Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

organized by

International Telecommunication Union at the kind Invitation of the Ministry of Foreign and Internal Trade of the Republic of Serbia

FOSTERING GROWTH AND INNOVATION IN THE ICT ECOSYSTEM

25 November 2013

Palace of Serbia, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia.

ITU Europe Regional Development Forum (RDF-EUR) to be hosted by the Government of Serbia on 25 November 2013, intends to provide a platform for open dialogues, cooperation and partnerships among telecommunication/ICT policy makers, regulators, industry, academia, regional and international development agencies and organizations on specific regional telecommunication/ICT issues. Telecommunication/ICT networks, including broadband, mobile communications, wireless/satellite networks, reallocation of spectrum and the digital dividend, new technologies, devices and services, and much more, have created a globally connected Europe that permits limitless and immediate access to information for individuals everywhere. Above all, telecommunication/ICT networks allow continuous dialogue and exchange between people, societies, business and economies of our region. This Forum will focus on how the global nature of ICTs, and in particular rapid growth and innovation in the ICT ecosystem, can sustain all aspects of human diversity and maintain the dialogue between the people to lead to a better world, building an inclusive global information and knowledge society.

The Forum will discuss the following interconnected themes:

- *Speeding up Broadband Ubiquity*

- *Smart Policy Making and Regulation*

- *Building Capacities for an Evolving ICT Ecosystem*

- *Reinforcing Impact of ICTs: Towards Knowledge Societies*

Speeding up broadband ubiquity is crucial for the creation of knowledge societies, and while the investment in broadband infrastructure and services must include a clear focus on enabling environment and security issues, building capacities still remains essential in order to ensure that the maximum potential is extracted in the evolving ICT ecosystem.

Preliminary Draft Agenda

[8:30 − 9:00]	**Registration**
[9:00 − 10:30]	**Welcome Address** • **Mr. Rasim Ljajić, Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Serbia** • **Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU** **Statements by Ministers** • **Mr. Georgi Todorov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Republic of Bulgaria (TBC)** • **Ms. Ratka Strugar, Deputy Minister, Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications, Republic of Montenegro** • **Ms. Marta Tomovska, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, FYR Macedonia** • **Ms. Malgorzata Olszewska, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Administration and Digitization, Republic of Poland**
[10:30 − 11:00]	Group Photo and Coffee Break
[11:00 − 12:15]	**Speeding up Broadband Ubiquity** Investment in ICT infrastructure, such as broadband rollout, is a vital step to promote economic development and social integration. High-speed Internet access is necessary to maximize effective use of ICT, which in turn is an explicit driver of productivity, innovation, and social inclusion. Even though significant progress has been achieved in many countries and the number of broadband users is growing fast in Europe, still significant efforts need to be dedicated by all stakeholders (in particular, public and private sectors) in order to avoid broadband divides at the regional as well as national levels. In addition to the fixed high-speed infrastructure, that is still under development in many countries, mobile and wireless technologies offer efficient solutions to bridge digital gaps. On the other hand they are also becoming a source of new ubiquitous ecosystem, bringing ICTs closer to users. The universe of ICT applications, such as e-government, e-health, e-learning, e-agriculture, has the potential to multiply impact expected from ICTs, underlining the importance of the multi-sectoral strategies for national development, where broadband remains in the forefront. **Moderator: Mr. Marius Catalin Marinescu, Chairman of ITU Council 2013, President of ANCOM, Romania** **Panelists of the Roundtable:** • **Mr. Mario Maniewicz, Chief of the Infrastructure, Enabling Environment and E-Applications Department, ITU** • **Mr. Carlo Rossotto, Lead ICT Specialist, Regional Coordinator, ICT Sector, World Bank** • **Mr. Luigi Gambardella, Chairman, ETNO** • **Ms. Karin Ahl, President, FTTH Council** **Open Discussion**
[12:15 − 13:15]	Lunch Break
[13:15 − 14:30]	**Smart Policy Making and Regulation** This session will examine smart policy making and regulatory measures that regulators and policy makers could consider in order to foster innovation and growth, and address the complexities and challenges of the ICT ecosystem, where the ongoing convergence has been affecting traditional markets, thus creating new ways of service delivery to the end users. The advent of

