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Italy Serbia's important political, economic, strategic partner

Michael Roberts - 23.06.2010

State Secretary of Economy and Regional Development Dragijana Radonjic-Petrovic stated on Tuesday that Italy is an important political, economic and strategic partner to Serbia.

At a "Focus Serbia" plenary session, organised by the South East Europe regional office of the Italian Marche Region, Radonjic-Petrovic said that from 2001 onwards Italy has invested around €800 million in Serbia, excluding Fiat's investment.

Therefore, Italy now ranks in sixth place on the list of the largest foreign investors in Serbia, she noted, adding that there are around 200 Italian companies in the Serbian market employing 18,000 people.

The visit of 65 members of the business and institutional delegation from the Marche Region and Ancona province, staying in Belgrade on Tuesday and tomorrow, is very important for the improvement of bilateral relations, she declared.

She announced that the Marche region will officially open its regional office for support to economic and institutional cooperation in Belgrade.

Italian Ambassador to Serbia Armando Varricchio highlighted that the economic relations between Serbia and Italy are exquisite, pointing out that they have resulted from numerous bilateral agreements and special contractual deals between companies.

Varricchio outlined that Italian businesspeople are increasingly showing interest in cooperation with Serbia because of ideal conditions, namely qualified people and competitive prices.

An extra incentive is Serbia's impending successful path in approaching the EU and free trade agreements that Serbia has with several countries.

Councillor for Industry of the Marche Region Sara Giannini confirmed that exports from the Marche Region to Serbia in 2009 amounted to €37 million while Serbia exported goods worth €41 million to Marche last year. Source; Government