

Theme: The speech of the Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tirana, Mr. Nikolin Jaka in the Economic Business Forum “Liberalization of the Labor Market in the Region” , session 4, Sofia – Bulgaria, 4 April 2012.

Thank you for giving me the word Mister ZHELJAZKOV.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today’s meeting in such an economic event, where the spotlight is the region with opportunities and problems it brings, was necessary. A special thank you goes to the organizers of this forum, considering this as an attempt to identify all those opportunities that exist to develop our region.

In this fourth session of this forum we are focused on a specific and important subject, that of the liberalization of the labor market. It is undeniable that fact that the qualified human resources bring the success of a company or organization.

In this sense, Albanian companies are focused on qualifying the potential they have, as well as seeking alignment with global developments. To serve this purpose the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Tirana, has set up a particular training facility, where local and foreign lecturers, work consistently according to the specifics that

the business needs. This I believe, makes us competitive and fair in our demands to be integrated in the region and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we are talking about the liberalization of the labor market. We are representatives of our region countries and we know how important are government policies to stimulate the private sector. It is this sector that provides the greatest opportunities of employment. The government of my country strongly officiates this idea, favoring the private system, mainly at the level of taxation, being aware that this sector provides 80 percent of employment in the country.

The labor force in our country is still growing and may represent an important source of future economic development. But if we talk about liberalized labor marked, especially nowadays when the global crisis is present everywhere, Albania still needs to improve the level of creating new jobs.

Working age population will increase by approximately 5% per year and in 2015 it will be representing two-thirds of the population. However, the realization of this potential will require significant improvements in the economic capacity for the opening of new jobs.

Promoting employment is a complex challenge for any government since the opening of new jobs is a phenomenon that involves multisectoral policies mutually applicable in many areas. Effective

macroeconomic policies and favorable business conditions are essential elements for economic growth necessary to promote employment. Educational policies and an effective framework of social protection are also critical elements to ensure a labor force professionally skilled and suitable for professions that are needed.

All state and private institutions in our country are working on this idea, to be worthy competitors in the labor market and inviting to foreign investors.

Furthermore, to the nature of our country our labor force still remains free, being an opportunity for many foreign investors to have qualified human resources and with a lower cost than other countries. Working age population in Albania is 87.9 percent of the population from 15 years old and older.

I think that these are sufficient reasons to have a favored labor market, being competitive with the region countries, but also cooperative in these difficult times being exceeded.

Thank you very much.