

Economic and Trade Office -Embassy of Belgium

Our office represents the three regions of Belgium in Serbia and Montenegro and the three regional agencies specialized in foreign trade - Brussels Invest & Export (www.brussels-export.be), Wallonia Foreign Trade and Investment Agency (www.awex.be) and Flanders Investment and Trade (<http://www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com>)

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This newsletter provides the latest business news from Serbia and from Montenegro, offers from Belgian companies as well as opportunities of these markets.

Our intention is to provide you with updated market development news and opportunities, economic projections and demands that may ease your decision on the entrance to the Serbian and to the Montenegrin markets.

Fairs and business networking gatherings are also provided with its dates and places.

Useful contacts and links for more information are provided for your more profound analysis of the Serbian and Montenegrin markets' trends.

Our office remains at your disposal for all additional information.



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SERBIA

Key Macroeconomic Indicators

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	2017	Jan 2018
Real GDP growth (in %) ¹⁾												
Consumer prices (in %, relative to the same month a year earlier) ²⁾	1.4	-1.0	2.6	-1.8	0.8	2.8	1.2	1.5	2.2	2.5	1.9	
NBS foreign exchange reserves (in EUR million)	7.0	12.2	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.6	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.0	3.0	1.9
Exports (in EUR million) ³⁾	12,058	10,915	11,189	9,907	10,378	10,205	9,730	9,670	10,636	9,962	9,962	
- growth rate in % compared to a year earlier	11,145	11,469	13,937	14,451	15,631	17,385	4,383	4,934	4,983	5,030	19,330 ⁶⁾	
Imports (in EUR million) ³⁾	17.1	2.9	21.5	3.7	8.2	11.2	10.4	12.7	12.8	8.9	11.2 ⁶⁾	
- growth rate in % compared to a year earlier	16,487	16,992	17,782	18,096	18,899	19,597	5,090	5,650	5,570	6,055	22,365 ⁶⁾	
Current account balance ³⁾ (in EUR million)	15.7	3.1	4.7	1.8	4.4	3.7	14.5	12.3	14.4	15.3	14.1 ⁶⁾	
as % of GDP	-3,656	-3,671	-2,098	-1,985	-1,577	-1,075	-694	-333	-384	-678	-2,090 ⁶⁾	
Unemployment according to the Survey (in %)	-10.9	-11.6	-6.1	-6.0	-4.7	-3.1	-8.7	-3.7	-4.0	-6.6	-5.7 ⁶⁾	
Wages (average for the period, in EUR)	23.0	23.9	22.1	19,2 ⁷⁾	17.7	15.3	14.6	11.8	12.9			
RS budget deficit/surplus (in % of GDP) ⁴⁾	372.5	364.5	388.6	379.3	368.0	374.1	375.4	381.1	383.6	398.1	384.5	
Consolidated fiscal result (in % of GDP) ⁴⁾	-4.0	-5.9	-5.2	-6.3	-2.8	-0.2	0.7	2.4	2.9	-2.7	0.8	
RS public debt, (central government, in % of GDP)	-4.8	-6.8	-5.5	-6.6	-3.7	-1.3	1.2	3.0	3.3	-2.4	1.2	
RSD/USD exchange rate (period average)	45.4	56.2	59.6	70.4	74.7	71.9	68.1	64.6	64.4	61.5	61.5	
RSD/USD exchange rate (end of period)	73.34	88.12	85.17	88.54	108.85	111.29	116.18	111.53	101.94	101.13	107.50	
RSD/EUR exchange rate (period average)	80.87	86.18	83.13	99.46	111.25	117.14	116.13	105.65	101.33	99.12	99.12	
RSD/EUR exchange rate (end of period)	101.95	113.13	113.14	117.31	120.73	123.12	123.88	122.86	119.76	119.11	121.34	
MEMORANDUM: GDP (in EUR million) ⁵⁾	104.64	113.72	114.64	120.96	121.63	123.47	123.97	120.85	119.37	118.47	118.47	
	33,424	31,683	34,263	33,319	33,491	34,617	7,985	8,908	9,693	10,249	36,795	

The major foreign trade partners in Exports were:

Exports	USD million	EUR million
Italy	200.8	165.0
Germany	187.3	154.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	102.1	83.9
Russian Federation	80.2	66.0
Hungary	59.0	48.5

The major foreign trade partners in imports were:

Imports	USD million	EUR million
Germany	207.3	170.3
Russian Federation	183.1	151.7
China	161.8	133.1
Italy	148.8	122.1
Hungary	105.2	86.6

The external trade in the reference period noted the highest level with the countries with which we have signed agreements on free trade. European Union member countries account for 63.9% of total external trade.

The overall external trade in the Republic of Serbia for January 2018 amounted to:
 - USD 3189.4 million - which was an increase of 39.1% compared to the same period 2017;
 - EUR 2623.0 million - which was an increase of 21.6% compared to the same period 2017.

