

# ***“Business Opportunities in Southeast Europe”***



**7:30a.m. to 5:00p.m.**  
**Westin River North**  
**Chicago, Illinois**  
**October 1, 2002**



**Countries of Focus:**  
**Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia, Slovenia,**  
**Macedonia, Albania, Romania and Bulgaria**

Ex-Im Bank and the Illinois Department of Agriculture will be presenting **“Business Opportunities in Southeast Europe”** on October 1, 2002. The purpose of the conference is to provide U.S. exporters and investors with information regarding the business environment and opportunities in Croatia, Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Albania, Romania, Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Macedonia. Participants in the seminar will hear about U.S. government trade, finance and investment support programs. Panels will include speakers from the U.S. Department of Commerce, CEEBIC, USDA, Ex-Im, OPIC, USTDA and USAID. The industry sectors covered in this conference will be food and agriculture, energy, infrastructure and IT. Participants will be able to schedule one-on-one meetings with U.S. government experts and network with others interested in the region.

**Southeast Europe (SE)**, which geographically comprises Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey and FR Yugoslavia, is a region of high interest for the international business and investment community both in terms of total size of the market (about 135 million people) over an area of more than 1.5 million sq. km, and with regard to the prospects for economic development. Although each of the countries itself (with the notable exceptions of Turkey and Romania) has a relatively small population ranging from 2 to 10.7 million, and an area between 20,000 and 132,000 sq. km, the established intra-regional trade and economic relations, and proven business record, provide the basis for a successful involvement of foreign businesses.

Southeast Europe has at present the lowest productive and non-productive cost levels in Europe; combined with a well-educated and diverse labor force, which substantially reduces investment costs and increases return. Another advantage is the strategic location of the region between Western Europe and the Middle East, which also gives direct access to the large CIS markets, thus reducing transportation and logistical costs, when establishing a manufacturing or distribution base in any of the countries.

Co-Sponsors:



**The Registration Fee is \$65 (\$75 at the door) which includes continental breakfast and lunch.**

For more information, please contact Emily Brinkmoeller of WTCC at **312-467-0603** or e-mail at [ebrinkmoeller@wtcc.org](mailto:ebrinkmoeller@wtcc.org). To register, return this form with payment information by fax to **312-467-0615** or by mail to WTCC at Merchandise Mart (#1540), Chicago, IL, 60654. Reservations will be confirmed by fax.

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