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**MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC
GROWTH ACTIVITY**

Can the New Constitution be a Solid Framework for Economic Development?

Belgrade, Serbia, November 17, 2006 - National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED) organized a public forum on the latest constitutional reform and its implications on economic development and growth. The forum was opened by professor Mijat Damjanović, NALED Coordinator, conducted by Milan Parivodić, the Minister of International Economic Relations, Slobodan Vučetić, former President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia, Ljubomir Madžar, professor at the Belgrade University, and professor Milan Kovačević, independent consultant for foreign investment, and attended by more than 80 guests in the Belgrade Media Center.



“Principle of economic competitiveness and openness without the protectionist approach to economy is the achievement of the new Constitution”, Milan Parivodić, Minister of International Economic Relations

The lack of public and professional discussion, as well as the urgent adoption of new Constitution created a public dilemma if this legal act could provide a solid framework for further economic development. The participants were asked whether new Serbian Constitution was an expression of a real discontinuity with the previous Constitution, whether constitutional solutions could be an obstacle to the approaching process of regulatory harmonization of Serbian and European legislations, and whether the territorial

organization of Serbia is suitable for efficient modernization of the economic system.

As it has been stressed out on several occasions, the quality of the new Serbian Constitution is described in the fact that it is modern and flexible. Special attention was paid to new ownership matrix in Serbia, the abolishment of the social ownership institute, and to the new dimension of public ownership, emphasizing the concept of the local government’s ownership.

By organizing this event, NALED has proved again the importance of public discussion in the legislative procedure and need for serious public policy analysis and debate.