The value of exports amounted to USD 1390.4 million, which was 39.2% increase when compared to the same period last year, while the value of imports amounted to USD 1799.0 million, which was 39.1% increase relative to the same period last year.

Expressed in Euros, the value of exports amounted to EUR 1143.3 million, which was the increase of 21.6%, compared to the same period last year. The value of imports amounted to EUR 1479.7 million, which was 21.6% increase when compared to the same period last year.

The export - import ratio equalled 77.3% and was lower if compared to the same period last year when it was 77.2%.

The greatest share in import of Serbia was noted in Beogradski region (45.2%), followed by Region Vojvodine (29.7%), Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (15.1%), Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (9.2%), and approximately 0.8% of total imports is not classified by territories. Data on Kosovo and Metohija are not available.

Regarding the **structure of exports** according to products' destination (the principle of prevalence), the most notable were:

- reproduction products 60.1% (USD 835.0 million),
- consumer goods 30.7% (USD 426.5 million) and equipment 9.3% (USD 129.0 million).
- Unclassified goods according to destination amounted to 0.0% (USD 0.0 million).

Regarding the **structure of imports** according to products' destination, the most notable were:

- reproduction products 58.1% (USD 1046.1 million),
- consumer goods 17.1% (USD 306.9 million) and equipment 10.4% (USD 186.6 million).
- Unclassified goods according to destination amounted to 14.4% (USD 259.4 million).

External Trade Serbia-Belgium for the period January 2018

According to Serbian Statistical Office, total export amount for the external trade Serbia-Belgium for the period January 2018 amounted 11 775 000 EUR and import 32 439 000 EUR. The most exported were vegetables and fruit 1 788 000 EUR, and among the most imported Unclassified goods 14 343 000 EUR.

BUSINESS NEWS

Divisions by SITC,rev 4.		Values in 000 EUR		Index	
		Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	Total	11775	32439	105.0	114.7
00	Live animals other than animals of division 03	-	9	-	137.3
01	Meat and meat preparations	-	44	-	28.0
02	Dairy products and birds eggs	-	149	-	611.0
03	Fish(not marine mammals),crustaceans,molluscs and aquatic invertebrates;preparations thereof	-	0	-	26.0
04	Cereals and cereal preparations	-	23	0.0	64.3
05	Vegetables and fruit	1788	211	109.6	126.4
06	Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	-	10	-	43.8
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	-	81	0.0	86.5
08	Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	48	74	77.2	190.3
09	Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	24	93	110.3	67.9
11	Beverages	10	76	376.0	110.4
12	Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	94	-	13.2	0.0
21	Hides,skins and furskins,raw	31	-	200.3	-
22	Oil-seeds and oleaginous fruits	-	311	-	169.0
23	Crude rubber (including syntetic and reclaimed)	31	4	438.9	*
24	Cork and wood	-	593	0.0	90.4
26	Textile fibres and their wastes	-	47	-	*
27	Crude fertilizers, other than those of Division 56, and crude minerals	-	1290	0.0	*
28	Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	-	511	-	116.5
29	Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	18	-	-	0.0
32	Coal, coke and briquettes	-	0	-	-
33	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	-	179	0.0	90.7
41	Animal oils and fats	1	15	-	46.7
42	Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated	0	160	-	91.5
43	Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes of animal or vegetable origin, n.e.s.	1110	668	135.0	31.3
51	Organic chemicals	29	110	26.0	95.9

52	Inorganic chemicals	32	2136	54.8	85.3
53	Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	82	331	244.6	125.0
54	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	325	533	920.2	127.1
55	Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials;toilet,polishing and cleansing preparations	515	-	80.7	0.0
56	Fertilizers(other than crude)	0	397	0.0	111.1
57	Plastics in primary forms	581	41	130.2	48.4
58	Plastics in non-primary forms	149	61	65.4	92.8
59	Chemical materials and products, not elsewhere specified	1747	674	131.1	86.6
61	Leather,leather manufactures, n.e.s., and dressed furskins	13	55	-	54.3
62	Rubber manufactures, not elsewhere specified	261	350	18.4	161.4
63	Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	81	5309	89.4	*
64	Paper,paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	858	220	111.0	174.6
65	Textile yarn,fabrics,made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products	254	6	189.5	95.6
66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures, not elsewhere specified	217	507	407.2	67.7
67	Iron and steel	0	207	-	280.8
68	Non-ferrous metals	482	369	66.4	167.9
69	Manufactures of metals,not elsewhere specified	220	9	162.4	86.0
71	Power-generating machinery and equipment	62	53	*	*
72	Machinery specialized for particular industries	372	833	92.3	170.2
73	Metalworking machinery	930	854	366.0	34.0
74	General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s., and machine parts, n.e.s.	3	-	*	-
75	Office machines and automatic data-processing machines	54	0	48.1	7.9
76	Telecommunications and sound-recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	1011	11	196.7	99.8
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof	7	2	191.1	155.7
78	Road vehicles(including air-cushion vehicles)	29	5	198.0	174.6
79	Other transport means and equipment	128	-	-	-
81	Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings,n.e.s.	57	41	231.0	188.8
82	Furniture and parts thereof;bedding,mattresses,cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	-	110	-	135.6
83	Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	110	328	129.8	91.1
84	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	11	14343	520.6	112.0
85	Footwear	128	-	-	-
87	Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and	57	41	231.0	188.8

	apparatus,n.e.s.				
88	Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	-	110	-	135.6
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles,not elsewhere specified	110	328	129.8	91.1
99	Unclassified goods	11	14343	520.6	112.0

