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Serbia moves to EU membership

8th Serbia Economic Summit - A New Era for Serbia

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What is expected of us, or any other EU member country

1. Political condition - stable institutions which guarantee democracy, the rule of law, respect and protection of human/minority rights...
2. Economic condition - existence of efficient market economy with the ability to withstand internal and external competition...
3. *Acquis communautaire* - ability to accept obligations as member state, abiding to the political, economic and monetary goals of the union...

Thus, this is not just accepting and adopting certain norms, procedures, standards, regulations, and others... rather internal transformation, perception and acceptance of EU values



National interest of Serbia to join the EU

- Finally national political and social consensus to join the European Union (not only use it as political slogans)
- Political stability is crucial - must be long-term (one full mandate at least)
- Leverage EU provided integration roadmap for systematic internal transformation
- Now, is the time to:
 - Put great effort on all government levels to enforce adopted Strategy and action plan to joining the EU
 - Put Parliament in high gear as it is crucial for adoption of set of legislation to systemic synchronization
 - Provide real and unbiased support to all adopted strategies, action plans and resolutions in support of EU integration, institutional development , and rise of economic competitiveness



Institutional development through EU alignment must be in function of internal reforms and transformation

- Reform of Executive Branch of Government
 - Decrease (not increase) the government body
 - Decrease (not increase) government and public spending
 - Training, education and promotion of modern public workers
- Reform of Judicial system of Government
 - Courts ,judges and judicial administration independent of politics and their influence
 - Speedy decisions, rule of law, enforcement of rights,
 - Maintain commercial court stability and enforcement of contracts
- Enforce independence of agencies and regulatory bodies (i.e, Anti-monopoly commission)
- Promote better governance within the Government, as well as the real-sector



Increase competitiveness of the real sector

- Completion of the privatization process 2008/2009
- Beginning of an end to restructuring large social enterprises
- Continue support to speedy re-allocation of capital through bankruptcy
- Further support the development of SME sectors and clusters, especially through EU funds
- Serious effort in combating problems of Public and State Enterprises:
 - Restructuring has not finished, in some cases not even begun
 - Implement privatization strategies (tendering, IPO, etc)
 - Improve corporate governance, and abolish political delegation and control of state companies
 - Dismantle state company monopolies
- Greenfield investments should become one of top governments priorities through favorable investment climate conditions, not subsidies
- Support Serbian companies in efforts to export and invest in the region
- Better promotion and leverage of free trade agreements (CEFTA, Russia)
- Reduction of public finances and subsidizing enterprises (direct or indirect)



Other important activities to attract investors, increase competitiveness prior to EU acceptance

- Improve government responsiveness to investors needs
- Continue improving administrative efficiency - lead time to get necessary approvals and licenses
- Start resolving restitution issues of the country
- Implement land registry reforms
- Even spread out of investments for regional development
- In combination of EU funds, develop modern infrastructure for future investors to come (i.e, road networks and transportation, logistic centers, knowledge centers, superb telecommunications, promoting linkages b/w Universities and companies in R&D, increased energy capacities)
- Deeper combating of business crime and corruption



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