



**Eighteenth Meeting of the WBIF Steering Committee
Hosted by the Ministry of Economy and Finance France
Paris, France**

18 - 19 June 2018

Agenda

Venue: Ministry for the Economy and Finance - 139 Rue de Bercy, 75012 Paris, France

Participants: DG NEAR, IFIs, Bilateral Donors, Beneficiary Countries, SEETO, Energy Community, IPFs, Connecta, WBIF Secretariat and IFICO

Day 1: Project Oriented Session

Monday, 18 June 2018

Co-Chairs: *Mr. Colin Wolfe, Head of Unit Regional Cooperation and Programmes, DG NEAR*
Mr. Joffrey Célestin-Urbain, Ministry for the Economy and Finance France

13:00 - 13:30 **Registration**

13:30 - 13:45 **Welcoming by WBIF Co-chairs**

13:45 - 14:00 **WBIF Secretariat updates**

- Communication and Visibility Plan
- Rules of Procedure & Vademecum
- NIC reviews
- Written Procedures

Mrs. Stine Andresen, WBIF Secretariat

14:00 - 14:15 **WBIF Mid-term review**

Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR

- 14:15 - 15:00 **1st Project oriented session**
- General Overview and WBIF Monitoring Report
Mrs. Stine Andresen, WBIF Secretariat
 - Annual Summary Implementation Report
Mr. Massimo Cingolani and Mr. Pavlos Roidis, EIB
 - Joint Fund Statement
Mrs. Caroline Clarkson, EBRD
- 15:00 - 15:45 **2nd Project oriented session - WBIF Projects Approval (Round 19)**
- Availability of Funds for Round 19
 - Presentation of proposals by representatives of the Beneficiaries
Co-chairs of the PFG, Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR, and Mr. Massimo Cingolani, EIB
- 15:45 - 16:00 **Coffee Break**
- 16:00 - 16:30 **3rd Project oriented session – next round**
- Eligibility criteria for TA Round 20
 - State of play Investment Round 03
 - Launch of INV Round 04
Intervention by: Mrs. Violeta Kogalniceanu, Energy Community Secretariat
 - Dates for TA Round 20 and Investment Round 04
Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR
- 16:30 - 17:00 **WB Guarantee mechanism**
Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR
- 17:00 - 17:30 **AOB**
- 19:30 **Evening event: *Le Train Bleu***, Gare de Lyon, Place Louis Armand – 75012 Paris

DAY 2: Policy & Strategy

Tuesday, 19 June 2018

Venue: Ministry for the Economy and Finance - 139 Rue de Bercy, 75012 Paris, France

Participants: DG NEAR, IFIs, Bilateral Donors, Beneficiary Countries, SEETO, Energy Community, IPFs, Connecta, WBIF Secretariat and IFICO

Co-Chairs: *Mrs. Katarína Mathernová, Deputy Director General, DG NEAR, European Commission*

Mr. Joffrey Célestin-Urbain, Ministry for the Economy and Finance France

08:30 - 09:00 **Registration at venue**

09:00 - 09:30 **Welcoming by Co-Chairs**

Mrs. Katarína Mathernová, Deputy Director General, DG NEAR, European Commission & Mr. Joffrey Célestin-Urbain, Ministry for the Economy and Finance

09:30 - 10:15 **"Western Balkans EU Perspective - Shifting Gear"**

Mrs. Katarína Mathernová, , Deputy Director General, DG NEAR

Discussion

10:15 - 11:00 **Key EU Policy Objectives in the Western Balkans Region**

Mrs. Barbara Banki, Head of Unit, DG NEAR

11:00 - 11:30 **Group Photo and Coffee Break**

11:30 - 13:00 **SME development under the WBIF Umbrella**

- **Economic outlook - Doing Business in the Western Balkans**

Mr. Thomas Lubeck, Regional Manager, Central & South East Europe, IFC

- **EDIF - Innovative SME financing**

Mr. Marco Marrone, Deputy Director, EIF

- **Human Capital Development**

Mrs. Charlotte Ruhe, Managing Director, EBRD

- **EIB Initiatives for Youth Employment**

Ms Anna Canato, Head of Division for Education & Public Research, Innovation and Competiveness Department, EIB

- **Discussion**

13:00 - 14:30 **Lunch**

At venue

14:30 - 15:00 **Chinese Investment in the WB**

Mr. Joffrey Célestin-Urbain, Ministry for the Economy and Finance France

15:00 - 15:30 **French Co-chair “Bilateral donor's perspective”**

Introduction of Agence Française de Développement (AFD) as potential partner IFI

15:30 - 15:45 **Coffee break**

15:45 - 16:30 **Session on Digital Infrastructure**

- **Presentation of WB Digital Highway Study**

Ms. Natalija Gelvanovska-Garcia, Regulatory Specialist, Transport and ICT Global Practice, World Bank Group

- **Update on latest developments DG CONNECT**

Mr. David Ringrose, Head of Unit, DG CONNECT

16:30 - 16:45 **Call for Pledges**

16:45 - 17:00 **AOB**