



3rd international conference on Economic Diplomacy and Internationalization
2-3 June 2014
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Closing remarks

Janez Podobnik
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Dear Chair, Mr. Gavran,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank to all of you who managed to stay until the end.

The 3rd international conference on Economic Diplomacy and Internationalization was organized in Sarajevo on the 2nd and 3rd of June 2014 in the right place, at the right time and touching on the right topics.

The conference took place according to the principle of open platform/communication between experienced diplomats, business professionals and experts/academics.

The conference revealed the successful models of economic diplomacy and generally the result of focused and constant cooperation between diplomacy and chambers of commerce/economy.

Economic diplomacy is not a choice, it is a necessity. Economic diplomacy is an activity that merges together states and enterprises, but its final goal should be the increased welfare of citizens. Economic diplomacy should become a “business as usual” activity of national Ministries of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic-consular missions.

Economic diplomacy has a very important role in the elimination of consequences of natural disasters – floods and landslides – which have recently hit Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia.

ICPE is glad to open a regional office in Sarajevo through which it will cover South-Eastern Europe as well as the North African countries and the Middle East.

The results of the 3rd conference on Economic Diplomacy and Internationalization should not be reflected only in general discussions on the role of economic diplomacy but in the more active cooperation between diplomacy and economy for the accomplishment of common projects in the region.

ICPE wishes to continue to organize such conferences. We are thinking about Belgrade, Skopje or elsewhere.

With the help of the panelists we will try to publish the proceedings of the present conference, similarly to what we did after last year's edition, in cooperation with our partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would like to thank everyone, to the moderators, speakers and conference participants and especially to the co-organizers – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina (and particularly to Ms. Ambassador Elma Kovačević-Bajtal), to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and to the Embassy of Slovenia in Sarajevo – as well as to Mr. Igor Ferjan, our permanent representative, and to Ambassador Šeta. Moreover I would like to thank to Ambassador Zvone Dragan as the coordinator of the project.

Last but not least I would like to thank to the media representatives who covered the conference.