



Prizren, 07/11/2016

Dear Head of the World Bank Office in Kosovo and Macedonia, Mr. Mantovanelli,
Dear Mr. Mayor Muja,
Dear Mr. Deputy Minister Krasniqi,
Dear Members of the CBK Board,
Dear representatives of media,
Dear ladies and gentlemen,

It is my special pleasure to welcome you in the inauguration of the Central Bank's Business Continuation Center. The inauguration of the Centre today marks the final step to a full and successful implementation of the **Financial Sector Strengthening & Market Infrastructure Project**, funded by the World Bank loan in amount of 6 million dollars and supported by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, respectively the Ministry of Finance. The project has also been associated with a grant in amount of 2 million dollars in the form of technical assistance. First, let me thank Mr. Mantovanelli and his team for their ongoing support to overcome the challenges faced by the implementation process and turning them into tangible results. I also wish to thank the Ministry of Finance for the unreserved support in facilitating the implementation of the project, then the municipality of Prizren for the opportunity to functionalize the Business Continuity Center in the facility according to the best international standards, in the city of Prizren. Also, it is worth pointing out the utmost dedication of the wide team of the Central Bank for the full implementation of the project, which I appreciate.

The CBK primary objective is to promote and maintain a stable financial system, including a safe, sound and efficient payment system. Alongside, the Financial Sector Strengthening & Market Infrastructure Project was in the function of further advancing this objective by supporting the stability and financial sector development and infrastructure promotion of this sector. Consequently, the construction of the Business Continuity Center was one of the four pillars successfully completed in order to advance the financial sector reforms. In addition, allow me to briefly mention them:

- a) **Legal framework advancement** and its alignment with European Directives and international standards, and through the technical assistance the internal capacity building for supervision the financial sector (value-1.5 million-grant).
- b) **Creating software platform based on the official website** for financial and regulatory reporting of all financial institutions, enabling for the CBK the advancement of effective financial sector supervision and facilitating financial institutions in double reporting. Starting from the June this year, all financial institutions report their data via the new platform (value - 500 thousand dollars-grant).
- c) Financing the costs associated with project for establishing the **Real time Gross Settlement System**, which has started to implement in July this year and was conducted based on newest International Standards, modern technology and best practices. This project distinguishes Kosovo in international terms and will also reduce operating costs for banks, increase the speed, and above all, the system will minimize the payment risk and increase confidence in the banking sector (value 1.6 million dollars).
- d) Paid-in capital funding for the **Deposit Insurance Fund of Kosovo (DIFK)** by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, received in the form of loan was successfully implemented within this project (value 3.4 million dollars).

The last pillar of the project – **Business Continuity Center** was built with the purpose of ensuring the business continuity in cases of operation interruptions as the result of a disaster (uncontrollable factors). The main function of this center is the recovery of information technology operations while ensuring the functioning of all the CBK's critical systems in the form of "contingency plan" in order to maintain the stability of the financial sector. The CBK has institutionalized the Business Continuity Strategy and has established relevant bodies for implementation of this

strategy. Starting from today it will have the operational facility with contemporary technology standards. I must also emphasize that this object will be the destination of the **Training and Financial Education Center** for offering professional development opportunities not only for Kosovo, but also the region (value of 1 million dollars)

In the end, let me emphasize that the benefits of the CBK, the financial sector, payment systems and the Deposit Insurance Fund from this project have contributed to the critical advancement of all above-mentioned pillars and at the same time to the alignment of Kosovo financial system with European and International standards.

The **Financial Sector Strengthening & Market Infrastructure Project** was a complex project, but the achievements disclosed today are the best indicator of how are accomplished successful projects when there is joint commitment of the Kosovo institutions and international development institutions, in our case the World Bank.

Thanking you for your participation and attention, I invite Mr. Mantovanelli for a speech and then we will proceed with the visit of the Centre inaugurated today.

Thank you!