



FIC NEWSLETTER

Q3 • SEPTEMBER 2020

FIC BUSINESS BAROMETER

PREPARATION OF THE NEW "BUSINESS BAROMETER 2020"

SURVEY

At the end of the summer, FIC Executive office started activities on the preparation of a new report of the Foreign Investors Council in BiH, titled "Business Barometer 2020". "Business Barometer" is a milestone activity of the FIC implemented in cooperation with our partners. The first edition of this report was published in 2015, supported by the Local Growth-Oriented Local Development (GOLD) Project, which is funded jointly by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The second edition of the report was published in 2018 with the support of the MarketMakers Project, which is a part of the Swiss Government's contribution to the transition of BiH towards a social... [READ MORE](#)

FOREIGN INVESTORS
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NEWSLETTER

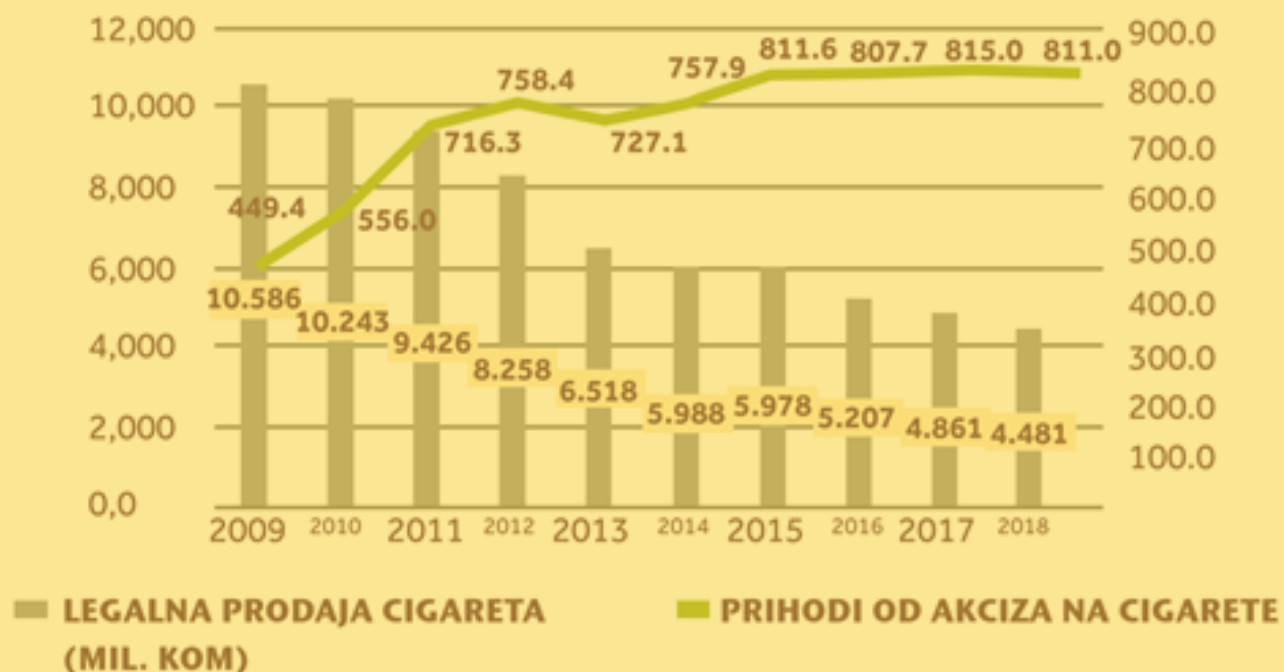
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FIC WORKING GROUP FOR GRAY ECONOMY SENT AN INITIATIVE FOR SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLEGAL MARKET OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

COVID-19

At the beginning of July, the FIC sent an initiative of the FIC members from the tobacco industry to the competent BiH institutions in the form of an appeal to suppress the illegal trade in tobacco products, which increased especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. FIC addressed a request for support in resolving certain issues in the segment of illegal tobacco products trade on the BiH market.

"CURRENTLY ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE IN BIH PARTICIPATES WITH ALMOST 50% OF THE TOTAL TOBACCO MARKET."

