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**Improving Cooperation in South-East Europe**

**by Actions for Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council”**

IPA Regional Programme 2010 - EuropeAid/131229/C/ACT/Multi

**Kick-off meeting**

**March 16th, 2012 – Sarajevo (BiH)**

**Hotel Holiday Inn - Zmaja od Bosne 4**

**First Session**

09.00 Registration

09.30 Welcome addresses

RCC and CEI partnership and current operations in the frame of SEE regional initiatives

*Mrs Jelica Minic, RCC Deputy Secretary General // Mr. Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, CEI Alternate Secretary*

10.00 Break/Press opportunity

10.10 Project rationale and presentation of activities

*Mr. Ugo Poli, CEI Project Manager*

10.40 The regional dimension of SEE and the objectives of the IPA regulation reform

*Mr. Yngve Engstroem, Head of Unit Regional Cooperation and Programmes,*

*DG Enlargement*

11.00 Questions & Answers

11.10 Coffee break

**Second Session**

11.40 Evolution of trade and economic situation in the framework of CEFTA agreement

 *Mrs Renata Vitez – Director CEFTA Secretariat*

12.00 Bridging experience of European Territorial Cooperation in SEE with the IPA programming

 *Ivan Curzolo, SEE Operational Programme, Acting Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat*

12.20 WBC INCO-NET experience for supporting RTD and innovation in the region

 *Mrs Elke Dall, Project Coordinator / to be confirmed*

12.40 EBRD current operations and coordination with other IFIs in the SEE region

*Mr. Libor Krkoska, EBRD Senior Banker, Head of Office Sarajevo (Bosnia & Herzegovina)*

*/ to be confirmed)*

13.00 Prospects of EU enlargement until 2020

and the growth potential of the Adriatic – Danube - Black Sea region

*Lothar Jaschke, European External Action Service - Western Balkans Division*

*Policy Officer Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Regional Cooperation*

13.20 Questions & Answers

13.30 Final remarks from the RCC and CEI secretariats

*Mrs Jelica Minic, RCC Deputy Secretary General // Mr. Giorgio Rosso Cicogna, CEI Alternate Secretary*

14.00 End of the Kick-Off Meeting & Buffet Lunch

**Rationale of the Kick-Off meeting**

**(based on the project form - WP 5.1)**

The Kick-Off Meeting aims to launch the action in front of a large audience of CEI and RCC partner organization and regional stakeholders. Having ten Member States in common CEI and RCC are also involving their representatives at the level of respective National Coordinators (Ministries of Foreign Affairs).

The occasion of the Kick-Off Meeting will facilitate the relationship and synergy of the project with pivotal actors playing a role in Western Balkans’ regional cooperation, from the level of European institutions to that of implementing bodies of more relevant regional programmes.

The event is for sharing updated information on what is going on in the SEE region and for the opportunity of a concrete and operational comparison of high level standpoints on current topics and on expected multiplication of the project impact.