January 2018

[EPS to build new mini HPP in Ivanjica – Value of investment EUR 1.24 million](#)

A new mini hydro power plant with 670 kW of installed power, which will produce 2.23 million kWh of electrical energy a year, will start being built in 2018 as part of the complex of the old HPP on the river Moravica in Ivanjica. Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) is the investor, and EUR 1.24 million is to be invested in the construction from the proceeds of the loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

[Small shareholders to get EUR 84 million from concession of Belgrade Airport – Citizens to get EUR 12.4 per share](#)

Once Vinci Airports takes over the running of the Nikola Tesla Airport, small shareholders will be paid dividend of EUR 12.4 per share. That is how much each citizen – owner of the airport's shares – stands to get after 15% of the dividend tax is deducted. It is still not known when the money is to be paid, considering that the Government of Serbia first needs to sign an agreement with this concessionaire. The French giant Vinci Airports offers a total of EUR 501 million for the management of the airport over the next 25 years. This amounts to EUR 14.6 per share. Considering that the state stands to get 83.15%, which is the percentage of shares owned by the Republic of Serbia, close to EUR 417 million will be paid to the state budget of the total amount. The rest, EUR 84 million, will be paid to the remaining shareholders, among which are companies, investment and pension funds, but also citizens who have acquired the shares of the Belgrade Airport for free.

[Construction of substation in Ub begins – EPS to invest over EUR 2 million](#)

Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) started building a new substation in Ub today and will invest over EUR 2 million in its construction. The works should be completed in a year and a half. The acting director of EPS, Milorad Grcic, said on this occasion that the current substation was working “above its maximum capacity, causing problems for consumers, especially big ones like factories”.

[Horizon 2018-2020 contest for projects of smart cities, energy systems and renewable fuels opens – Total budget EUR 138.3 million](#)

The European Union has opened a contest within the Horizon 2018-2020 program for projects dedicated to smart cities, smart energy systems and renewable fuels. The application deadline is April 5. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia are among the eligible countries. The total budget is EUR 138.3 million. The topics open for applications are: Developing and testing solutions for smart cities and communities (EUR 43 million), Developing and demonstrating integrated local energy systems – energy islands (EUR 26.3 million), Decarbonizing energy systems of geographical islands (EUR 19 million), TSO – DSO – Consumer: large-scale demonstrations of innovative grid services (EUR 30 million) and Demonstrating cost-effective advanced biofuel

pathways in retrofitted industrial installations (EUR 20 million), announced the EU Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA).

VUJOVIC: Potential growth of GDP by over 3.5%

Minister of Finance Dusan Vujovic pointed out on January 16 that he expected an economic growth of 3% or 3.5% in 2018 and added that the growth might be even bigger, due to, as he says, the expected above average production in the agricultural and energy sector. Vujovic said on the margins of the Euromoney conference in Vienna that these those were the cyclical factors that had gone “against us” in 2017, reducing the growth of the GDP.

Construction of Novi Sad Science-Technology Park to take until late 2018 – Government providing EUR 7 million for interior equipping

The construction part of the Science-Technology Park in Novi Sad should be completed in late 2018, to be followed by the equipping and the moving in. The vice dean for investments and cooperation with the business sector of the Faculty of Technical Sciences, Srdjan Kolakovic, says that the company Science-Technology Park will also be formed by then, but that it is still not known who the founder will be and to what extent – the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina or the Republic of Serbia.

Ricardo Certification to monitor construction of Belgrade-Budapest railway

Ricardo Certification has been selected as the notification authority in the project of the construction and modernization of a high-speed railway through Serbia on the Belgrade-Novi Sad-Subotica-state border (Kelebija) section, within the international Belgrade-Budapest project. The contracts the Infrastructure of the Serbian Railways signed with the Dutch company define that the company is to verify the technical specifications of interoperability for five subsystems within the railway modernization project.

Test run of Alibunar wind farm to start in September 2018 – Belgium's Elicio begins mounting wind turbines

The Belgian company Elicio is laying down foundations for 21 wind turbines of the Alibunar wind farm in the eponymous location. Peter Goderis, Director of Engineering, Construction & Operations at Elicio, says that this part of the job will be completed by the end of January. After that, the delivery and the mounting of the components for 21 turbines to be installed within the project will last from February till the end of May. According to him, all the works should be completed by September, when this facility, with 42 MW of planned power and worth EUR 80 million, is expected to start its test run.

