

Circulation: Associates
Executive Committee

Subject: 29th ASSOCIATES MEETING
- Brussels, 3 December 2009 -

ITEM VIII: SPI PLATFORM TOOLKIT

Background

Members will recall the presentation of the **World Bank's SPI Platform** at the 26th Associates Meeting in Tirana on 5 June 2008 (EBF Ref.: 1141C), and at the 243rd Executive Committee meeting on 6 November 2008 (EBF Ref: 1793C).

The SPI Platform focuses on modernisation of the financial sector in the EU-neighbouring countries, applies a programmatic approach and takes the shape of the public-private partnership. The experiences of SPI Romania and SPI Albania have demonstrated the added value that the SPI Platform brings to the donor countries.

The SPI Platform was sponsored by the World Bank on a pilot project basis, and its term is coming to an end. The EBF is to take over the SPI Platform Toolkit, in order to provide continuous support to its Associates.

Current developments

The EBF is looking into creating a project consortium comprised of the Western Balkans and Turkey, with potential involvement of the EBF Members, with the aim to apply for the DG Enlargement call for proposals under the Civil Society Facility, henceforth securing co-funding from the EU for the financial modernisation programmes in the Western Balkan region. A brainstorming meeting is to take place on 2 December 2009 at 17:00 in Brussels.

At the meeting

Mr Luigi PASSAMONTI, Head, "Convergence" Program, Financial and Private Sector, World Bank, will summarise the results of the meeting on 2 December and will hand over the SPI Platform Toolkit to the EBF.

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