



LEADERS IN INVESTMENT CLIMATE SOLUTIONS
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International Finance Corporation and The World Bank

Workshop

Extended meetings of the Albanian Government's Working Groups on Licensing and Inspection Reform

Licensing and Inspection Reform in Albania

**July 6, 2006
Tirana, Albania**

Note and Preliminary Agenda

Note

Background:

"Cutting Red Tape" and better business regulation are among the top priorities of the Albanian Government. Broad-based strategies to improve the regulatory quality are increasingly recognized as a key enabler of growth, poverty reduction and attraction of FDI.

In February 2006 the Albanian Government endorsed a comprehensive Regulatory Reform Action Plan. The Action Plan sets out an ambitious agenda for streamlining existing regulation (*stock*), for improving the quality of new regulation (*flow*), and for developing institutions and capacities that will ensure the sustainability of the reforms.

Licensing and Inspection Reform are two important focus points of the Action Plan. The Government has assigned two cross-ministerial Working Groups, each chaired by a Vice Minister, to lead the reforms in these areas. The reform is still in its very early phases. At this early stage best practices and lessons learned from similar reforms in other countries can be particularly helpful in providing input and inspiration to the design of the Albanian reform.¹

Objective:

The workshop will provide participants with an overview of overall approaches to licensing and inspection reforms. It will also provide first hand, practical lessons and experiences from licensing and inspection reform in selected countries. The objective is to stimulate discussions and ideas which will be of use in the on-going licensing and inspection reforms in Albania.

¹ FIAS of the World Bank Group has been working closely with the Government of Albania during the design phase of the Regulatory Reform Action Plan. This workshop marks the end of FIAS' support to the design of the Action Plan. The project has received support from the Swiss Organization for Facilitating Investments (SECO).

Participants:

Participants in the meeting will include:

- Members of the Licensing and Inspection Working Groups
- Experts from the ministries of Agriculture, Health and Economy, Trade and Energy
- Inspectors from effected agencies
- Business sector representatives
- International experts from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Latvia
- World Bank Group representatives, and
- Other invited stakeholders

Organization:

The workshop will take place on Thursday 6 July from 9.00 to 14.00 at the Sheraton Hotel, Tirana.

Structure of event:

The introductory presentations by the respective Chairs of the Working Committees are intended to summarize the current status and thinking of inspection and licensing reform in Albania.

- What are the problems?
- What should the on-going reform achieve?

This introduction will establish a shared basis of information which will facilitate the subsequent debate with the international experts.

The three presentations by the Dutch, British and Latvian experts will summarize the rationale and approaches to licensing and inspection reform in the respective countries. They will also provide insights into some of the practical aspects of reform. The presentations will focus on, among others:

- Why reform? What were the identified **problems**?
- How to reform? What were the **working methods** and practical approaches of the reviews and reforms?
- How to assure **implementation** of the licensing and inspection reforms? What happens *after* the Reform Act has been passed?
- What was achieved? Major **results** of recent inspection and licensing reforms
- What does "**risk based inspection**" mean in practice? How to operationalize this generally accepted idea?
- What are the **links** between specific licensing and inspections reforms to the broader better regulation agenda?
- Have reforms included any special treatment of **SMEs**?
- Recent licensing and inspection reforms in specific **sectors**: Health, Transport, Food and Veterinary, Construction, and Tourism

Presentations will be followed by open question & answer sessions. Active participation and open debate by all participants is encouraged. Discussions will be kicked off by an assigned discussant.

Agenda

Chair: Mr. Eno Bozdo, Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy

9.00	Arrival, registration and coffee
9.30 – 9.40	Opening of the joint Working Group meeting <i>Mr. Eno Bozdo, Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy and Chair of the Working Committee on Licensing Reform</i>
9.40 – 9.50	Introductory remarks from World Bank Group <i>Peter Ladegaard and Sanda Liepina, FIAS, World Bank Group</i>
9.50 – 10.00	Inspection Reform in Albania <i>Mr. Ndoc Faslia, Chair of Inspection Working Group, Deputy-Minister of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection.</i>
10.00 – 10.10	Licensing Reform in Albania <i>Ms. Pranvera Kastrati, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy</i>
10.10 – 11.00	Licensing and Inspection reform in the United Kingdom <i>Shainila Pradhan, Cabinet Office, the United Kingdom, Project leader of the Penalties Review (the main current stream of work following on from the Hampton Review of inspection and enforcement).</i> Moderator and Discussant: Genc Boga, lawyer and partner, Boga & Associates, Tirana
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 11.45	Licensing and Inspection Reform in the Netherlands <i>Rob Velders, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, The Netherlands. Project leader of the co-operation between inspectorates in the Netherlands</i>
11.45 – 12.15	Reform of Entry Controls and Inspection in the area of food and veterinary supervision in Latvia <i>Ernests Zavadskis, Deputy Director of the Food and Veterinary Service, Republic of Latvia</i>
12.15 – 12.55	General discussion Moderator and Discussant: Mr Selami Xhepa, Economic advisor to the Prime Minister
12.55 – 13.00	Summary and wrap-up <i>Mr. Eno Bozdo, Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy and Chair of the Working Committee on Licensing Reform</i>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch