

KOSOVO

Annual Meeting 2017 in Nicosia

Written Statement of the Republic of Kosovo by

Avdullah Hoti - Minister of Finance,

Governor for the Republic of Kosovo

I would like to thank the authorities of Government of Cyprus for receiving us and for the great hospitality shown. I would like to congratulate the staff of EBRD for organizing an exceptional event in the beautiful island of Cyprus. It's a great achievement for EBRD to be in Cyprus for this year's Annual Meeting, only three years after the Bank first started operations here, this is truly remarkable.

EBRD is doing an excellent job in supporting the transition process to market economy, and being ourself a beneficiary of such a support, I thank EBRD for its key role in this process. The Republic of Kosovo, as a shareholder, fully supports the Bank in facing the challenges in countries going through the transition process, on continuously improving the Bank's financial strength, and also in adopting practices that increase efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, as noted by the President of the Bank in his opening speech.

We welcome the recent approval of the new Strategy for Kosovo, which builds on the previous one and lays out the cooperation between the Bank and Kosovo for the upcoming years, focusing on three important aspects for Kosovo's development: supporting competitive development of the private sector, enhancing energy sustainability, and supporting connectivity and regional integration.

I would also like to make a note of the recent Memorandum of Understanding recently signed between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the EBRD, with its sole purpose in supporting a strong development of the private sector.

The Annual Meeting has been a great chance to meet the main stakeholders involved in the Memorandum and identify concrete steps to be undertaken. It has also contributed to confirm the support for the current projects being implemented in Kosovo and exploring new important projects in the public sector.

This all speaks for an excellent cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and the EBRD, and one I really look forward to continue in the future.