Le Belier invests EUR 6 million in construction of new factory hall in Kikinda – Jobs for 150 people in 2018

The company Le Belier has invested EUR 6 million in the construction of a new facility, says the director of the Kikinda-based company, Jean-Sebastien Ackx. Ackx says that the company is planning to invest another EUR 1.5 million by the end of the year, Kikindske Novine reports. The production in the new hall is to start in June. This is a mechanical processing facility and this is the first facility in Serbia that will produce aluminum castings – Ackx said.

Value of infrastructural works in Serbia in 2017 higher by 112%

The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia has announced that a total of 2,007 building permits were issued in November 2017, the biggest number of permits issued in a single month in the past ten years and the first time the number exceeded 2,000.

February 2018

Serbia and Slovenia sign four new agreements – Joint session of two governments held

Representatives of the governments of Serbia and Slovenia signed four agreements on cooperation today, following the 4th joint session of the two countries' governments, headed by prime ministers Ana Brnabic and Miro Cerar, held in the Brdo Castle near Kranj, the website of the Government of Serbia announces. Serbian Minister of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy Zoran Djordjevic and Slovenian Minister of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Anja Kopac Mrak signed the Agreement on Employment of Serbian Citizens in Slovenia and the Memorandum on Cooperation in Workplace Safety and Protection.

EMS and partners to establish new power exchange for Central and Southeastern Europe

Elektromreza Srbije (EMS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding envisaging the establishment of an interregional power exchange in Central and Southeastern Europe with four companies today. As EMS announced, the agreement was signed by representatives of the Southeastern Europe Power Exchange (SEEPEX), the European Power Exchange (EPEX SPOT), the Hungarian Power Exchange (HUPX) and the Hungarian Transmission System Operator MAVIR. The goal of the Memorandum is the establishment of a joint company that would be an important regional player in the field of spot power trading.

Zelezara Smederevo biggest exporter from Serbia in January 2018

The value of the export of the 15 biggest exporters in Serbia in January 2018 amounted to EUR 347.5 million, and the biggest exporter is HBIS Group, owner of Zelezara Smederevo, with exports worth EUR 70.4 million, the Ministry of Finance announced on Tuesday, February 6, 2018. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) Serbia, the former biggest exporter, is in the second place with exports worth EUR 64.1 million.

Tender for contractor for Belgrade subway in 2020

The construction of the first line of the Belgrade subway will begin in 2020, Mayor Sinisa Mali announced on Saturday, February 3, 2018. As Beoinfo reports, the starting terminus will be located in Makisko Polje. There will be two lines, one with 22, the other with 20 kilometers. The City of Belgrade has prepared special analyses and studies necessary for defining the said routes for the first time. This primarily pertains to the "smart plan", the City of Belgrade Transport Master Plan, adopted last year.

EUR 20 million in guarantee proceeds for banks for crediting SMEs in Serbia – EU funds to be available from mid-2018

Head of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Regional Representation for the Western Balkans, Dubravka Negre, today announced in her statement for Tanjug the realization of guarantees for support to small and medium enterprises in the amount of EUR 20 million. Negre explained that these are proceeds from the pre-accession EU funds for support to SMEs and added that they would be made available to all banks in Serbia in mid-2018. The EIB, she said, will announce those guarantees in mid-March.

Around EUR 53.5 million for overhaul of TENT A4 unit – Works to begin in March 2018

The overhaul of the unit A4 at the Thermal Power Plant Nikola Tesla A (TENT A) will begin in March, it was announced at the meeting between representatives of Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) with the contractors on February 20. This is one of the most important investments within the EPS system this year, as the investment of around EUR 53.5 million will increase the power of the unit to 332 MW, extend its life cycle and upgrade energy efficiency and environmental protection, EPS announced. The work schedule was agreed at the meeting and the works should start in March.

Serbia successfully completes three-year arrangement with International Monetary Fund – New program not to be financial

Serbia is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about a new arrangement, which will probably be agreed, but which will not be financial, as “we don’t need financial support, not even the precautionary kind”, Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said today. She pointed out that Serbia had changed a lot in the preceding three years, partly because of the arrangement with the IMF, which ends on February 22, and that the country had achieved macroeconomic stability, fiscal consolidation and discipline. Brnabic emphasized that there were still structural reforms that need to be carried out and that this would be discussed with the IMF. Serbia exits a USD 1.32 billion three-year program with the IMF on February 22 boasting outperformance on several of its goals. Concluding the program with flying colors is, however, only the first step in building a strong and vibrant economy able to compete globally, a recent IMF report observes.

EIB analyzing feasibility of Nis-Merdare-Pristina highway – Approval for first section worth EUR 240 million in the second half of 2018

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has started assessing the feasibility of the Nis-Merdare-Pristina, Dubravka Negre, Head of EIB Regional Representation for the Western Balkans, told Tanjug and added that the financing of the first section, from Nis to Plocnik, was expected to be approved in the second half of 2018. Negre said that the value of the works in the first phase (the Nis-Plocnik section) was around EUR 240 million and that Serbia was expected to receive at least 20% of it as grants, whereas the rest was to be financed through EIB and EBRD loans.

