



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Government of Albania and the European Commission - Directorate General Enlargement, we are pleased to invite you to a Conference on Donor Coordination in Western Balkans and Turkey to be held on 2-3 April 2009 in Tirana, Albania. The Conference will once more bring together representatives of the International Financial Institutions, EU Member States, non-EU donors and countries from Western Balkans and Turkey.

In Tirana, we will follow up on the conclusions of the Donor Coordination Conference organized last October by the European Commission in Brussels and will reaffirm the common strategic goals for assistance in the Western Balkans and Turkey. As it was pointed out in the conclusions of the Brussels's conference, our common goal is the EU integration, and donor assistance should be oriented towards it or be complementary to it.

The Conference will give to the participants the opportunity to share best practices on aid coordination, progress made in the region, difficulties encountered and plans for further enhancing donor coordination and for ensuring proper division of labor among donors. The European Commission will use the opportunity to share possibilities for streamlining financing modalities of assistance.

Donor coordination is a key tool for enhancing the effectiveness and flexibility of aid. This becomes even more important in light of the challenges the countries may have to face as a consequence of the financial crisis. Through this conference, we are aiming to agree upon the next steps towards even closer coordination, including the identification of some concrete measures in key sectors.

Please return the registration form to the Department for Strategy and Donor Coordination (dcdc@km.gov.al) and to the European Commission, DG ELARG (elarg-donor-coordination@ec.europa.eu), at latest by 15 March 2009.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Tirana in April.

Genc POLLO

Deputy Prime Minister

Tirana,

Michael LEIGH

Director General

Brussels, 20 FEB. 2009