It is also stated that the tobacco industry in the name of indirect taxes and VAT in 2019, paid approx. billion KM, which represents 16% of all indirect taxes paid. Compared to last year, in May 2020, there was a decrease in excise revenues by more than 60% or 54 million KM. Cumulatively... [READ MORE](#)

FDA AUTHORIZES IQOS AS A MODIFIED RISK TOBACCO PRODUCT

PHILIP MORRIS



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has decided that IQOS, a product of Philip Morris that heats rather than burns tobacco, can be classified as a "modified risk tobacco product" (MRTP), and that informing consumers about reduced exposure harmful substances when using this device in accordance with the promotion of public health. The IQOS tobacco heating system is the first and only electronic product to use nicotine, which the FDA has classified as a "modified risk product", explaining its decision with the following conclusions: IQOS system heats tobacco but does... [READ MORE](#)

SBF 2020 ONLINE SESSION #5:

DIGITAL RECOVERY: SUPPORT FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF BH COMPANIES AS A RESPONSE TO COVID-19

SARAJEVO BUSINESS FORUM



SARAJEVO BUSINESS FORUM '20

Mi to možemo!

ONLINE FORUM

**DIGITALNI OPORAVAK:
PODRŠKA DIGITALNOJ
TRANSFORMACIJI
BH. KOMPANIJA KAO
ODGOVOR NA COVID-19**

zoom 14.07.2020. | 10:30 - 13:00

#DIJASPORAZARAZVOJ sarajevobusinessforum.com

UVODNI GOVORNICI

- Amer Bulvić, Predsjednik Uprave, Bosna Bank International
- Steliana Nedera, Regionalna predstavnica UNDP-a u BiH

PANELISTI

- Milan Kusmuk, DKB/MBT
- Semir Musić, Lilium Digital
- Samira Nuhanović, Selfhouse Consulting
- Orhan Gazibegović, Moner Payments
- Kemal Bajramović, UNDP Accelerator Lab

MODERATORI

- Eddie Čustović, La Trobe Innovation & Entrepreneurship Foundry
- Damir Mitrić, BH Futures Foundation

SPONSORI: BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA, Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft, Confédération suisse, Confederazione Svizzera, Confederaziun svizra, Slovenska agencija za razvoj i sараdњу SDC, UNDP

Bosna Bank International (BBI) within the Sarajevo Business Forum (SBF) 2020 and the initiative "We can do it", and in cooperation with the project "Diaspora for Development" organized the 5th SBF online session "DIGITAL RECOVERY: Support for Digital Transformation of BH companies as a response to COVID-19. By the way, "Diaspora for Development" (D4D) is a project of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH and the Government of Switzerland, in partnership with UNDP BiH and IOM BiH. The moderators of the 5th SBF session were Eddie Custovic... [READ MORE](#)

FIC HELD A MEETING WITH THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF AMCHAM BIH

The Executive Director of FIC, Sanja Miovcic, met with Mr. Nedim Hamzić, the new Secretary General of the American Chamber of Commerce in BiH (AmCham BiH), a non-governmental organization and part of the European and global network of AmChams, whose task is to establish a platform to develop business opportunities and promote high standards of business practice and strengthen partnerships between the business community and BiH government bodies at all levels. The topics of the meeting were the presentation of new internal changes and the newly elected management of AmCham BiH and the strengthening of the current cooperation of these two organizations. The new Secretary General informed the Executive Director of the FIC that Mr. Karlheinz Dobnigg, CEO of Raiffeisen Bank BiH, has been elected as a new President of Am... [READ MORE](#)





FIC PARTICIPATED IN THE VOLUNTEER ACTION OF CLEANING AND MARKING THE VIA DINARICA TRAIL ON ČAVLJAK

Yesterday, a volunteer action was held in Sarajevo, organized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Italian Embassy in BiH, the Mountaineering Ski Association 'Center' Sarajevo, Mountaineering and Ecological Association 'Romania' Pale, and Terra Dinarica Association from Sarajevo. Among the numerous volunteers, representatives of the Foreign Investors Council in BiH also took part in this action at the invitation of the Terra Dinarica Association. This activity was carried out in order to promote the Via Dinarica project, which a... [READ MORE](#)





