

**STATUTE OF**  
**THE WESTERN BALKANS CHAMBER INVESTMENT FORUM**

**Article 1**

The Western Balkans Chamber Investment Forum (hereinafter referred to as the WB CIF) is a non-profit voluntary organization of the Chambers of Commerce of the Western Balkans countries (hereinafter referred to as members of WB CIF), which was formed pursuant to the Agreement establishing the Western Balkans Chamber Investment Forum (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement), signed in Vienna on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and represents free will of the signatories.

This Statute shall regulate the WB CIF organization, headquarters, competences, decision-making, responsibilities and obligations of members and other issues of importance for the activities of the WB CIF.

**Article 2**

The WB CIF shall aim at providing the more efficient involvement of business communities of the countries in the Region in the implementation of ongoing and planned infrastructure and other projects of importance for economic prosperity of the Western Balkans, pursuant to the Agreement.

The members of the WB CIF shall especially aim at focusing on the development of competitive economies in the Western Balkans through common chamber performance, cooperation and coordinating activities.

**Article 3**

The Chambers shall chair of the Forum annually, taking the rotating chairmanship in alphabetical order.

The headquarters of the chairing Chamber is also the seat of the CIF. In order to achieve more efficient performance and exchange of information, the network of national coordinators shall be established.

**Article 4**

The Members of the WB CIF are the Chambers of Commerce signatories to the Agreement.

Other Chambers may submit the request to the WB CIF in order to become the members and the WB CIF Managing Board shall make the decision on their membership.

All members of WB CIF shall be equal in the work and decision-making.

Each member shall bear its own responsibility for undertaken obligations.

### **Article 5**

1. In order to achieve the goals defined by the Agreement, the CIF shall perform the following activities and tasks:

- A. economic development inside the Western Balkans;
- B. development of entrepreneurial spirit, then small and medium sized enterprises and enhancing local as well as cross-border investment in favour of development and increase of employment;
- C. sharing of human resources and structure in the fields of research, education and communication;
- D. managing and organizing activities regarding visibility of the WB CIF performance as well as its members in the implementation of certain activities;
- E. collecting financial resources, especially from European Union funds as well as other international donors in the aim of meeting the program objectives.

2. The WB CIF shall perform all activities related to these tasks, which may facilitate their fulfilment, such as organizing investment conferences and roundtables for the representatives of the relevant institutions, experts and potential investors; organizing trainings for representatives of business communities in specific segments in order to increase investment activities, as well as all other activities in accordance with the objectives of the Agreement in accordance with the Agreement objectives.

3. The activities referred to in items 1 and 2 of the previous paragraph may also be organized and coordinated by the special body formed under the Agreement establishing the WB CIF or indirectly by the signatory to the Agreement.

### **Article 6**

The WB6 CIF representing exclusively Chambers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia shall establish a Permanent Secretariat with its Head Office in Trieste (Italy), as a separate legal entity.

Permanent Secretariat with its Head Office in Trieste shall represent only chambers from countries enlisted in the previous paragraph of this Article.

Permanent Secretariat with its Head Office in Trieste does not possess any legal capacity to represent the Croatian Chamber of Economy and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia and is barred from undertaking any actions that might be considered as such.

The objectives of the Permanent Secretariat activities shall be to ensure efficient communication and cooperation between the WB6 CIF and EU institutions and other stakeholders on different matters of importance for WB6 CIF as well as stronger networking of business communities across the Western Balkan Region”.

The structure and composition of the Permanent Secretariat shall be stipulated by the provisions of the Agreement on Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat.

#### **Article 7**

The CIF bodies shall include:

- A. Managing Board
- B. Thematic working groups

#### **Article 8**

The Managing Board shall consist of the Presidents of the Chambers, members of the WB CIF.

The Managing Board shall guarantee the continuous operation of the WB CIF, make all decision by consensus aimed at achieving the determined goals, especially it shall:

- adopt Statute of the WB CIF, or its amendments,
- identify the order of chairing the Managing Board,
- adopt rules of procedure of the Management Board and thematic working groups,
- establish thematic working groups and appoint their members,
- adopt the annual action plan and report on its work.

#### **Article 9**

Thematic working groups shall be formed by the Managing Board for the realization of program activities, in areas of particular importance for the realization of the objectives of the Agreement.

#### **Article 10**

This Statute shall enter into force on the day of its adoption by the Managing Board of the WB CIF at its first meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015.