

**Dear Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Dear Participants,**

I would like to re-emphasize the fact that we are pleased to be part of SWG, a mechanism which has offered us as a country and I believe that we supported each other in order to be stronger, to develop common agriculture and approximation policies as well as naturally to support each other in the European Integration related to our field.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo remains devoted to contribute more in the strengthening the role and initiatives of the SWG and obviously in other new initiatives that support in greater approach between us. The Economy is the one that must join us, to leave aside the differences, and to be a common involvement for the greatest development of the South East Europe. We have a lot of works to do and of course we have to support each – other.

Kosovo has prioritized the agriculture. In last two years we have allocated by the central budget over 90 million euro for agriculture supporting to increase the arable land area, increase of production, increase of processing agribusiness and what is the most important is the opening of 6 thousand new jobs in agriculture only from our investments in the schemes of grants and subsidies. Undoubtedly our support is focused also in other forms, through advancement of our laboratories, institutes and agriculture associations, system of food control and undoubtedly in advisory services for our farmers. Challenge for us continues to remain the lack of modern systems in irrigation, lands fragmentation, rural infrastructure and increase of production in those products that have potential to us, such as fruits and vegetables and sector of meat.

These investments have contributed in economic growth in the country and we believe that in the next years the results will be more positive and will achieve that with our programs to support ideas of many young peoples in Kosovo who want to deal with agriculture, something that is not happening in many countries.

Now that we have signed the Stabilization Association Agreement, there are opened for us many new promising and challenges paths. Being later than many countries in this aspect, the support from each neighboring country that has passed through these phases for Kosovo would be quite necessary.

It has been remained and it remains our call that Balkan countries should be an open market in order to support each other where everyone has advantages. It is evident that at some political stages is the one that prevent us to move faster toward opening, but we must overcome this mentality and to see for a common future, as a developed region.

It is doubtless a very good thing that we meet often here and discuss about many ideas and plans, as well as we meet in bilateral visits and other meetings and all these have given in a way its fruits. We think that what we discuss here, agree and see in everyone's interest must not remain only in the context of meetings and discussions but to be converted in the action. For this we as a country have the full commitment.

In this regard, the European Union should encourage us even more to continue this cooperation. Our future is an honest cooperation because the past show us that angers or close interests have brought only stagnations.

Believing that every time, we will have cooperation more fruitless, and we express one more time our request to help each other. We as a new country have much to learn from each other and we are willing to help where ever needed.

**Thank you!**