KAKANJ CEMENT FACTORY RECEIVED THE PLATINUM CREDITWORTHINESS CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

This year, Kakanj Cement Factory (Heidelberg Cement Group) had the honor of receiving the Platinum Credit worthiness Certificate of Excellence, as a first company in Bosnia and Herzegovina who received this award. Analytical credit rating agency Bisnode, every year organizes the awarding ceremony of international recognitions for the quality of... [READ MORE](#)

FIC SENT AN URGENCY TO THE BIH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR SUPPORT IN RESCUING THE TOURISM SECTOR DUE TO COVID-19

COVID-19



The FIC requested that the Council of Ministers, in accordance with its powers, address certain outstanding issues in the segment of the pandemic caused by the COVID-19. Aware of the fact that this is a global problem at the moment and that each country adopts different measures and that countries that have clear measures, programs and projects to deal with the new situation can make great progress in developing their economy, but also their better positioning in global scene. Although Bosnia and Herzegovina recently have had satisfactory economic growth, the last few years have shown that the tourism and hospitality sector has been a significant driver in the further development of the BiH... [READ MORE](#)

FIC PARTICIPATED AT THE CONFERENCE 'TAJAN 2020'

On August 5, 2020 in Zavidovici (BiH) was held a wood-technological and tourist conference called 'Tajan 2020', organized by the wood cluster "Furniture and Wood" and supported by FBiH Chamber of Commerce and other partners from BiH and region.

"THE 'TAJAN 2020' PROJECT IS RELATED TO THE CENTRAL BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, WHERE THE LARGEST AND MOST RECOGNIZED COMPANIES ARE LOCATED"

The conference is a continuation of activities within the project called 'Tajan 2020' and it is a gathering place for companies, institutions and entrepreneurs related to the wood industry and forestry, environmental protection, tourism... [READ MORE](#)