Poseidon to invest EUR 15 million in another two retail parks – Capitol Park in Leskovac in 2018, Zajecar in early 2019

After the successful opening of two retail parks in 2017, the British investor and real estate manager Poseidon Group will expand its network in Serbia in 2018 and 2019, aiming at the number of ten retail parks by the end of 2020. After Sombor and Rakovica, Poseidon plans to expand the network to southern and eastern Serbia – Leskovac and Zajecar, by making an investment of around EUR 15 million and employing 240 new workers, the group announced today. Capitol Park Leskovac will open in late 2018, featuring around 6,500 square meters of retail space in the first phase and brands adapted to the local market (hypermarket, clothes, footwear and sports equipment). In early 2019, Capitol Park Zajecar will open in the town's center, featuring around 9,000 m² of retail space.

March 2018

[Energoprojekt Niskogradnja and Colas Rail to lay down tracks on Ada Bridge – Tram traffic to open no sooner than in July 2019](#)

The tram tracks on the Ada Bridge will be laid down by a French company with the help of Serbian colleagues. The Belgrade Land Development Public Agency reached the decision to award the contract worth RSD 1.97 billion (around EUR 16.4 million) to the group of bidders consisting of Energoprojekt Niskogradnja and France's Colas Rail.

[South Korean Essex buys land in Zrenjanin for EUR 242,000 – Facility worth EUR 30 million to be raised soon](#)

The City Council of Zrenjanin reached the decision yesterday on the sale of seven hectares of urban building land in Industrial Zone Southeast 1 to the South Korean company Essex Balkan for EUR 242,000. The full market price of these three parcels is EUR 580,000, but the amount was reduced with consent of the Government of Serbia. Mayor of Zrenjanin Cedomir Janjic said that the South Korean company would invest EUR 30 million in the construction of the facility and employ 160 to 170 people.

[IKEA retail park to be built in Serbia by 2021 – Investment worth EUR 50 million](#)

Regional Property & Expansion Manager at IKEA South East Europe, Vladislav Lalic, stated on Friday, March 9, 2018, on the Dan Uzivo show on TV N1 that he was satisfied with the results achieved in Serbia up till that point and said that one million and two hundred thousand people had visited the department store. Lalic says that the Swedish company is confident about the development of the Serbian economy and that they therefore want to make additional investments, announcing the construction of a retail park in the next two to two and a half years. He estimates that the investment will be worth up to EUR 50 million and that 350 to 400 people would be employed.

[Fiat biggest exporter in first two months of 2018](#)

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) realized the biggest export from Serbia in the first two months of the current year, with EUR 140.5 million, the Ministry of Finance announced. HBIS group (Zelezara Smederevo), which realized exports of EUR 132.8 million, and Tigar Pirot, with exports worth EUR 64 million, follow. The value of the export of the 15 biggest exporters from Serbia in the first two months of 2018 amounted to EUR 707.4 million.

[IMF and Serbian delegation officially start talks about new arrangement](#)

The Mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) initiated the official talks with the delegation of Serbia about the new arrangement, which should be based on technical instead of financial support, through the Policy Coordination Instrument (PCI), at the National Bank of Serbia (NBS) today. The meeting with the IMF Mission, headed by James Roaf, is attended by representatives of the NBS and the Ministry of Finance of Serbia, as well as Sebastian Sosa, Resident Representative of the IMF in Serbia.

IMF representative expect the talks to continue over the upcoming months. On February 22, Serbia successfully completed a three-year arrangement with the IMF, which entailed per-need financial support in the amount of around EUR 1.2 billion, which was not used. The IMF's estimate was that Serbia had successfully carried out the economic

program, including fiscal consolidation measures, among them the lowering of pensions and salaries in the public sector.

EVENTS

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) – BSBA Members working meeting 08th March 2018

The European Patent Office (EPO) and the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) published on 25 Oct 2016 their second EU-wide study of the impact of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) on the European economy in terms of GDP, employment, wages and trade. EPO President Benoît Battistelli said: "Our joint report again confirms the benefits of patents and other IPRs for the European economy. Intellectual property assets are increasingly important for innovating companies, especially for SMEs, but also for research centres and universities. They have a positive impact on jobs, economic growth and prosperity in Europe." António Campinos, Executive Director of the EUIPO, said: "The rapidly changing nature of business in the 21st century means that the EU and global economy relies strongly on trademarks, designs, patents and other rights. This poses the challenge of ensuring that IP rights are more accessible to all businesses, and are protected effectively against infringement, in order to help the EU to retain its innovative strengths." Mrs Natalija Popović of Law Office Popović Popović and Partners gave an interesting presentation on the issue of IPR as intangible asset and its' legal context. That the after-presentation Q&A and discussion could have lasted till late in the evening showed that the topic was of real interest of the participants and business entities as a whole.

