



*National Bank of Romania*  
*Governor Office*



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
BANK OF ALBANIA

July 24, 2003

His Excellency  
Mr. Giulio Tremonti  
Minister of the Economy  
Ministry of the Economy  
Via XX Settembre 97  
00187 Roma  
ITALY

Dear Mr. Minister,

At a recent meeting of the Central Bank Governors' Club of sixteen Balkan, Black Sea and Central Asia countries held in Bucharest on May 23-24, we had the opportunity to discuss "Convergence", an initiative promoted by the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to accelerate the development of effective financial sectors in the Western Balkans region that is, the two Enlargement countries as well as the five Stability and Association countries. Please note that Croatia is not represented in the Governors' Club.

This initiative, building on the successful experience of designing complex regulatory reform introduced by the Lamfalussy Wise Men Group in the European Union, will help the authorities of individual countries in the region design and implement market-friendly legal and regulatory financial sector reforms in a new alliance with market participants and users' associations.

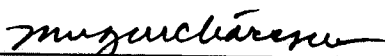
We believe this approach will go a long way to building the climate of co-operation and trust among authorities, the business community and the users that is necessary for our societies and countries to progress towards EU accession. Effective financial sector intermediation, with particular emphasis on the needs of small and medium-sized companies and households, is a key contributor to economic growth.

We understand from the World Bank and the EBRD that Italy is considering supporting the launch of "Convergence". We would be very grateful to Italy if this could happen. It will be another tangible demonstration of your country's commitment to the economic development of our region, consistent with the "Great Europe" vision outlined in the EU Presidency program.

World Bank and the EBRD are also working to secure the involvement of the European Commission. We warmly welcome a strong alliance among these institutions. Their close collaboration in this context would represent a solid anchor for our continuous hard work to bring progress in our countries. Again, we would be very grateful for any assistance Italy could provide, during its current EU Presidency and later, to help make this strategic partnership a reality.

For our part, we assure you that we will give "Convergence" our personal attention and support throughout its operations in our respective countries. We are confident that this innovative instrument will play an important role in our march towards the EU.

Sincerely,

  
Mugur Isărescu  
Governor  
National Bank of Romania

  
Shkëlqim Cani  
Governor  
Bank of Albania

cc: Central Bank Governors of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia-Montenegro

Jean Lemierre  
President  
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

James D. Wolfensohn  
President  
The World Bank