

TIRANA CONNECTIVITY FORUM 2026 PROGRAM

Tuesday | 6 October 2026

11:00 – 11:15hrs **Opening Remarks**

- Mr. Ardian Hackaj, Coordinator of Tirana Connectivity Forum
- H.E. Ms. Sofia Moreira de Sousa, Ambassador, EU Delegation to Albania

11:15 – 12:30hrs **High level panel discussion**

- H.E. Mr. Ferit Hoxha, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania
- H.E. Mr. Ervin Ibrahimović, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro (TBC)
- Mr. Christophe Galand, Deputy Director for the Western Balkans, DG ENEST
- H.E. Mr. Karl Bergner, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Albania

12:30 – 14:00 **Networking lunch**

14:00 – 15:30 **“Readiness under Scrutiny: Reform and Growth Facility (RGF) and Institutional preparedness for EU Performance-based Instruments”**

Opening framing by Mr. Filip Chaparoski, Regional School of Public Administration

Panel discussion with:

- Ms. Eridana Çano, General Director of State Agency of Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, Reform and Growth Facility National Coordinator
- Mr. Bojan Vujović, National Reform Agenda Coordinator, Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro
- Dr. Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, Member of the European Court of Auditors (*online*)

Moderator: Ms. Krisela Hackaj, CDI Executive Director

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee break**

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16:00 – 17:30 **“Connecting Through Trade: Building the Common Regional Market for Goods and Services”**, organised in cooperation with the CEFTA Secretariat

Opening framing by Ms. Pranvera Kastrati, Director of the CEFTA Secretariat

Panel discussion with:

- Mr. Enkelejd Musabelliu, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation of Albania
- Mr. Christophe Galand, Deputy Director for the Western Balkans, DG ENEST
- Ms. Danijela Gacevic, Head of Programme Department, Regional Cooperation Council
- Ms. Milica Perišić, Prime Minister’s Foreign Policy Adviser and Sherpa for Montenegro within the Berlin Process (TBC)
- Mr. Agron Llugaliu, General Director of Kosovo* Customs
- Mr. Klejvis Pengili, CEO of Milšped Albania, Milšped Group

Moderator: Ms. Simonida Kacarska, Director of the European Policy Institute in Skopje

17:30 – 19:00 Networking Cocktail

Wednesday | 7 October 2026

09:00 - 09:30 Opening remarks:

- Mr. Enea Karakaçi, Minister of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania
- Mr. Marian-Jean Marinescu, European Coordinator of Western Balkan - Eastern Mediterranean (*online*)
- Ms. Olta Manjani, Deputy Minister of Economy and Innovation; Coordinator of EU-WB6 Investment Forum

09:30 – 10:30 **“Rail, Region, Integration: The South Adriatic Connectivity Agenda”**

Panel discussion with:

- Mr. Ergys Verdho, Chief Executive Officer of Albanian Railways
- Ms. Adrijana Uglik, Director, Sector of the Investments and Foreign Placement, Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro
- Ms. Irene Di Tria, Director of Mobility Department, Puglia Region
- Mr. Gaspare Tocci, Director of Civil Protection Service, Molise Region
- Mr. Liburn Aliu, Executive Director, Durrës Port Authority

Moderator: Mr. Ardian Hackaj, Tirana Connectivity Forum Coordinator

Takeaways by Mr. Claudio Polignano, Head of Managing Authority, Interreg IPA South Adriatic

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 **“Connectivity Means Business”**

Panel discussion with:

- Mr. Helidon Lusha, Head of Project Management & Implementation Unit, Albanian Railways
- Ms. Adrijana Uglik, Director, Sector of the Investments and Foreign Placement, Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro
- Mr. Roberto D’Amico, Project Manager, Molise Region
- Mr. Giuseppe Macchia, Infrastructure Director, Puglia Region, Rete Ferroviaria Italiana
- Mr. Miroslav Kučera, Managing Partner, Aspiro

B2B Rail Space

Open throughout the second day, B2B Rail Space offers a dedicated space for companies and investors to engage with public and institutional stakeholders - connecting around business partnerships, investment opportunities, and emerging project pipelines in the rail sector.

Discussant: Mr. Ogert Shkrepa, Director of Property and Guarantee Department, SIGAL Insurance Group

Takeaways by:

- Ms. Marinela Jazoj, Executive Director, Foreign Investors Association of Albania
- Ms. Zana Guzja (Josa), Director, Directorate of Transport and Infrastructure Development Policies and Strategies, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania

Moderator: Mr. Ardian Hackaj, Tirana Connectivity Forum Coordinator