CONFERENCE



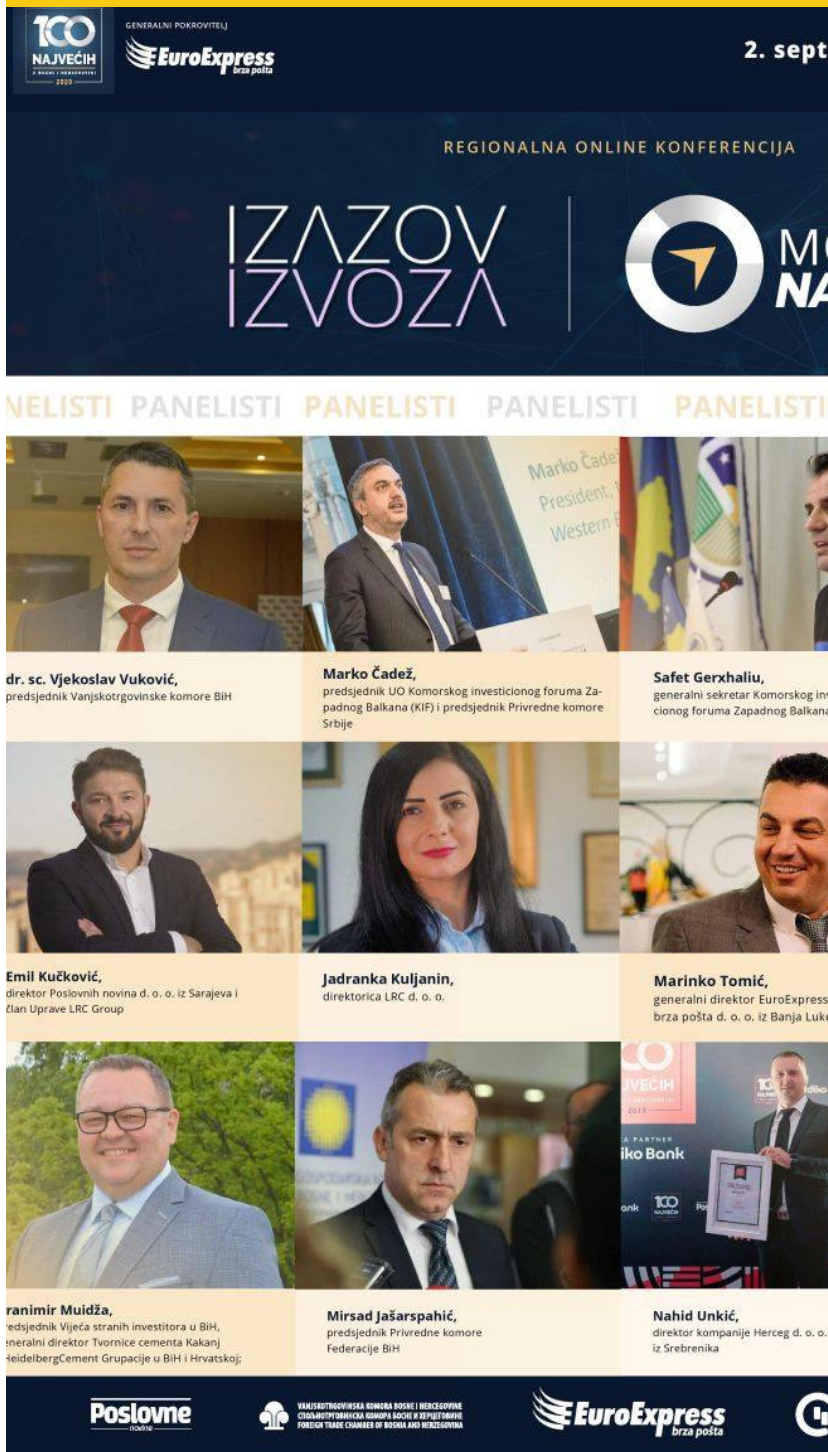
**FIC PRESIDENT PARTICIPATED AT
THE REGIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE "EXPORT
CHALLENGE - WE MUST MOVE FORWARD"**

This year as part of the project “100 largest in BiH”, organized by Poslovnice from Sarajevo in co-organization of the Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH and LRC, with the general sponsor Euroexpress Express Mail, was realized the third regional panel conference entitled “The export challenge – We have to move forward”. Given the current situation regarding the coronavirus-caused pandemic, this year’s conference was held online and gathered about 150 participants from BiH and the region.

MUIDZA:

"IT IS THE STATE THAT SHOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT, FASTER, MORE CONCRETE IN MOMENTS OF CRISIS, AND OFFER A GREATER DOSE OF CERTAINTY AND TAKE DECISIVE STEPS, ONE THAT WILL PRIMARILY LISTEN TO INVESTORS. BECAUSE, WHO TO LISTEN TO IF NOT INVESTORS. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO EVERYONE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR WHO FILLS THE BUDGET!"

The aim of the conference was to tell the public and businessmen of the region that regardless of the economic crisis that has hit the whole world, "We must move forward". Given the periods of closing borders and economies, at a time when everyone is turning to themselves, exporters have faced several challenges. It was emphasized that... [READ MORE](#)



VIOLETA IS HELPING SAFE HOUSES IN BIH

Violeta and representatives of 8 safe houses in BiH signed donation agreement

Representatives of the United Nations (UN), the British Embassy in BiH and Violeta organized a ceremonial signing of a donation agreement with representatives of eight safe houses in Sarajevo. The signing ceremony was magnified by speeches of Ingrid Macdonald, UN Resident Coordinator in BiH, John Kennedy Mosoti, UNFPA Representative for BiH, Matthew Field, British Ambassador to BiH, Petar Ćorlučka, President of the Violeta Board, Dragana Petrić, representative of the Lara Foundation from Bijeljina and Jasna Zečević, representative of Viva žena from Tuzla. On that occa... [READ MORE](#)

ĆORLUKA:
"COMPANY VIOLETA STANDS FOR
MAXIMUM EQUALITY AND
TOLERANCE TOWARDS WOMEN,
CHILDREN AND EVERYONE"





