



**Bulgarian Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry**



**Association of Balkan Chambers**

To the attention of the Governments of the Balkan region

## DECLARATION

By the Association of Balkan Chambers

We, the members of the Association of Balkan Chambers having signed the declaration herein taking into account:

- the growing political and social tensions in the countries of Northern Africa and the Mediterranean region, which jeopardize the sustainable development of the Balkan region
- the efforts of the governments in the above-cited regions directed towards localizing the expansion of the conflict with democratic measures

And

- the increased activity of public authorities in the Balkan region to strengthen the cooperation between the countries

hereby INSIST on:

- Strengthening the centralized measures in neighbouring regions and their stabilization as well as
- Stepping up the measures taken by the governments against corruption and shadow economy in order to reduce them to tolerable levels;
- Reduction of administrative barriers and burdens, including state taxes to create more favourable environment for the economic development of entrepreneurship;
- Intensification of the work as to removing of tariff and non-tariff barriers;
- Further liberalization of trade in the region in accordance with the CEFTA agreement 2006
- Discontinuance of the increase of direct and indirect taxes and social security contributions, which trend has been observed in some Balkan countries;
- Implementation of efficient and effective programs to fight unemployment, the measure being especially important in the ongoing recovery from the economic crisis.

- Improvement and development of infrastructure in the region by implementing common regional projects /materialization and increasing the number of border crossings, railways and air transport facilities, etc./

We, the representatives of the members of the Association of Balkan Chambers hereby pledge our readiness for partnership in implementing the above-cited measures.

Mr. Ilir Zhilla	President	Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Albania
Mr. Veselin Poljašević	President	Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mrs. Nermana Bičakčić	National coordinator	Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr. Tsvetan Simeonov	President	Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Panayiotis Loizides	Secretary-General	Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. George Kassimatis	President	Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Mrs. Rania Theodossopoulou	National coordinator	Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Branko Azeski	President	Economic Chamber of FYROM
Mrs. Elena Milevska	National Coordinator	Economic Chamber of FYROM
Mrs. Ljiljana Filipović	Vice President	Chamber of Economy of Montenegro
Ms. Ksenija Đukanović	Adviser	Economic Chamber of Montenegro
Mr. Valentin Cismaru	Vice President	Romanian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mrs. Irina Papadache	Counsellor Foreign Relations Office	Romanian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Mihailo Vesovic	Vice President	Serbian Chamber of Commerce
Mrs. Snezana Raseta	National coordinator	Serbian Chamber of Commerce
Mr. M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu	President	TOBB (Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey)
Ms. Füsün Karacasoy	Head Department, Foreign Economic Relation	TOBB (Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey)
Ms. Hilal Keskiner	Director, Strategic Planning and Coordination	TOBB (Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey)
Ms. Fulya Önal	Directorate of Strategic Planning and Coordination	TOBB (Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey)
Mr. Sanjin Arifagić	Head of Economic and Social Development Unit	Regional Cooperation Council
Mr. Eduard Schwartz	Leader of Project	Project Implementation of CEFTA in order to improve the internationalization of the SEE Economy