inn Hotel (which is the venue of the Forum) accommodation for 2 nights, from 22nd to 24th February and will reimburse the cost of flight tickets, either the total amount or up to a certain limit (varying by country of origin).

Companies active in the above fields are invited to take part in this business event and hold several individual meetings which may allow them to identify new trade partners or even complete new agreements for various types of partnerships. Should they wish to benefit from the above offer interested companies are kindly asked to fill in the attached registration form and return it to ir@sev.org.gr at their earliest convenience.

For any inquiries please contact:

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