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Eight Proposals from the German-Kosovar Business Association (OEGJK-KDWV) for the winners of the Elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, to strengthen economic relations with Germany

The German-Kosovar Business Association (OEGJK-KDWV) is dedicated to further strengthening bilateral relations and trade exchange between Germany and Kosovo. OEGJK-KDWV advises, supports, and represents German companies in Kosovo that seek to develop or expand their business activities. It also supports and advises Kosovo companies that engage in trade with Germany for a wide range of goods and services and creates opportunities for business and networking. The German-Kosovar Business Association (OEGJK-KDWV) currently represents more than 200 companies.

OEGJK-KDWV has been and continues to be a politically neutral organization. To further strengthen our economic ties with Germany, OEGJK-KDWV proposes the following eight steps for the winners of the Kosovo Assembly elections. Most of these proposals would help Kosovo's trade with other countries and attract foreign investment.

Promotion of Trade and Investments

1. **Innovation and Training Park – ITP (Prizren):** Continued support and promotion of the Innovation and Training Park (ITP) in Prizren to attract additional foreign investors in strategic sectors such as information and communication technology (ICT), renewable energy, vocational education, and the creative industry. With the modern infrastructure and a developed ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship, ITP offers unique opportunities for investments and international collaboration. Continued support for the promotion and further development of ITP would directly impact on the increase in foreign investments and economic growth in Prizren.
2. **Economic Diplomacy:** Further development of economic diplomacy is an important step for strengthening trade and attracting foreign investments. In this regard, enhancing the capacities of Kosovo's diplomatic missions in countries like Germany, through the engagement of professionals for economic issues, would enable the creation of new opportunities for Kosovo businesses and facilitate cooperation with international investors. Additionally, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, through the Investment and Export

Agency (AIE-IEA) established by the Law on Sustainable Investments, should create a campaign to promote and improve the image of Kosovo as a destination for foreign investments.

Qualification of the Workforce

3. Vocational Education and Training: Development of a national strategy for identifying and developing deficient profiles in vocational education and training based on the demands and needs of the labor market, especially in priority sectors for attracting foreign direct investments, and their implementation in vocational schools according to the dual education system.

Advocacy for the Digital Identity of the Republic of Kosovo

4. Top-Level Domain: To strengthen Kosovo's digital identity and improve integration into international markets, it is necessary for the Government to engage in lobbying for the recognition and approval of a top-level domain (TLD). This would create digital sovereignty for the Republic of Kosovo, which directly impacts cybersecurity, while also facilitating access for local businesses and institutions to the global digital space. It would increase the credibility of the country's digital infrastructure and create new opportunities for investment and economic cooperation.

Legislative Program 2025

- 5. Drafting a Special E-commerce Law:** Such a law would provide legal certainty for businesses and position Kosovo better in the international race for digitalizing the economy. Additionally, the creation of a digital task force for consumer protection, which would oversee and prevent activities of illegitimate and deceptive businesses, would ensure a safer environment for consumers and investors.
- 6. Amendment of the Labor Law:** Harmonizing the Labor Law with EU standards and labor market developments is an important step towards creating a more sustainable and competitive environment for employers and employees. In this regard, including provisions that reflect changes in employment formats, digitalization, and labor market flexibility would ensure a more efficient legal framework, aligned with European practices. Such an approach would facilitate Kosovo's economic integration and create new opportunities for investment and sustainable development.

Inclusion of Bilateral Economic Chambers

7. Involving the private sector through bilateral economic chambers and business associations in working groups for drafting laws that have a direct impact on the private business community is very important. This would enable more accurate addressing of the needs and challenges faced by businesses.
8. **Re-functionalization of the Economic-Social Council:** The re-functionalization of this Council is essential to continue and further develop social dialogue in the Republic of Kosovo on issues related to labor relations, social welfare, and other matters concerning economic policies in the Republic of Kosovo.