

SECOND AGRICULTURAL FORUM **FOOD FOR EUROPE**

TOWARDS A NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SERBIAN AGRO-ECONOMY
Subotica, October 11-13, 2012

Second Agricultural Forum "Food for Europe"
October 11-13, 2012, Subotica, "Galleria" Hotel



New agricultural strategy for better start towards EU

Second Agricultural Forum "Food for Europe - towards a new development strategy for the Serbian agro-economy" was held on October 11-13 in Subotica, at the "Galleria" Hotel. The event was organized by Economics Institute in cooperation with the Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists.

Agricultural Forum "Food for Europe", organized for the second consecutive year by Economics Institute in cooperation with the Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists and in partnership with big companies and business associations, gathered together more than 130 experts from the country and from abroad, with the aim to better consider the necessity of drafting a new development strategy for the Serbian agro-economy.

Having obtained candidate status for EU membership, Serbia is to undergo comprehensive preparations and negotiations on accession to united Europe. In order to adapt to the EU common agricultural policy as adequately as possible, and to strengthen its position in international market, Serbia, above all, needs a new strategy for development of agro-economy, as an umbrella document and stimulating agricultural budget.

Thus, the Forum organizer intended to analyze the situation, challenges, prospects and perspectives through a dialogue between the representatives of the profession, economy and banks, as well as to let the participants use the best practice and propose solutions and recommendations for drafting of the new strategy and agricultural policy of Serbia aimed at more adequate adjustment, better utilization of the potential and stronger positioning of Serbian agro-economy in the common agricultural policy and in the EU market.

Serbian Minister of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, Goran Knežević, opened the Forum and, inter alia, said that the Serbian Government was committed to improving the situation in economy, especially in agriculture.

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The Forum special guests - Holger Kray, Lead Operations Officer for Europe and Central Asia Region at the World Bank and John A. Clarke, Director of International Affairs and Enlargement at DG Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission, pointed out the importance of consistency in agro-economic policy for the development of that sector.

The topics discussed on 5 panels were as follows: What are the main directions for reform and transition of agro-economy in the European Union countries and how to adjust Serbian agro-economy to the common agricultural policy (CAP) of EU as best as possible; What is the development strategy of agro-economy and what agricultural policy Serbia will need from 2013; What are the transition countries' experiences in the field of agro-economy regarding negotiations on the road from a candidate to EU member; How can Serbian agro-economy apply the agreements with the European Union more successfully than before; How to use the production potentials for greater export of agricultural and food products and better positioning in the regional and European markets; How can family farms, associated in the cooperative sector, increase output and competitiveness of the goods; How can domestic producers win the European trade chains; How to attract greater investment in agriculture; How to integrate the activities of state institutions, sector-oriented organizations and various groups of producers for the Serbian agro-economy appearance in international market; How to improve access to finance for cooperatives and small and medium-sized agribusiness companies; What is the amount and composition of agricultural budget the Serbian agriculture can count on in the coming years; How to create safer conditions for economic activity through insurance in agriculture.

The Forum speakers, in order of presentations, were: Aleksandar Vlahović, Chairman, Economics Institute; Goran Knežević, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia; Dragan Šagovnović, General Manager, Economics Institute; Prof. Miladin Ševarlić, Ph.D., President, Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists; Prof. Jelena Birovljev, Ph.D., Vice-President, Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists; Dejan Krnjaić, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia; Saša Vitošević, Advisor for Agriculture to the Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Serbia; Goran Borčak, General Manager, Victoria logistic; Miodrag Kostić, CEO, MK Group; Slobodan Petrović, CEO, Danube-foods and Imlek; Michalis Orfanoudakis, BoD Member and Patron of the Food and Agriculture Committee, Foreign Investors Council; Zoran Matić, General Manager, Mlekara Šabac Dairy – Farmakom MB; Prof. Borislav Kobiljski, Ph.D., General Manager, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops Novi Sad; Rajko Mandić, General Manager, PKB Corporation; Žarko Galetin, General Manager, Commodity Exchange Novi Sad; Prof. Branislav Vlahović, Ph.D., Faculty of Agriculture, Novi Sad; Holger Kray, Lead Operations Officer for Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank; John A. Clarke, Director of International Affairs, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission; Svetlana Kisić, Special Advisor, Economics Institute; Dr. Vesna Gantner, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia; Miloš Milovanović, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia; Vojislav Stanković, Advisor for Agriculture, Serbian Chamber of Commerce; Branislav Bugarski, Secretary for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government, Government of AP Vojvodina; Prof. Danilo Tomić, Ph.D., BoD President, Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists; Marjan Vučak, Regional General Manager, Meggle; Prof. Natalija Bogdanov, Ph.D., Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade and Associate, Macroeconomic Analyses and Trends, Economics Institute; Slobodan Teofanov, Head of the Provincial Secretariat of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Government of AP Vojvodina; Ana Jolović, Financial Market Development Team Leader, USAID BEP; Anthony Sinclair, Economic and Financial Advisor, USAID BEP; Miloš Milovanović, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia; Živa Žebeljan, Assistant Director of the Retail Department, Komercijalna banka; Đorđe Radulović, Director of Sales Management RPG, Department for Small Businesses Sales Management, Banca Intesa; Vaso Lekić, Co-owner, Foodland; Goran Tadić, CEO, SILBO; Vladan Manić, Secretary-General, Association of Serbian Insurers;



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Mira Erić Jović, Advisor to the Governor, National Bank of Serbia; Senad Mahmutović, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia; Dr. Milenka Jezdimirović, General Manager, Dunav Insurance Company; Prof. Zdravko Petrović, Ph.D., University Sigmund Freud, Vienna; Dr. Dragan Milivojčević, General Manager, PIK Dragan Marković and Coordinator, the Green pool; Prof. Zorka Zakić, Ph.D., President, National Council for the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives; Nikola Mihailović, President, Cooperative Union of Serbia; Radislav Jovanov, President, Cooperative Union of Vojvodna; Jelena Nestorov Bizonj, M.Sc., Secretary-General, Cooperative Union of Vojvodna; Zorana Gajić, Chairman of the Board, "Bio razvoj" Association; Dr. Nenad Ilić, Acting Director, "Serb med" Cooperative of Good Hosts.