FIC MEMBERS WON "100 GREATEST IN BIH" AWARDS - DECLARED THE BEST COMPANIES IN BIH AND THE REGION

The project "100 largest in BiH" which is traditionally organized by Poslovne novine in co-organization with the Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH and the credit rating agency LRC Sarajevo, and the general sponsor EuroExpress d.o.o. Banja Luka, aims to show that BiH has a very successful companies that are recognized in both domestic and international markets, and among which were many FIC members. The award ceremony for the most successful companies according to the business results in 2019 was held on September 29... [READ MORE](#)



FIC PRESIDENT GAVE A STATEMENT TO ALJAZEERA BALKANS ON THE TOPIC OF LEGAL SECURITY

INTERVIEW (ALJAZEERA)

Due to a property dispute between two companies from Sarajevo, more than 80 workers were physically prevented from accessing their jobs for contempt of court, raising the issue of legal certainty and the rule of law in the context of attracting foreign investors. On that occasion, the president of FIC, Branimir Muidza, in a statement for the media house Aljazeera Balkans, said that legal uncertainty is one of the main reasons why investors bypass Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was point... [READ MORE](#)

MUIDZA:

"IN BIH THERE IS NOT ENOUGH RULE OF LAW AND LEGAL SECURITY, WHEN WE ADD THE COMPLEXITY OF THE STATE ORGANIZATION, IT IS CLEAR WHY THERE ARE NO MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN BIH"



INFORMATION ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) IN BIH

PRELIMINARY DATA FOR 2019 AND 2020 AND OFFICIAL DATA FOR 2018

Official data of the Central Bank of BiH (CBBH) on the state and flows of foreign direct investment (FDI) in BiH on an annual basis are published eight months after the end of the reporting year. During the year, provisional, quarterly data are published within FDI and balance of payments flows (with the estimated amount of retained earnings). In addition to the publication of official annual data, previously published data for previous years are revised. This year, the Central Bank, due to known, extraordinary circumstances, is late with the publication of new data on FDI, and the information was prepared in accordance with, at this moment, available data on foreign direct investment in BiH. According to preliminary data from the Central Bank of BiH, in the first quarter of 2020, inflows of foreign direct investment according to the statistics of the balance of payments of BiH (net financial liabilities) amounted to 243.2 million KM. The... [READ MORE](#)

ARCELOR MITTAL ZENICA HAS OFFICIALLY COMPLETED TWO PROJECTS TO REDUCE POLLUTION

On September 23, the company Arcelor Mittal Zenica officially announced the completion of two very important environmental protection projects at the plants of the agglomeration and steel, with a total value of more than 15 million KM. The environmental protection project in Zenica included the construction of a second hybrid filter on the SM-6 in the agglomeration and secondary dedusting at the convector Steelworks, which will give the citizens of Zenica a better environment, and the company Arcelor Mittal Zenica met the requirements of the environmental permit.



NIKHIL MEHTA:

„WE HAVE SPENT MORE THAN 20 MILLION KM ON THESE PROJECTS, BUT IN THE FUTURE, WE WILL ENSURE THAT MITTAL WORKERS AND THE CITIZENS OF ZENICA HAVE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT. WITH THE HEATING PLANT, WE WILL HAVE THREE COMPLETED PROJECTS WHICH WILL, I HOPE, MEET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT. THIS IS A BIG STEP FOR ARCELORMITTAL ZENICA. THANKS GO TO ALL THE CITIZENS OF ZENICA AND THE INSTITUTIONS THAT SUPPORTED US, BUT ALSO TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES. STEEL PRODUCTION IN ZENICA HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR 130 YEARS AND I AM SURE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE“



Azra Sivo from the ecology sector of the company ArcelorMittal Zenica said that they had numerous difficulties in the realization of the project, but that other projects will be completed by the end of the year and that soon the citizens of Zenica will not see shows from steel plant. Mateo Tomic, on behalf of the company Ekoplant, which performed the works on the project, said in his address to the audience that he had been on the construction site since 2018 and that... [READ MORE](#)



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FIC – Foreign Investors Council in BiH

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