

Statement

**from the Ministerial Conference of the South East Europe Investment
Committee**

South East Europe 2020

JOBS AND PROSPERITY IN A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

Sarajevo, 21 November 2013

Organized by the Co-Chairs of the South East Europe Investment Committee:
Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Regional Cooperation Council

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

WE, the Ministers representing the Western Balkans economies,

with the support of the Ministers of the other South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) members and other high-level dignitaries,

on the occasion of the Ministerial Conference of the South East Europe Investment Committee (hereinafter: “SEEIC”) “South East Europe 2020 – Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective” in Sarajevo on 21 November 2013, under the co-chairmanship of the Government of the Bosnia and Herzegovina – Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC),

RECALLING our commitment to develop a South East Europe 2020 Strategy (hereinafter: “SEE 2020” or “Strategy”) as expressed in the Statement by the Chair at the SEEIC Ministerial Meeting in Paris on 24 November 2011 (Paris Statement) and the ambitious regional and economy-specific headline Targets adopted at the SEEIC Ministerial Meeting in Tirana on 9 November 2012 (Tirana Statement);

BELIEVING that the principles contained in the Paris and Tirana Statements remain valid today, in particular the benefits of working together at the regional level in order to expedite our individual efforts to bring growth and prosperity to all our citizens,

HAVING REGARD to our on-going dedication to achieving closer integration and convergence of the region with the European Union.

WELCOMING the Conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 11 December 2012 regarding the SEE 2020 Strategy which aims to adapt Europe 2020 to regional needs and realities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the lead role of the RCC and SEEIC in elaborating a common regional strategy for socio-economic development in South East Europe, supported by a set of pertinent policy objectives, implementation measures and monitoring mechanisms;

APPRECIATING the support and valuable contribution provided by all relevant stakeholders including national administrations, representatives of the regional organizations and the international community in preparing this Strategy;

ASSERTING our determination to work together at the regional level and associate relevant components of our national development strategies with the SEE 2020 Strategy, to accelerate implementation of reforms that foster integrated, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth underpinned by good governance;

REITERATING our commitment to further enhance regional cooperation in SEE on the basis of the principles of regional ownership, responsibility, all-inclusiveness, solidarity, and good neighbourly relations;

EMPHASISING the importance of continued private-public sector dialogue and cooperation at national, regional and European level to achieve the SEE 2020 Strategy objectives;

HAVE today agreed this Joint Statement confirming that we:

1. ADOPT the South East Europe 2020 Strategy and commit ourselves to its effective and efficient implementation.
2. UNDERTAKE to identify those elements of our national development strategies that will benefit from implementation under the auspices of the SEE 2020 Strategy and to empower the relevant national structures to work with the appropriate bodies identified under SEE 2020.
3. PUT FORWARD (i) food and beverages processing, and (ii) tourism, as the two sectors through which to first prioritize the implementation of actions, instruments and measures contained in the SEE 2020 Strategy.
4. TASK the RCC with monitoring progress in the attainment of the SEE 2020 Strategy objectives, in cooperation with the National Coordinators for the SEE 2020 Strategy, and reporting back to SEE governments on regular basis.
5. COMMIT to review progress on a regular basis and to agree on any amendments necessary to ensure that the Strategy remains appropriate for the dynamic environment in which it is implemented.
6. INVITE international and regional organizations to complement their agendas with that of the SEE 2020 Strategy, to facilitate a harmonized approach to the development of the region.
7. CALL on the European Union to support the SEE 2020 Strategy within the EU enlargement process and to benefit from its role as a platform for regional interaction with donors and international institutions engaged in the Western Balkans.

ADOPTED in Sarajevo, on 21 November 2013.