



SPI Committee Informal Meeting
March 27, 2008
Discussions and Follow-up Actions

Topics	Discussions March 27, 2008	Main Follow-Up Actions
VISION		
General Discussion	SPI Committee stressed the progress and the local stakeholders' strong commitment in establishing SPI Albania.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The presentation of the results of the practical exercise in the RIA training program to be held on April 17. 2. Convergence to communicate the targeted audience for the presentation.
MANDATE		
SPI Committee Operating Guidelines Approval	SPI Committee agrees with their responsibilities under the SPI Albania public-private partnership. SPI Committee will decide on the most appropriate formula of membership, observers and invitees able to ensure the efficient enactment of SPI proposals.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convergence will prepare draft invitation letters to MoF and AMF as permanent observers. 2. BoA and AAB will approve them. 3. Upon BoA and AAB agreement, Convergence will send the invitation letters. 4. The nominal list of SPI Committee members and observer and of their alternates will be communicated to Convergence and will be attached to the operating guidelines. 5. SPI Committee will sign its operating guidelines in the May meeting.
PROGRAM		
Preliminary Directions	The consultation process with the banking community and BoA resulted in a list of 9 priority projects and a tentative implementation schedule.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPI Secretariat will present, for SPI Committee approval, in the May meeting, the detailed terms of reference for the first six projects listed in the document on the program. 2. SPI Secretariat will prepare also a more detailed plan for the other projects to be undertaken in the second half of this year and will submit it for SPI Committee approval in its July meeting.
SPI SECRETARIAT		
Recruitment Progress	The recruitment process is coming to an end. Final decisions are to be made in the following days. SPI Committee members agree on the SPI Secretariat formula.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convergence will make the final decision in the coming days. 2. AAB and Convergence will agree upon MoU 3. Convergence will start the hiring procedures. 4. SPI Secretariat will be functioning by end of April.
ACTIVITIES		
Working Group Activities	Based on SPI Romania example, Convergence prepared a draft document on the organization of the working group activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BoA and AAB will send their suggestions or agreement on the procedures. 2. Convergence will finalize the procedures and present them for SPI Committee approval in May meeting.
SPI Stakeholders Cooperation Arrangements	The Romanian case illustrated how the main local stakeholders cooperate with SPI Secretariat in order to ensure a smooth activity and to optimize results.	Based on the suggestions and comments received from BoA and AAB, Convergence will prepare a similar document for SPI Albania and present it for SPI Committee approval in its May meeting.
Cooperation for Enactment Activities	The cooperation framework for enactment of the SPI proposals proved efficient in Romania.	Starting from the Romanian example and after finalizing composition of SPI Committee, SPI Secretariat will draft the enactment procedures.



**SPI Committee Informal Meeting
March 27, 2008
Bank of Albania
Discussions and Follow-up Actions**

Participants

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|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Fatos Ibrahim | First Deputy Governor, Bank of Albania |
| 2. Mr. Edvin Libohova | Chairman, Association of Albanian Banks |
| 3. Mr. Elvin Meka | General Secretary, Association of Albanian Banks |
| 3. Convergence Program | Mr. Luigi Passamonti, Convergence Head
Mr. Biagio Bossone, SPI Adriatic |

Invited Guest

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| Ms. Ramona Bratu | SPI Romania Director |
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1. Vision – General Discussion

Convergence Program presented a summary of the actions undertaken so far in order to build up SPI Albania public – private partnership for the financial sector modernization, outlining the starting point represented by the **commitment letter** of the two main stakeholders and the press conference organized by Puglia Region in January 2008. Bank of Albania is fully supporting SPI Albania and banks are to be the driving force of the initiative.

The **Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) training program** organized by Bank of Albania and Convergence Program is the start in the knowledge transfer process to the local community and prepares the grounds for SPI future activities, extensively based on EU Better Regulation approach.

EU Better Regulation, a concept promoted by Convergence Program, represents an efficient and sustainable practice in the regulatory design, relying on analysis of the impact of different policy options on the industry, consumers and regulators, and on extensive public consultations. The **last phase of the RIA training program** – the presentation of the working groups' recommendations is planned to be held on **April 17**, one day prior the Governor's meeting with banks management. Convergence will communicate to AAB the targeted audience for this presentation.

