

SARAJEVO, October 2, 2009 - American Chamber of Commerce to BiH (AmCham BiH) organized a lunch today at which guest speaker was High Representative to BiH and Special Representative of European Union (EU) Valentin Inzko.

"Even in the period which is full of political turbulences, lawmakers in BiH can undertake reasonable steps with which they will improve life of citizens," Inzko said in his addressing to present entrepreneurs on this meeting and added that he reminded political leadership of BiH in previous days that tens of thousands of people lost their jobs during this turbulent period.

High Representative and EU Special Representative stressed that, by disregarding the fact that BiH suffers the consequences of global recession, "investing to BiH and creating of labor positions is much more simple here than it was a decade ago and even though it seems that BiH politicians are going around the circle, we can work on directing of money in opening of labor positions in cities and villages across BiH".

Inzko invited again on fast passing of Law on obligations of BiH and modernization of the system of banking supervision, initiative which, according to him, "will improve business environment in BiH and on some undefined, graduate way, already very visible and fast. They will assist in filling of pockets of millions of citizens and they will assist to them to bring the food on millions of tables".

He stressed that "even in the political situation which is least promising, undertaking of reasonable steps is still possible, the steps which will improve life of the citizens - and I do not believe that Prime Minister (PM) Spiric, or PM Mujeginovic, or PM Dodik, want to people see them as persons who are obstacle for this kind of reasonable steps. At the end, every one of them wants to be seen as the leader who improved a standard of the citizens, and not downgraded it".

By mentioning that in the middle of global recession "companies can not get out difficulties with loans any more, but they must think how they can get out," High Representative and EU Special Representative said how companies in BiH must present themselves "in the context of their regional sales capacities, regional networks and regional knowledge," by having in mind that "investing in BiH is a wise way of investing in Southeast Europe".

When it comes to BiH potentials for new investments, Inzko mentioned, inter alia, hydroelectric power production potentials, tourism, agriculture, road infrastructure etc.

According to him, more than 50,000 labor positions may be realized only by attracting of investments in large hydroelectric and road projects.

Inzko mentioned Hamdija Lipovaca, head of Bihac Municipality and Jasmin Imamovic, head of Tuzla Municipality, as positive examples in activities of attracting of foreign investments which will provide new employment.

Inzko said that J. Imamovic invited him to open even a third technological center in Tuzla, even though Sarajevo does not have not even one center of this kind.

At the same time, Inzko stressed that H. Lipovaca invests a large amount of effort in attracting of new investments, and that this head travels i.e. in entire Italy and Austria, in order to bring new investors, who will open labor positions.

Inzko closed addressing to attendants by sending an invitation to BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Foreign Investments Promotion Agency (FIPA) and to municipalities to coordinate their activities more effectively, so every embassy in BiH would have the newest information on every opportunity for investing in every municipality.

He stressed that this is "a key path for connecting of areas in entire country with international investments which will bring new labor positions on the field"

During the Luncheon AmCham BiH promoted its five new members: Avanti d.o.o; A&T d.o.o; NewEvent d.o.o; Source Production d.o.o and JT International Rep. Office in BiH.