

**STATEMENT BY THE ALTERNATE GOVERNOR FOR ALBANIA**

Madam President, Mr Chair of the Board of Governors, fellow Governors, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a privilege to address this 35th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors, and I extend Albania's warm gratitude to the Government and people of Latvia for their generous hospitality in Riga. There is a particular resonance in gathering in the Baltic region — an example of how economies once in transition can become engines of innovation and openness. As the Bank marks thirty-five years of accompanying that journey across its regions, Albania is proud to count itself among the countries whose transformation the EBRD has helped to shape.

This year's theme — moving from volatility to versatility — speaks directly to our own experience. In a period defined by geopolitical uncertainty, shifting trade patterns and rapid technological change, Albania has chosen resilience through reform. Our economy continues to record one of the stronger growth rates in Europe, underpinned by low inflation, robust external buffers and steady private investment and tourism. We have held firmly to fiscal discipline and public debt remains on a clear downward trajectory.

These foundations are not an end in themselves. They are the platform for Albania's central national objective — European Union membership, for which we are working toward 2030. EU accession is the organising principle of our reform agenda: strengthening governance and the rule of law, modernising public finances, deepening capital markets, and accelerating the green and digital transitions that the EU Growth Plan and our convergence path demand. In this endeavour the EBRD is an indispensable partner.

Since 1991, the Bank has invested close to 2,5 billion euro across 182 projects in Albania, with a 59% private-sector share that reflects our shared ambition for a competitive, market-driven economy. We deeply value the Bank's strategic focus on the green economy transition, on the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, on stronger institutions and a better investment climate, and on the regional connectivity that binds the Western Balkans to the European market. Flagship engagements such as the electrification of the Durrës–Rrogozhinë railway — delivered together with the European Union and the European Investment Bank — show how this partnership turns versatility into tangible infrastructure for the future.

Looking ahead, Albania fully supports the EBRD's role in helping crisis- and conflict-affected economies adapt and recover, and we reaffirm our solidarity with Ukraine and our endorsement of the Bank's unwavering commitment to its resilience and reconstruction. We

encourage the Bank to continue mobilising private capital, advancing digitalisation and innovation, and remaining close to the economies that rely on it as conditions evolve.

Albania remains a committed shareholder and partner. We thank President Renaud-Basso and the Bank's staff for their dedication, and we wish this Annual Meeting every success.

Thank you.

**Endrit Yzeiraj**

**Deputy Minister of Finance**