

## **BUSINESS FORUM**

### **Macedonia – New Economic Miracle in Europe: Presentation of Recent Developments**

Place: **Park Hyatt Chicago**  
800 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL, 60611

Date: **November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
Time: 10:00 am  
Venue: Park Hyatt Hotel, Room Location TBC

#### **Agenda**

- 10:00 **Introduction to the Republic of Macedonia and to its Economic Policy:** Macedonia and its path towards NATO and EU; tax reforms including introduction of flat income and profit tax; regulatory guillotine; flexible labour market; protection of ownership rights; reduction of grey economy; attracting foreign investment; strengthening competitiveness of domestic production; enhancing business climate for small and medium enterprises; expanding technological industrial development zones; etc.
- Keynote speakers: **Nikola Gruevski**, President of the Government of Macedonia, **Zoran Stavreski**, Vice President of the Government of Macedonia, **Philip Reeker**, US Ambassador to Macedonia (confirmed), **Simeon Djankov**, Chief Economist, The World Bank (confirmed) and **Mike Zafirovski**, President & CEO of Nortel (confirmed).
- 11:00 **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 **Invest in Macedonia - New Destination in Europe:** Why Macedonia? Competitive location; young and dynamic workforce; excellent infrastructure; investor-friendly government; fiscal benefits; etc. Investment opportunities in: automotive components, ICT, medical devices and pharmaceuticals, agribusiness and food processing, textiles, energy, tourism, etc.
- Keynote speakers: **Fatmir Besimi**, Minister of Economy, **Vele Samak** Minister of Foreign Investment, **Viktor Mizo**, Director of the Agency for Investment and one representative of foreign investors (TBC).
- 12:10 **Macedonia – Land of ICT Experts:** the Macedonian government expands on successful ICT programs (in education, government

ICT applications geared toward the improvement of efficiency and transparency) and introduces several initiatives, including: the Computer for Every Child Campaign (150,000 computers for primary and secondary schools in Macedonia) and etc. Macedonia: the first internet wireless country in the World” - USAID legacy. Discussion: How does a partnership between the government, the private sector and donors contribute to success? Next steps for Macedonia in the ICT sector?

Keynote speakers: **Ivo Ivanovski**, Minister of IT in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, **Dick Goldman**, former USAID Mission Director in Macedonia (TBC), and **Igor Lestar**, SEAVUS, a Swedish company with investments in Macedonia.

Moderator: **Zoran Jolevski**, Ambassador of the Republic Macedonia to the United States of America.

12:30 **Reception/or lunch**

Speakers: **Antonio Milososki**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and **Mitre Kutanovski**, Macedonia 2025 (TBC).

14:00 B2B meetings (if required).