The **meetings** of Convergence Program with the Albanian banking community and with Bank of Albania representatives allowed a proper understanding of the local market specifics and the identification of the issues to be undertaken by SPI Albania.

There is an unanimous understanding that establishing SPI Albania has a regional dimension and **SPI Adriatic** will be an optimal platform for knowledge transfer and for best practice sharing.

2. Mandate – SPI Committee Operating Guidelines Approval

SPI Committee's main responsibilities refer to agreeing on the projects to be undertaken, following up with the projects progress and endorsement of the proposals and recommendations in view of their enactment.

The founding members of the SPI Committee are Bank of Albania, Albanian Association of Banks and Convergence Program, but other institutions could be invited to either become a **permanent observer** or to participate in some meetings, on a case-by-case basis. The Ministry of Finance and the AMF could be invited to appoint each of them a permanent observer and an alternate. Convergence will prepare draft invitation letters to be approved by BoA and AAB and then sent to the two institutions.

The **nominal list of the SPI Committee members, observers and their alternates** will be an annex to the operating guidelines.

BoA and AAB will send their observations and suggestions for the final text of the operating guidelines that are to be signed in the first official SPI Committee meeting, in May 2008.

3. Program – Preliminary Directions

As a result of the consultations with the banks' representatives, Convergence Program gathered a list of issues concerning the banking community and that could be considered as **SPI project proposals**. AAB undertook the task of consulting its member in order to prioritize and select a first batch of projects to be undertaken as SPI projects. The Supervision Department in BoA sent also a list of regulations they are planning to approach in the second half of 2008 in order to be included in the **SPI Albania work plan**. Based on the received proposals, Convergence has prepared a **tentative implementation timeline**.

SPI Albania will present, for SPI Committee approval, in the next meeting, **the detailed terms of reference for the first six projects listed in the document on the program**.

SPI Albania will prepare also a **more detailed plan for the other projects** to be undertaken in the second half of this year and will submit it for SPI Committee approval in its July meeting.

4. SPI Secretariat – Recruitment progress

Convergence Program has run the **recruitment process** starting from February and had a series of interviews with the candidates in order to identify the most suitable formula and persons for the SPI Secretariat. The selection process revealed the general good level of knowledge and personal capabilities of the candidates, making hard the decision process. Convergence agreed for a **SPI Secretariat formula** consisting of **two full time persons**, one with BoA experience and one with banking and private sector background, supported for specific tasks by a part time employee with a larger banking experience. The selection commission has identified the eligible persons for the two permanent positions and a final decision on the third member of SPI Secretariat to be entrusted with the **technical support responsibilities** is to be made in the following days.

In order to start the **hiring procedures**, AAB and Convergence will speed up the conclusion of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** establishing the responsibilities for each party in supporting SPI Secretariat activities.

The plan is to have the SPI Secretariat ready for its activities by the end of April.

5. Activities

- Working Group Activities

Convergence prepared a draft document on the procedures to plan the projects, to gather the optimal project working groups and to run their activities.

Based on the suggestions and comments received from BoA and AAB, Convergence will finalize the procedures and present them for SPI Committee approval in its May meeting.

- SPI Stakeholders Cooperation Arrangements

Convergence illustrated with the SPI Romania case the cooperation between the public-private partners and the SPI Secretariat on the four phases of a project (issue identification, solution searching, consensus building, and enactment promotion), outlining each parties' responsibilities and rights.

Based on the suggestions and comments received from BoA and AAB, Convergence will prepare a similar document for SPI Albania and present it for SPI Committee approval in its May meeting.

- Cooperation for Enactment Activities

The SPI Committee membership and observers' formula and further discussions will give the possibility to draft the terms of the cooperation for enactment of SPI Albania proposals, starting from the Romanian example.

6. Next SPI Committee Meeting

The next SPI Committee meeting will be held in May 2008. SPI partners will agree on the best way to ensure a proper impact and visibility for the event of SPI Albania official launch.