



NATIONAL BANK OF SERBIA

**Governor's Introductory Statement at the closing ceremony and
press conference on the completion of the IPA project**

“Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of the National Bank of Serbia”

PhD Jorgovanka Tabaković, Governor

Belgrade, 12 December 2013

Esteemed colleagues, members of the press, ladies and gentlemen

It is my great honour and pleasure to bid you welcome to the National Bank of Serbia on the occasion of the successful conclusion of the IPA project “Strengthening of the Institutional Capacities of the National Bank of Serbia”.

First of all, I would like to greet our dear guests, Mr Jörg Asmussen, member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank and Mr Michael Davenport, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia. I also extend my sincere greetings to the ambassadors of European Union countries, representatives of national central banks of the European System of Central Banks, as well as representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

We have gathered here today to mark the successful conclusion of the project “Strengthening of the Institutional Capacities of the National Bank of Serbia”. The project was implemented in direct cooperation with the European Central Bank and was financed from the European Union’s Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance – IPA. The project involved participation of representatives of the European Central Bank and experts from 21 central banks of EU countries, which makes this project one of the largest of its kind. The project aimed to align the operation of the National Bank of Serbia with best European practice and central banking standards implemented in the European System of Central Banks.

Since 1 February 2011, when the project was launched, over 170 activities have been implemented in 13 areas of National Bank of Serbia’s operation. Deliverables include supervision manuals for banks, insurance companies and voluntary pension funds, as well as action plans to upgrade foreign exchange reserves management, statistics, financial stability, accounting and information technology. Important strategies were prepared in the field of liberalisation of capital movement, protection of financial services consumers, and the enhancement of efficiency in the money market. Furthermore, laws were drafted in the area of payment services to incorporate the EU’s regulatory framework. The project also enabled the

development of econometric models to strengthen the National Bank of Serbia's research function. Besides, it helped improve capacities for harmonisation of domestic regulations with EU legislation and enhance European integration activities.

It is my great pleasure to say that project objectives have been successfully achieved. Moreover, the implementation of deliverables is particularly important for the oncoming negotiations of the Republic of Serbia with the European Union, in which our institution will play a highly active role. Besides appointing its representatives in the most important negotiation bodies, the National Bank of Serbia has reaffirmed its commitment to the negotiation process and will be leading negotiations in chapters 'financial services' and 'economic and monetary policy'. The National Bank of Serbia has also assumed an important role in the field of 'free movement of capital'. We have gained tremendously from cooperating with colleagues from EU central banks who have helped us to better prepare ourselves for future challenges.

Let me extend my special gratitude to the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission whose financial support made this project happen. I would also like to highlight the exceptional work of our dear colleagues from the European Central Bank's project team, led by Mr Michael Olsen. I also warmly thank the experts of European Union central banks who contributed to the achievement of project deliverables. Employees of the National Bank of Serbia had a unique opportunity to learn, exchange experiences and make contacts with colleagues from a number of central banks.

To conclude, there is no doubt that projects such as this one enable communication with European partners and finding of solutions which serve our best interest, and we plan to continue to participate in similar projects and cooperate with our colleagues from the European Union. I am quite confident that this IPA project marks only the beginning of a successful cooperation which will continue in the years to come.

Thank you very much for your attention.