BELGIAN ECONOMIC MISSION, BELGRADE 22-23.3.2018

Economic and Trade Office of the Embassy of Belgium, in cooperation with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce organized a visit of the Belgian business delegation to Serbia on March 22nd and 23rd 2018. Representatives of the delegation composed of **32 companies from Belgium** had the opportunity to discover Serbian market, as well as to meet with representatives of **more than 120 Serbian companies** at the Metropol Palace Hotel in Belgrade, and to explore possibilities for cooperation.

The Belgian delegation was composed of representatives from different areas, such as: consulting, information technology, construction, production and sale of fruits and vegetables, meat production and processing, measuring equipment for construction, manufacturing of medical furniture, production and sale of organic chocolate and coffee, solutions in the field of radiocommunications, sale of various types of garden equipment, as well as representatives from other sectors of the economy.

Ambassador of Belgium to Serbia, Mr. Leo D'Aes, organized reception for representatives of Belgian companies, and on that occasion they had the opportunity to hear more about prospective sectors for cooperation between the two countries from Mrs Jelena Jovanovic, the Director of International Economic Relations of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia.

FAIRS: January 2018 - March 2018

Belgrade fair www.sajam.rs



10th GOVERNMENTAL BEEKEEPING FAIR

The Governmental Beekeeping Fair has been scheduled as a beekeeping review. The practicing beekeepers and the beekeeping equipment manufacturers feature their accomplishments. All equipment and production materials within this branch are sold at the Fair under the best prices and conditions.

FEBRUARY 3 – 4, 2018



11th HOME FAIR EXPO XI

Agriculture, Garden program.

FEBRUARY 19 – 21, 2018



www.brussels-in-serbia.com

40th INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF TOURISM

Belgrade Tourism Fair is ranked as the largest tourist event in the country and Southeast Europe. Fulfilling the international business standards for more than 30 years, it has created partner relationships with its exhibitors, offering quality and various activities and attracting huge number of exhibitors every year.

FEBRUARY 22 – 25, 2018



14th HORECA EQUIPMENT FAIR

Since hotel management and catering are the tourism industry driving force, no wonder that the International Fair of the Hotel and Catering Equipment – HORECA is held at the same time as the International Tourism Fair and Wine Fair.

FEBRUARY 22 – 25, 2018



9th BEOWINE FAIR

Wine tourism is promoted intensively at the Wine Fair, as well and holding this vent at the same time as the Tourism Fair, the most attractive and one of the best visited fair events, clearly shows the importance of this event also in the tourism branch.

FEBRUARY 22 – 25, 2018



5th THIRD AGE FAIR (55+)

FEB. 28 – MAR. 1, 2018



BALKAN TEXTILE

The Textile Fair will feature this year 53 companies from Turkey, China, Portugal and Serbia. This is a business event gathering textile manufacturers, importers and traders. Beside the best textiles, the exhibitors at the Fair will show also the best machines and equipment within the textile sector.

MARCH 1 – 3, 2018



62nd INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF DOGS OF ALL BREEDS – CACIB BELGRADE

The International Exhibition of All Breed Dogs – CACIB Belgrade takes place twice a year, at Belgrade Fair, organized by the Cynology Association of the Republic of Serbia. In spring, it marks the beginning of the cynology season in our country and in autumn its end.

MARCH 4, 2018



DDOR BG CAR SHOW 06

An exhibiting/selling event – car show under the title DDOR BG Car Show includes all importers and wholesalers of passenger cars. Complete offer of the leading worldwide car manufacturers to the local audience and prospect buyers is presented through unique scenery, with standard exhibiting spaces, furnished by Belgrade Fair.

MARCH 22 – 28, 2018



12th INTERNATIONAL MOTOCYCLE SHOW

A specialized fair event, including manufacturers and importers of motorcycles, mopeds, scooters, ATV, related industry, spare parts and equipment. In addition to this, this event affirms and promotes motorcycle racing.

MARCH 22 – 28, 2018

Novi Sad Fair

2 - 3. March

7th International ENERGY AND INVESTMENT DAYS

7 - 12. March

International BOOK FAIR

23rd Exhibition of Art ART EXPO

8 - 10. March

13th International Fair of Education GUIDELINES

30 - 31. March

Fair for Pensioners

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MONTENEGRO

External Trade Montenegro-Belgium January – March 2018

Expressed in Euros, total import amount for the external trade Montenegro - Belgium for the period January-February 2018 amounted 1 458 085 EUR and export 126 096 EUR. The most imported were pharmaceutical products, and the most exported were essential oils and resinoids, perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations.

