

Opening speech from the President of FIAA in the Expo-Conference on the Albanian Natural Resources, May 27th, 2008.

Honourable Ministers, Members of FIAA, guests, on behalf of the Board and President of FIAA, I formally declare this conference opened and thank you all for your support provided to this Conference.

In view of the fact that Albania has numerous so far unutilised potentials related to mineral natural resources, hydrocarbon and hydro-energy potential resources, tourism, infrastructure and agricultural, FIAA, being aware of the prospective and potential, considered that setting up this event, would be a good initiative in support of the country itself. FIAA's associates and potential foreign investors may possibly use this panel to better assess the opportunity to visit the available unexploited unutilised space, which is close to European Union.

Our mission is also to make an effort for bringing closer and approaching more foreigners to this country, with the intention that they become aware of the fact that Albania, regardless of few negative aspects, is improving and endeavours to further improve its business climate each day, contrary to the ordinary clichés being broadly mentioned by international media.

Albanian Authorities, business community and Albanian people are extensively engaged in the process of solving these problems, and WE, as FIAA representatives, convey the message that the business ambience is getting better as days go by, and this is particularly attributable to the positive agreements we do have with several Ministries' institutions.

We may say that each one of my business related partners, friends, clients or suppliers, who have had the opportunity to visit Albania, have been surprised and they do consider this country being attention-grabbing, highly attractive and promising.

I kindly invite all participants to visit the wide variety of stands of institutions, public and private enterprises, to ask questions on subjects they are mostly interested in, to acquire a full clear picture and better idea about this country's special conditions. This country, although a small one, does embrace an unlimited space for serious investors, who like facing challenges and are aware of the fact that this is the ultimate opportunity to invest in Albania, situated not far from Europe.

It is now time to get hold of the last vacant available spaces.

FIAA is your association; we are at your disposal and may assist you in the cooperation process with the Albanian Government. FIAA, consisting of investors who have succeeded in this country, wish to share their experiences with you, as the business and infrastructure dimensions' growth is advantageous and valuable to all of us.

To conclude my opening speech, let me thank on behalf of the Business Community all those people who positively contributed to the successful organization of this event in particular our main co-organiser ELIDA CO'94 a member of FIAA.