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| logo BB.jpgBelgrade Stock Exchange connected to SEE LinkSEE Link expands to a total of 4 active markets |  |

December 5, 2016

After applying to join SEE Link earlier this year, Belgrade Stock Exchange (BELEX) became active member of the SEE Link network enabling trading on the respective market.

This is the first stock exchange that has actively joined SEE Link after three founding stock exchanges.

Siniša Krneta, Belgrade Stock Exchange CEO, said: *Operational connection to the SEE Link platform represents an important day for the future development and positioning of BELEX and the region as well. BELEX aims towards making local and regional capital markets complementary model in financing private sector development and making it more visible by presenting an interesting investment alternative. We remain fully committed to creating stronger connections between the real sector and the capital market, the link that is still missing in our region.*

SEE Link is a project started by the Bulgarian, Croatian and Macedonian stock exchanges with the aim of creating regional infrastructure for the trading of securities listed on those three markets. Formalising this cooperation, the three stock exchanges set up SEE Link as a joint company in May 2014, located in Skopje. The EBRD supported the initial phase of the SEE Link project with a €540,000 grant to introduce an electronic system for order-routing in July 2014. Funding for the project was provided by EBRD donors through the EBRD Shareholder Special Fund. In parallel, participating stock exchanges extended €80,000 to SEE Link.

SEE Link order routing system has become fully operational at the end of the March this year. The two SEE Link indices ‒ SEE LinX and SEE LinX EWI ‒ were launched in the beginning of April, composed of the 10 most actively traded regional companies listed on three participating exchanges. With new market accession, the indices revision is planned in the forthcoming period in order to provide more representative overview of the market.

Besides BELEX, four more stock exchanges are preparing for connecting to SEE Link: Athens Banja Luka, Ljubljana and Montenegro stock exchanges, with several other regional stock exchanges expressing their interest to join.

With BELEX accession, SEE Link order-routing system now supports trading for total of four markets, with a combined equity market capitalisation of more than US$ 33 billion and almost 500 stocks eligible for trading. A total of 27 investment companies (brokerage houses) are licensed to trade via SEE Link. In addition, seven members of the Belgrade Stock Exchange are currently in the process of obtaining licenses for trading via SEE Link.

The system aims to increase liquidity and improve access for investors and local brokers.