CN \ FLOW	1:Import	2:Export
02:MEAT AND EDIBLE MEAT OFFAL	301,827	0
06:LIVE TREES AND OTHER PLANTS; BULBS, ROOTS AND THE LIKE; CUT FLOWERS AND ORNAMENTAL FOLIAGE	14	0
07:EDIBLE VEGETABLES AND CERTAIN ROOTS AND TUBERS	22,485	0
17:SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	329	0
18:COCOA AND COCOA PREPARATIONS	36,892	0
19:PREPARATIONS OF CEREALS, FLOUR, STARCH OR MILK; PASTRYCOOKS" PRODUCTS	41,326	0
20:PREPARATIONS OF VEGETABLES, FRUIT, NUTS OR OTHER PARTS OF PLANTS	27,465	0
21:MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PREPARATIONS	15,305	0
22:BEVERAGES, SPIRITS AND VINEGAR	22,543	0
23:RESIDUES AND WASTE FROM THE FOOD INDUSTRIES; PREPARED ANIMAL FODDER	21,375	0
25:SALT; SULPHUR; EARTHS AND STONE; PLASTERING MATERIALS, LIME AND CEMENT	400	20
27:MINERAL FUELS, MINERAL OILS AND PRODUCTS OF THEIR DISTILLATION; BITUMINOUS SUBSTANCES; MINERAL WAXES	37,512	0
28:INORGANIC CHEMICALS; ORGANIC OR INORGANIC COMPOUNDS OF PRECIOUS METALS, OF RARE-EARTH METALS, OF RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS OR OF ISOTOPES	7,785	0
29:ORGANIC CHEMICALS	2,308	0
30:PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	496,945	0
32:TANNING OR DYEING EXTRACTS; TANNINS AND THEIR DERIVATIVES; DYES, PIGMENTS AND OTHER COLOURING MATTER; PAINTS AND VARNISHES; PUTTY AND OTHER MASTICS; INKS	41,322	0
33:ESSENTIAL OILS AND RESINOIDS; PERFUMERY, COSMETIC OR TOILET PREPARATIONS	33,541	48,103
34:SOAP, ORGANIC SURFACE-ACTIVE AGENTS, WASHING PREPARATIONS, LUBRICATING PREPARATIONS, ARTIFICIAL WAXES, PREPARED WAXES, POLISHING OR SCOURING PREPARATIONS, CANDLES AND SIMILAR ARTICLES, MODELLING PASTES, "DENTAL WAXES"™ AND DENTAL PREPARATIONS WITH A	43,832	0
35:ALBUMINOIDAL SUBSTANCES; MODIFIED STARCHES; GLUES; ENZYMES	13,031	0
37:PHOTOGRAPHIC OR CINEMATOGRAPHIC GOODS	2,226	0
38:MISCELLANEOUS CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3,946	0
39:PLASTICS AND ARTICLES THEREOF	7,491	4,639
40:RUBBER AND ARTICLES THEREOF	4,730	57
42:ARTICLES OF LEATHER; SADDLERY AND HARNESS; TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS; ARTICLES OF ANIMAL GUT (OTHER THAN SILKWORM GUT)	1,864	560
44:WOOD AND ARTICLES OF WOOD; WOOD CHARCOAL	6,007	15
45:CORK AND ARTICLES OF CORK	2	0

48:PAPER AND PAPERBOARD; ARTICLES OF PAPER PULP, OF PAPER OR OF PAPERBOARD	4,709	0
49:PRINTED BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, PICTURES AND OTHER PRODUCTS OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY; MANUSCRIPTS, TYPESCRIPTS AND PLANS	1,522	1,025
52:COTTON	780	0
57:CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS	38,793	0
59:IMPREGNATED, COATED, COVERED OR LAMINATED TEXTILE FABRICS; TEXTILE ARTICLES OF A KIND SUITABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL USE	211	0
60:KNITTED OR CROCHETED FABRICS	58	0
61:ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES, KNITTED OR CROCHETED	13,058	10,870
62:ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES, NOT KNITTED OR CROCHETED	98	4,095
63:OTHER MADE-UP TEXTILE ARTICLES; SETS; WORN CLOTHING AND WORN TEXTILE ARTICLES; RAGS	450	420
64:FOOTWEAR, GAITERS AND THE LIKE; PARTS OF SUCH ARTICLES	0	2,610
65:HEADGEAR AND PARTS THEREOF	50	160
68:ARTICLES OF STONE, PLASTER, CEMENT, ASBESTOS, MICA OR SIMILAR MATERIALS	1,182	0
70:GLASS AND GLASSWARE	6,506	0
71:NATURAL OR CULTURED PEARLS, PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES, PRECIOUS METALS, METALS CLAD WITH PRECIOUS METAL, AND ARTICLES THEREOF; IMITATION JEWELLERY; COIN	32	0
72:IRON AND STEEL	74	0
73:ARTICLES OF IRON OR STEEL	1,140	0
74:COPPER AND ARTICLES THEREOF	871	162
76:ALUMINIUM AND ARTICLES THEREOF	55	0
82:TOOLS, IMPLEMENTS, CUTLERY, SPOONS AND FORKS, OF BASE METAL; PARTS THEREOF OF BASE METAL	973	0
83:MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES OF BASE METAL	112	0
84:NUCLEAR REACTORS, BOILERS, MACHINERY AND MECHANICAL APPLIANCES; PARTS THEREOF	90,671	2,572
85:ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND PARTS THEREOF; SOUND RECORDERS AND REPRODUCERS, TELEVISION IMAGE AND SOUND RECORDERS AND REPRODUCERS, AND PARTS AND ACCESSORIES OF SUCH ARTICLES	39,836	3,201
87:VEHICLES OTHER THAN RAILWAY OR TRAMWAY ROLLING STOCK, AND PARTS AND ACCESSORIES THEREOF	22,928	7,956
90:OPTICAL, PHOTOGRAPHIC, CINEMATOGRAPHIC, MEASURING, CHECKING, PRECISION, MEDICAL OR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; PARTS AND ACCESSORIES THEREOF	23,577	60
91:CLOCKS AND WATCHES AND PARTS THEREOF	263	0
93:ARMS AND AMMUNITION; PARTS AND ACCESSORIES THEREOF	9,579	0
94:FURNITURE; BEDDING, MATTRESSES, MATTRESS SUPPORTS, CUSHIONS AND SIMILAR STUFFED FURNISHINGS; LAMPS AND LIGHTING FITTINGS, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INCLUDED; ILLUMINATED SIGNS, ILLUMINATED NAMEPLATES AND THE LIKE; PREFABRICATED BUILDINGS	1,258	260
95:TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTS REQUISITES; PARTS AND ACCESSORIES THEREOF	0	39,310
96:MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	6,798	0
Total:	1,458,085	126,096

