



Albanian British
Chamber of Commerce and Industry
www.abcci.com

Mr Edi Rama
The Prime Minister of Republic of Albania
Albanian Government

11 April 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of the Albanian British Chamber of Commerce and Industry in support of the concerns and proposals addressed by the UCCIAL and other business partner organisations.

In these very distressing worldwide moments where life, markets, economics and the very way of living has been hit hard, the Albanian British Chamber of Commerce and Industry supports the above initiative and would also like to bring to your attention the following:

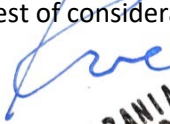
1. Many industries, especially the four to five-star hotels and transport, are not likely to return to their pre-crisis setting for some eight to eighteen months. Therefore, the Government of Albania should carefully design supporting packages to waive taxes, meet the employees' salaries to address the potential that your government has investing in to make Albania an elite tourism destination.
2. The Prime Minister has rightly branded the situation as 'War-like condition'. We urge the government to use the 'War Chest' in support of the foreign investors in Albania enabling them to continue their operations as planned. This fund can also support any Albanian business which might wish to move their productions or operation from other countries to Albania.
3. Albanian companies which have international operation, should also be supported via loans with zero interest, made available by the Government's fund. This will help the competitiveness of the Albanian economy in long run.
4. A special fund should be allocated for free-lancers and non-regular workers. Offering them interest free loans of up to 2500 Euro.
5. It will also be advisable that the government recognises and supports with grants every company which has invested in facilitating their employees to work from home, by providing them with equipment, internet etc. This grant can vary from as little as 300 Euro to 1 500 Euro.
6. The Government of Albania should do whatever it takes, no matter the cost, to safeguard the production capacities of companies in Albania. If no such measures are taken in timely manner the damage to the economy might require a decade to repair.



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7. More than ever, the crises have emphasised the importance that health and food represents to all citizens. The Government of Albania can play a vital role in support of agri-food sector. There should be great financial support for the agriculture. In regard to demand for labour force by this sector, the government can facilitate the movement of available labour. Such measure will employ, the ones that have lost their jobs, while providing agriculture with sessional workers so much needed.
8. Businesses and life have been influenced by Cov-19, and it takes time to provide all the required proof on such impact. The Government should demonstrate flexibility, in relation to any application from the businesses, by granting them the support they are applying for. At the same time the Government gives businesses sufficient time for their applications and allowed them to supply additional information in due course within three months. Such practice it has been successfully implemented in UK and other EU countries.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on successful handling of the pandemic and to renew on behalf of the Board and Members of the Albanian British Chamber of Commerce and Industry our highest of consideration for You, Your Government and the People of Albania.


Keith Reynolds
General Secretary

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