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Prime Minister of Montenegro Duško Marković

Address at the conference marking the launch of the Design Phase of the Project of South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies

Budva, 18 September 2019

Dear guests,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

When, almost three years ago, we began consultations on the Ministry of Science's proposal to set up an international institute for sustainable technologies in the Western Balkans region, there were different views.

In those weeks and months, the Government's focus was on financial adjustments and continuation of the country's infrastructural development as a way to boost the economy. Many rightly considered at that moment that it was not time for Montenegro to launch a major regional initiative, moreover in an area where we could not boast of significant experience.

However, the Government had a vision, and we decided otherwise.

We do not maintain the illusion that our society alone can make a crucial contribution to global progress. But at the same time, it is our obligation and commitment to make the lives of people in this area better, and longer life expectancy of those who are treated for the most serious diseases - quite certain.

Montenegro has chosen the path of an active role in global scientific and civilizational progress, without waiting for modern and innovative solutions to be given to us or that we be looked up on the map of the scientifically underdeveloped countries.

Today we are here to mark the beginning of Phase II of the SEEIIST project, which is actually the transition from the conceptual stage to the concretization i.e. design phase. This involves the preparation of precise and comprehensive technical documentation for the construction of the Institute.

And what are the expectations from such an institute ... Its mission is fundamental research in physics, with the creation of conditions for practical application of scientific achievements and knowledge gained.

In addition to long-term scientific advances, our citizens will be provided with modern cancer treatment by hadron therapy. Unlike the conventional radiation method, hadron therapy does not cause damage to the surrounding tissue around the diseased cell, because in with a very sophisticated procedure that precedes the ejection of a particle from the radiation device, it is excited so as not to release all energy immediately, but to do so when it arrives deeper into the tissue i.e. when it reaches the diseased cells. This therapy is particularly successful in treating cancer in organs such as the brain, liver, where traditional methods have very limited effects.

Dear guests,

Montenegrin economy has been recording steady growth rates for over a decade. The growth in the last three years only clearly confirms the progress we are making. The development of science along with the development of the country should also be accompanied by an increase in the quality of life.

Further social and economic development cannot be based on already applied knowledge. For this reason, I would like to note that we shall start discussions on raising salaries in healthcare and education.

Allocations for science must be accompanied by greater allocations for those who care about the lives of our citizens, as well as those who educate our children and young people. Without their role, the knowledge and energy they provide, scientific achievements will not have their full outreach.

We therefore need scientific research projects that, through technology transfer and international cooperation, bring new knowledge, better working methods and better prospects for work and life. The Balkans are no longer entitled to waiting for modern technological solutions to reach us.

Young and educated people will not opt to stay here only owing to higher salaries, better roads or hope for a better future. We need active cores of scientific and research thought, new knowledge and credible international partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a region that has no dilemma regarding its European affiliation, and which, I believe, will be part of a joint European competition for technological progress. Therefore, the International Institute for Sustainable Technologies is an urgent need of our region. I am confident that the political support for this project is obvious and indisputable. The Memorandum of Understanding, was signed by 6 Prime Ministers in July this year in Poznan. I believe that other countries in the region will formally join the initiative.

I would particularly like to highlight the support of the European Commission, guided by the vision of the Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Mr. Carlos Moedas, who recognized the importance of the Institute at the earliest stages and enabled the preparatory phase to proceed smoothly through the international assistance program.

I would also like to emphasize the solidarity of scientific organizations led by CERN and GSI, as well as the UN International Atomic Energy Agency, without which such an undertaking could not be conceivable.

I am confident that each of the Member States will fully benefit from investing in the development of the Institute, and that the country leading its development will thank everyone in the best way possible – by being successful.

Wishing that the founding of the South Eastern Europe International Institute for Sustainable Technologies takes place soon, I wish you a successful conference.

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