

## REPORT FROM THE PRESS CONFERENCE 28/03/2019

The Sarajevo Cantonal Government held today the first thematic session that had five initiatives from the Association of Employers of Sarajevo Canton (part of the Association of Employers of FBiH). They include measures and steps that need to be taken jointly in order to boost economic growth, reduce the gray economy, increase employment and attract investment.

"This government wants to help those people who take business risks, employ a large number of people full of our budget, which is paid for health care, education as well as the pay of all of us who work in the administration and the public sector," said Sarajevo Prime Minister Edin Forto.

With gratitude to the Government for convening a session on them, particularly important topics, President Association of the Employers' KS Sejfudin Čengić and member of Steering Board of the UP FBiH emphasized that this is the first time that the Government in this way directly involves solving the accumulated problems and creating a better business environment.

"We are pleased with the fact that our document of expectations from the new government is in line with the program objectives of this Government and the Assembly. Today's session has shown that there is a willingness of the Government to turn concrete proposals into works," said Čengić. Nijaz Skenderagić, of this association, rated this session as atypical for people from the business community and that it was sent a message that there are structures of government that want to reach out to all potential domestic and foreign investors.

One of the conclusions of this session is the formation of a coordinating body that will deal with parafiscal charges in Sarajevo Canton, which employers emphasize as a special burden in their business and which affects the reduced competitiveness of the domestic economy. Representatives of the ministries of economy, finance and communion of the economy will also work with the representatives of the employers' association, analyzing, rationalizing, reducing or abolishing certain tolls.

The proposal of the Association was accepted to involve employers in the work program of the Government, and according to the Assembly, we initiated an initiative for their inclusion in Cantonal Assembly working bodies.

To restore success in Sarajevo, as Finance Minister Amel Kovacevic points out, this Government's wish is also a wish. Successful business people are good partners for it because with their knowledge, experience and resources, they can, with adequate regulations and laws, provide the conditions for a better business environment.



The ministry of the communal economy announces the revision of the price of all utilities, which is one of the important problems affecting employers and large industrial companies.

"We all want to work in a transparent way, employers will engage in it. It will not cost more than just in the interests of ministries and public companies, but we want to dismantle the real sector of such large utility bills. We will open a dialogue with individual consumers to reach optimal solutions," said Minister of Communal Economy and Infrastructure Srđan Mandić.

As Minister of Economy Haris Bašić pointed out, addressing parafiscal tolls is the beginning of a process that will jointly lead to ideas and programs in creating a better economic environment and that will not harm anyone but to functionally improve the system.