broadband has significantly changed the way we communicate, access information, share experiences and knowledge, make business and interact with each other. Sound broadband strategies and plans are now needed to ensure that all citizens can benefit from the new applications, services and businesses opportunities brought by a broadband world. Promotion of cross-sectoral approaches is essential. Ensuring investment and innovation without highly competitive markets is today's key challenge for regulators. The principles of privatization, competition, liberalization, and market definition have been of central importance over the past two decades in the ICT sector. Although government intervention has been necessary in some cases, the regulatory approach to ICTs has generally evolved towards a light-touch regulation; respecting market mechanisms for shaping a highly competitive market, providing a better quality of service at an affordable price, broadening choice to users, and ensuring interoperability.

Moderator: Mr. Kemal Huseinović, Director General, RAK, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Panelists of the Roundtable:

- **Ms. Magdalena Gaj, Chairman of GSR-13 and President of UKE, Poland**
- **Ms. Veronica Bocarova, Consultant, Cullen International**
- **Mr. Jim Beveridge, Director of International Technology Affairs, Microsoft**
- **Mr. Emil Visloguzov, CSO for Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro, Alcatel-Lucent**

Open Discussion

[14:30 – 14:45]	Coffee Break
[14:45 – 16:00]	**Building Capacities for an Evolving ICT Ecosystem**

Given the mounting importance of an evolving ICT ecosystem, a growing demand for building capacities requires new regional and national strategies with better ways of funding knowledge and technology transfer. If the potential of ICTs is to be fully unlocked, then rapid development of physical infrastructure and emerging new policy frameworks need to be urgently complemented with necessary ICT skills. Without the relevant knowledge base at regional and national levels ICTs may not be used to their full potential. Moreover, they may fail in becoming one of the leading sectors, and driver for economic growth. In addition, in an evolving ICT ecosystem, new security challenges emerge. Therefore, building capacities in this area of expertise must follow, since even a brief interruption, degradation, or compromise of service may have significant social, economic, and political consequences that negatively affect consumers, businesses, and governments.

Moderator: Mr. Milan Janković, Director, RATEL, Serbia

Panelists of the Roundtable:

- **Mr. Cosmas Zavazava, Chief, Project Support and Knowledge Management Department, ITU**
- **Mr. Boris Simak, Dean of Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic**
- **Mr. Giacomo Mazzone, Head of Institutional Relations, EBU**
- **Mr. Antonio Passarella, Country Director and Regional Head of Sales , Ericsson**

Open Discussion

[16:00 – 16:15]	Coffee Break
[16:15 – 17:30]	**Reinforcing Impact of ICTs: Towards Knowledge Societies**

ICTs are contributing substantially to growth and innovation in Europe. Benefits of using ICTs in

work and everyday life are evident, and their importance for social and cultural participation everywhere is increasing dramatically. This influence is key for continued progress and prosperity of the region. Since 2005, Europe made significant efforts to ensure the transition from an information to a knowledge society. Major progress has been made, nevertheless, there is still a lot to be done. Overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Outcomes offers a unique opportunity for taking stock on the regional achievements, in order to reap the benefits of ICTs to the fullest. This session will provide an opportunity for an open dialogue on new challenges and possible regional priorities for WSIS beyond 2015.

Moderator: Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Strategy and Policy Advisor and Europe Coordinator, ITU

Panelists of the Roundtable:

- **Mr. Vladimir Minkin, Chairman of Council Working Group on WSIS and Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform for the WSIS+10 High-Level Event**

- **Mr. Hassane Makki, International Affairs Advisor, OFCOM, Switzerland**

- **Mr. Ahmet E. Çavuşoğlu, Outgoing Chairman of ITU Council-13 and Head of Department for International Affairs Information and Communications Technologies Authority, Turkey**

- **Mr. Vladimir Radunović, IG Coordinator, Diplo Foundation**

Open Discussion

[17:30 – 18:00]   **Closing Remarks**

- **Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU**

- **Mr. Stefan Lazarević, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and Internal Trade and Telecommunications, Republic of Serbia**