



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – HIGH-LEVEL INVESTMENT CONFERENCE
Smart Growth, Green Future: Accelerating Investment in Montenegro

The Chedi, Luštica Bay
14 – 15 October 2025



Dear Colleagues, dear Partners,

Join us for a high-level investment conference to accelerate **green, sustainable and value-added investment** in Montenegro, focusing on **renewable energy, sustainable agribusiness, tourism, transport, and information technology**. Positioned within the broader context of Montenegro's path toward **EU accession**, the event seeks to strengthen the country's role as a regional hub for green and digital investment in the Western Balkans.

The event will bring together **Milojko Spajić**, Prime Minister of Montenegro, senior representatives from the **European Commission**, and leaders from **international organisations** and companies across Europe. We will explore **strategic investment opportunities** in Montenegro, advance **regulatory reforms**, and build **impactful partnerships**. A particular focus will be placed on investments that align with the EU Green Deal, sustainable development goals, and Montenegro's integration into the European single market.

Spaces for this exclusive conference are limited. If you are interested to participate you may apply by clicking [here](#).

For any further questions related to the conference you may write to contact@aimconference2025.org.

We look forward to your engagement in shaping a **future-ready, inclusive, and innovative economy** for Montenegro and the Western Balkans.



Montenegrin
Investment
Agency



European
Union

Smart Growth, Green Future:
Accelerating Investment in Montenegro (AIM)
Draft agenda of the conference

The Chedi Luštica Bay, Montenegro | 14 – 15 October 2025

DAY 0: Arrival & welcome

13 October 2025

18:00 – 20:00 Welcome drink & informal networking

A relaxed evening for early-arriving participants to connect with fellow participants in an informal setting, while setting the stage for discussions on Montenegro's Smart Growth and Green Future.

DAY 1: High-Level Forum (Plenary)

14 October 2025

08:30 – 09:00 Registration & networking breakfast

09:00 – 09:30 Opening ceremony & welcome remarks

09:00 - Milojko Spajić, Prime Minister of Montenegro – Vision for Green Growth & EU Accession

09:10 - Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission –EU's Strategic View on Montenegro's investment value proposition in the context of EU accession

09:25 - Short Film: "Montenegro 2030 – Smart growth, green future" (3-min visual teaser)

09:30 – 09:45 Launch ceremony of the investment MoUs/Sustainable Investment Partnership and group photos

Signature of **MoUs between key company CEOs and the Prime Minister of Montenegro**
Adoption of **four Sustainable Investment Partnerships**

09:45 – 10:20 Coffee break and press conference

10:30 – 11:30 Keynote panel: Accelerating the Western Balkans' green and smart growth

Overview:

This session sets the tone for the conference by exploring how strategic public investment, regional cooperation, and EU alignment can transform the Western Balkans—with Montenegro at the forefront—into a destination for sustainable capital. The discussion will emphasise cross-sector transformation in energy, infrastructure, and climate resilience, while presenting models of how governments, IFIs, and private actors can co-finance the green and smart growth at scale.

Speakers:

- **Milojko Spajić**, Prime Minister of Montenegro
- **Mathieu Bousquet**, Director of DG ENEST, EC
- **József Váradi**, CEO, WizzAir
- **Bruno Bensasson**, CEO, Akuo Energy
- **Charlotte Ruhe**, Managing Director for Central and South-Eastern Europe, EBRD

Moderator:

- **Biljana Braithwaite**, Founding Partner of Sustineri Partners and Chair of Women on Boards Adria (WOBA)

11:30 – 12:45 Renewables: Scaling Montenegro's energy transition

Overview:

Montenegro's ambitious goal of becoming a regional clean energy leader is driving a rapid expansion of renewable energy generation, grid modernisation, and storage solutions. The panel will explore how regulatory reforms, advanced technologies, and financing structures can accelerate the deployment of solar, wind, and hydropower, while supporting the integration of distributed energy and cross-border energy trading within the EU market.

Speakers:

- **Admir Šahmanović**, Minister of Energy & Mining, Montenegro
- **Nemanja Mikac**, CEO, ElevenEs
- **Yann Guinard**, Director of Development for Europe, EDF
- **Louis Blanchard**, President, Qair Energy
- **Remon Zakaria**, Head of EBRD in Montenegro
- **Senior representative from Alcazar Energy**
- **Senior representative from Terna**

Moderator:

- **Adam Cwetsch**, Head of European Green Deal Unit, Energy Community Secretariat

12:45 – 14:00 Networking lunch & exhibit visits

14:00 – 15:15 Unlocking sustainable agribusiness & tourism in Montenegro

Overview:

Agriculture, tourism, and forestry are core pillars of Montenegro's economy. This panel examines how sustainability-focused practices, value chain integration, and green certification can create synergies across these sectors. The discussion will focus on aligning high-value agri-food production, sustainable forestry management, and eco-tourism to support inclusive growth and export diversification.

