

## Press Release

Tirana, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - The Foreign Investors Association of Albania and ELIDA Co'94 opened this afternoon the National Conference on Natural Resources of Albania with the topic: **“Albania, a Destination for Investments”**, the first of the kind in the country.

The Conference organized along with an Exhibition with more than 60 companies and national agencies that manage them and that have invested in natural resources, aims to attract new investors that are interested on the Albanian natural resources and supports the political visions of the government to expand transparency.

This activity was made possible with support of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, Agency of Albanian Natural Resources, Albinvest, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications etc.

In the opening ceremony of the activity the President of FIAA, Mr. Thomas Papaspyrou said: “The Foreign Investors Association of Albania believes that this 3-day event will convince the big foreign companies and potential investors for the renovated country’s engagement towards an improvement and positive business climate that encourages direct foreign investments”.

“FIAA, an organization of foreign investors that have been successful in the country, aims to share this experience with all those who wish to join this environment, whereas the expansion of dimensions of business and its infrastructure is useful and valuable for all of us”- underlined Mr. Papaspyrou.

The Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, Mr. Genc Ruli who greeted on behalf of the Government said: “The government’s engagement to renovate the market of natural resources effectively remains a main priority of the government that in the last years has found a qualitative and satisfying answer”.

Appreciating the presence of some important international names in Albania, Mr. Ruli said that the country has a very positive perception from the foreign investors. “We have guaranteed transparency, flexibility and trustful cooperation for serious investors that have already started to build a future for their businesses”, - underlined Minister Ruli.

The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, Mr. Jemin Gjani highlighted the achievements in the sector and underlined three main advantages: “the coordination of operations of the great number of actors that operate for progress of agriculture and of rural areas”, “improvements of the coordination of progressive interventions” and “increase of the efficiency of public and non public investments“. He expressed his credo in the close collaboration of private sector to exploit the Albanian natural potentials in the field of agriculture and food, in particular for the Bio products.

The Minister of Tourism, Culture Youth and Sports Mr. Ylli Pango highlighted the numerous opportunities of investments that Albanian tourism offers, from the coast dimension to the cultural one. Mr. Pango stressed the disposition of the government to encourage the investors who aim to produce synergy in the new market and quickly expand tourism in Albania.

Afterwards the participants visited the stands in the exhibition.

In the next days the conference will treat the topics on: “Opportunities of investment in Albania”, “Mineral activities and Mineral resources of Albania“, “Metallogenic features of Albania”, “Research and exploiting of oil and natural gas resources”, “Exploiting and development of hydro energetic power system in Albania”, “Renewable resources of energy and Energetic efficiency”, “Albania a secure destination for energetic resources”, etc.

The second day of the Conference will be dedicated to agriculture and tourism. The last session will dedicate on transport and on main investments already accomplished or planned in infrastructure.

“We believe this Conference will be an important drive for the economic activity of the country, but as well a clearer vision for the investors that have already started their industrial projects in Albania”, - concluded Mr. Papaspyrou, President of the Foreign Investors Association of Albania.

**On Behalf of FIAA  
From Alban Bala**