



Embassy & Permanent Mission of Afghanistan - Vienna

PressRelease

The Embassy and Permanent Mission attends the Crans Montana Forum

Vienna, July 1, 2016 // From June 29 to July 1, 2016, Mr. Hassan Soroosh, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and Mr. Waheed Amin, Second Secretary in charge of IAEA, CTBTO and Economic Affairs of the Embassy and Permanent Mission of Afghanistan in Vienna participated in the 27th annual session of the Crans Montana Forum, held in Vienna.

At the session entitled “GROWTH, REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION REQUIRE OUTSTANDING TRANSPORT NETWORKS AND POLICIES -- THE EXAMPLE OF THE SILK ROAD”, Mr. Soroosh briefly spoke about the historical role of Afghanistan as a crossroads along the ancient Silk Road, as well as about Afghanistan’s current potential to serve as a land-bridge between Central Asia and South Asia as well as between China and the Middle East. In this context, he highlighted the TAPI gas pipeline project and the CASA-1000 electricity transmission line as two prime examples of the important role Afghanistan can play in unlocking potentials for trade complementarity in the region and beyond.

Mr. Soroosh also referred to the ongoing work on some of the Afghanistan-focused regional corridors and railway projects including under the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA). He stressed the need for (1) innovative approaches to finance regional economic projects, (2) better coordination among the activities of various regional initiatives with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts and to make best use of the resources available in support of regional projects and (3) investments on soft infrastructures in the context of trade facilitation along with the ongoing work on regional transport projects in order to further facilitate regional economic integration.

During other sessions of the Forum, participants discussed a wide range of pressing issues, including challenges and opportunities of migration; the potentials of global young generations; improving business climate and attracting Foreign Direct Investments; the fight against corruption and money-laundering; combatting terrorism and radicalization; climate change and new challenges to disaster management and public health; as well as the promotion of global dialogue among parliamentarians and religious leaders.

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