BUSINESS NEWS

Western Balkans: a credible enlargement perspective

The European Commission adopted on 6 February a strategy for 'A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans'. The Strategy presents the very essence of the challenges which the Western Balkans face on their European paths. What is new is the strong renewed encouragement for the partners to address the reforms needed and give guidance on the steps needed in order to advance as quickly as possible on the paths towards EU accession. For Serbia and Montenegro – where accession talks are already under way – it sets out the indicative steps needed to complete the accession process in a 2025 perspective. In addition, with flagship initiatives in six key areas, the Strategy significantly enhances the EU's engagement with our Western Balkans partners. It sets out vision for joint future and how to achieve this.

Activity supported by investment

Although lower, growth is expected to remain comfortable in 2018, continuing to be driven by investment. Investment will be supported notably by the continued construction of the 41 km long first section (Podgorica – Matešev) of the Bar-Boljare motorway project, which will eventually link the Port of Bar to Boljare, on the Serbian border. Foreign investment in tourism infrastructure is set to continue, further developing a sector that already contributes 10% to GDP. However, the construction of a second coal-fired power station in Pljevlja seems to be compromised by tighter European environmental standards. Consumption, both private and public, will contribute little to growth, in connection with the fiscal consolidation. The contribution of foreign trade will be negative due to the increase of imports related to the construction of the motorway.

EBRD to support Montenegro's Tivat airport modernisation

PODGORICA (Montenegro), March 26 - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) plans to support the project for the modernisation of Tivat international airport in Montenegro, the head of the bank for Montenegro, Jaap Sprey, said. "It is important for every country to develop the air transport, so we will also participate in the modernisation project of Tivat airport," Sprey said in a video file posted on the website of public broadcaster RTCG on Sunday. In December, Montenegro's prime minister Dusko Markovic said foreign investors are interested in investing a total of \$110 million (88.6 million euro) in the development of the country's two international airports - in Tivat and Podgorica.

Montenegro's real GDP growth slows to 4.0% y/y in Q4

PODGORICA (Montenegro), March 23 – Montenegro's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by a real 4.0% on the year in the fourth quarter of 2017, following a 4.7% increase in the previous quarter, preliminary data of the statistical office indicated on Friday. In the fourth quarter of 2016, Montenegro's real GDP growth was 3.5%. Montenegro's GDP growth slowed down nominally to 6.4% in the three months through December 2017, from 9.9% a year ago, the statistical office said in a statement. The country's GDP totalled 1.075 billion euro (\$1.327 billion) at current prices in the fourth quarter of 2017, up from 1.01 billion euro a year earlier. Final consumption expenditure rose to 1.127 billion euro in the fourth quarter of 2017 from 1.083 billion euro in the like period of the previous year. Exports totalled 276.9 million euro and imports amounted to 752 million euro.

FAIRS IN MONTENEGRO

Adriatic Fair - <http://www.adriafair.co.me/index.php/en/>

Food Fair 22 - 24. Mart / March

International Tourism Exchange and Tourism Fair, Equipment for Hotels and Catering – METUBES 22 - 24. Mart / March

Sajam ekologije / Ecology Fair 22 - 24. Mart / March

Furniture Fair-Home, Office & Interior Decoration Equipment 11 - 15. April

Art Expo 11 - 15. April

NAUTIC SHOW - Sport, Camping & Recreation Equipment Fair 25 - 29. April

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