

DECLARATION

To: Parliamentary Commission for Production Activities

From: Foreign Investment Association of Albania (FIAA)

Object: Request for the withdrawal and redistribution for further consideration of the Draft Law "ON AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE LAW NO.9640 DATED 9.11.2006, "CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY", as amended.

Dear Members of the Parliamentary Commission,

It has been only a few days ago since FIAA has been informed on the Draft Law "ON AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE LAW NO.9640 DATED 9.11.2006, "CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY", as amended, which has already been submitted to the Parliamentary Commissions for approval.

FIAA which represents the most prominent companies that have performed the biggest investments in the country is a voluntary association of its members and we do not see ourselves as competing in purpose with any local chamber.

However FIAA, on behalf of its members, would like to hereby express its regret for the process followed throughout the drafting and submission for approval of this Draft Law. We do consider inappropriate and inconsistent with the initiative of the Albanian Government on the public and extensive consultation of Laws and Regulations, the fact that such a draft Law was not disseminated in advance to the related stakeholders (i.e Companies, Associations, Chambers of Commerce operating and actively lobbying for the Business Community interest for years now in Albania) , in order for all of them to have the necessary time and clearance to consider and comment for the substance of the proposed amendment. We believe that prior consultation with stakeholders it is not simply an added value to the Law-making process but also a prerequisite for a democratic and responsible decision-making process.

Moreover, in relation with the substance of the Draft Law, we would like to emphasize that despite the obligation imposed to all companies to mandatorily become members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and pay a certain fee, similar to a hidden tax, which is still unknown, the Draft Law does not provide any clarity with regard to (i) the type and quality of services that the chambers and/or the Union of Chambers commit to provide to its members against such a mandatory fee, (ii) the level of representation , (iii) the structure in terms of decision making bodies and governing rules and principles on how members interests will be promoted, lobbied for or protected, (iv).

For All the above reasons, We kindly request the members of the Parliamentary Commission to send back to the Ministry the Draft Law for its dissemination and consultation with the related stakeholders including all associations and representative organizations of the Business Community in Albania so that the process is held properly and all stakeholders have the possibility to consider and comment of the Draft Law.

Best Regards,

Foreign Investors Association of Albania