



UNMIK



PROVISIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT  
INSTITUCIONET E PËRKOHSHME TE VETËQEVERISJES  
PRIVREMENE INSTITUCIJE SAMOUPRAVLJANJA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
ZYRA E KRYEMINISTRIT  
URED PREMIJERA

Honorable guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first US Trade and Investment Mission to Kosovo. You have come at a time of dynamic change, a time when Kosovo is **taking off** in the path towards prosperity and European integration. This is an important moment for us – the Kosovar society, the government and the international community - and we are glad that you too have expressed interest in being part of it.

**Public private partnerships** are a key component of our development path. Kosovo's government has already taken important steps to foster these partnerships, such as providing fast business registration, regionally competitive tax incentives, fast-track European Community compatible legislation, privatization and restructuring reforms, infrastructure improvements and regional free trade agreements. Keen to open up new **opportunities for business and growth**, we are working on developing more **incentives**. During the course of this mission, I invite you to not only inquire about them, but also communicate to us your own ideas about new incentive and partnership possibilities.

Our commitment also lies in the realm of macroeconomic stability. In the recent post-war years, Kosovo has come a long way in building a stable economic environment from establishing new policy institutions and a reliable financial market to adopting the Euro and maintaining sound fiscal policy and low inflation. The international community, most notably the US, EU and UNMIK have played a key role in this respect. **Committed to the political process** and our smooth transition to a market economy, the international community has also helped establish a trade regime that is highly supportive of our exports and includes preferential treatment and **easy access to European Union markets**.

Beyond the commitment of institutions, I would also like to draw your attention to the **entrepreneurial spirit** of the Kosovar society. Its people - accustomed to both good and bad changes – react to incentives. Many have already started business initiatives and are

keen to learn about **new ways of thinking and doing things**. During this mission, I hope you will take the time to meet the Kosovar entrepreneurs - many of whom might have started learning English or computer science in their 50s! - and capitalize on their vigor and swiftness, as well as their local knowledge and experience.

Almost certainly, you will also learn about the numerous challenges we face in this time of transition. Change is never easy to manage. But most often, where the challenge is, there an opportunity looms. I hope that this mission is but the first step towards integrating a network of leaders, institutions and people who support you as you go along discovering the opportunities, and the challenges alongside these opportunities.

I wish us all a pleasant experience in establishing new partnerships and a memorable stay in Kosovo to the first-time visitors. Thank you.

**Dr.Bajram Rexhepi**  
Prime Minister of Kosovo