Speakers:

- **Simonida Kordić**, Minister of Tourism, Montenegro
- **Dragan Bokan**, CEO, Voli
- **Ilija Moric**, CEO Moric Farm
- **Martina Dalić**, President of the Management Board of Podravka Inc

Moderator:

- **Richard Record**, Lead Economist, Western Balkans, World Bank

14:00 – 15:15 Smart infrastructure & digital connectivity

Overview:

Modern infrastructure and digital connectivity are essential to Montenegro's ambition of becoming a logistics and data-driven hub for Southeast Europe. This session will explore how investments in ports, airports, data centres, digital platforms, and smart mobility solutions can increase competitiveness, attract FDI, and accelerate EU market integration.

Speakers:

- **Stevica Čarapić**, Regional Managing Director, MSC Mediterranean Shipping
- **Veselin Pejović**, Owner, Uniprom
- **Mark Vasić**, Head of International Regulatory Affairs, Deutsche Telekom
- **Martin Jovović**, Chief Logistics Officer, NTC Logistics
- **Milan Ljiljanić**, Executive Director, Monteput
- **Majda Adžović**, Minister of Public Works, Montenegro

Moderator

- **Maurits-Jan Prinz**, Deputy Head, DG ENEST, Private Sector Engagement Unit, EC

15:15 – 16:30 Financing the green economy and regional inclusiveness

Overview:

Financing is the backbone of Montenegro's transition to a green, low-carbon and competitive economy. This panel will examine how public and private capital, blended finance, and innovative EU financial instruments can be mobilized to de-risk investments in renewable energy, circular economy, sustainable agriculture, and green infrastructure.

Speakers:

- **Andela Jakšić-Stojanović**, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro
- **Martin Leberle**, President of the Management Board of NLB Banka and President of the German Montenegrin Business Club
- **Magdalena Kouneva**, Head of Sector – EU Guarantees for Private and Sub-Sovereign Investment (Open architecture)
- **Nikola Tripković**, CEO and President of the Board of Directors, Development Bank of Montenegro
- **Nikola Perišić**, Member of the Executive Board of CKB (Crnogorska Komercijalna Banka AD Podgorica) and representative of the MFIC (Montenegrin Foreign Investors Council)
- **Nemanja Lakovic**, CEO of Coal Mine Pljevlja
- **Damien Sorrell**, Head of the Regional Hub for the Western Balkans, EIB

16:30 – 16:45 A partnership for action

- **Joint communique on “Sustainable Investment Declaration for Montenegro”**
- **Statements from:**
 - European Commission
 - Montenegrin government
 - Private sector consortium or chamber + IFI representatives

19:00 Evening reception (by invitation-only)

Hosted by EU Delegation and Montenegrin Government

DAY 2: Sectoral Engagement & B2B

15 October 2025

08:00 – 09:00 Registration & networking

08:00 – 9:30 Strategic Investor Roundtable (SIR)

Overview:

The Strategic Investment Roundtable will bring together leading companies and key private sector representatives across priority sectors—renewables, agribusiness, tourism, digital, and transport—alongside chambers of commerce to exchange views on Montenegro’s recent progress and identify the most pressing policy priorities for accelerating investment. The discussion will culminate in a short review document capturing shared recommendations to guide future reforms and strategic dialogue.

9:30 – 11:00 Incubation & startup ecosystem – Towards a Station M

Overview:

Startups and innovation ecosystems are vital for diversifying Montenegro’s economy and driving high-value job creation. This panel will explore how to build a supportive incubation environment, leverage global best practices, and attract venture capital for early-stage, tech-driven companies.

Speakers:

- **François Hoehlinger**, Managing Director France, Plug and Play Tech Center
- **Žan Dapčević**, CEO and Co-Founder of Academia, IBEX Equity Partners
- **Valentina Radulović**, CEO, Science Technology Park of Montenegro
- **Johannes Hainlein**, Co-Founder, Okipa
- **Stéphane Vidaillet**, CEO, Wind Fisher
- **Senior representative from Station F**

11:00 – 12:00 Mobilising finance for high-growth & innovative SMEs

Overview:

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of Montenegro’s economy, yet access to finance remains a barrier to scaling sustainable, innovation-driven businesses. This session examines financial instruments, guarantees, and risk-sharing mechanisms tailored for SMEs in tourism, agriculture, and green industries.

Speakers:

- **Anja Nagel**, EC Team Leader, Private Sector Development & Green Agenda Western Balkans
- **Bojana Femić-Radosavović**, Executive Director, Innovation Fund of Montenegro
- **Ewa Konczal**, Market Building Lead, Impact Europe
- **Senior representative from EBRD**

12:30 – 13:30 Networking lunch

13:30 – 17:00 Animation of investment booths & bilateral meetings

One-on-one investment meetings

Booths by:

- Montenegrin Investment Agency (MIA)
- EIB, EBRD, IFC, IBRD
- Private sector development unit of DG ENEST
- EKO Fund, Innovation Fund
- Selected companies with innovative value propositions (Akuo Energy, Windfisher, Voli...)
- Legal/advisory firms
- Possible pre-booking of 30-min investor consultations