

P r e s s R e l e a s e

Milan, October 16th 2015

UniCredit Group stages Serbian-Italian business forum in Milan

UniCredit Group, together with the General Commissariat of Republic of Serbia for EXPO 2015 in Milan, Assolombarda Confindustria Milano, Lodi, Monza e Brianza, the largest entrepreneurial Association in Italy, representing 5,750 companies and the law firm NCTM Studio Legale Associato, organized yesterday in Milan an International business forum bringing together high officials of the Serbian Government and diplomatic missions, as well as representatives of business associations and companies from the two countries. The forum was held with the aim to support the further development of bilateral economic cooperation as to fully exploit the potential of the respective industries and to increase the benefits for both countries in terms of economic growth and positive impact on local communities.

Within this framework, an institutional panel entitled “Economic growth and opportunities for companies” was held with the participation of government and business representatives. Approximately 80 Italian companies from all economic sectors, including automotive, manufacturing, agro-industry, financials and services, attended the Forum. Serbian Government was presented by state secretaries of Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications and Ministry of Economy, Stevan Nikčević and Miloš Petrović.

“Our two countries have traditionally had long-term institutional, diplomatic, economic and cultural cooperation and for the past two years Italy has been the most important trade partner of Serbia, with a total turnover of \$2.6 billion, while imports amounted to \$2.3 billion in 2014. Today Italian companies which are operating in Serbia, employing around 25,000 workers mainly in banking, insurance and manufacturing sectors. In addition, Italian companies will enjoy better opportunities to invest in Serbia or develop other forms of presence on the market, while Serbian companies will benefit from greater opportunities for exports to Italy,” said Claudio Cesario, CEO of UniCredit Bank Serbia.

Žarko Malinović, General Commissioner Republic of Serbia for EXPO 2015 has stated: “In Serbia there are about 650 Italian companies and announcement of new investments from Italy is encouraging. Our two countries have long tradition of friendly and business relations which reaffirms the organization of this business forum. I would like to thank UniCredit Group and I truly believe that this successful Forum will contribute to the further growth of Italian investments in Serbia and development of bilateral economic cooperation “.



UniCredit is one of Europe's leading commercial bank with strong roots in 17 European countries. Our network, which is present in roughly 50 markets, includes over 7,100 branches and over 127,000 FTEs (as of June 30, 2015). In the CEE region, the Group operates a large international banking network with almost 2,400 branches (3,400 including Turkey). UniCredit operates in the following countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine and Hungary.