

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The following Banking Associations:

*Albanian Association of Banks,*

*Association of Banks in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina,*

*Association of Commercial Banks, Bulgaria,*

*Association of Cyprus Commercial Banks,*

*Hellenic Bank Association,*

*Romanian Banking Association,*

*Association of Montenegrin Banks,*

*Association of Serbian Banks,*

*Banks Association of Turkey*

as represented,

bearing in mind their common geographical and historical affinities in addition to the European perspective, decided to establish a forum intended to promote the banking business in the Balkan region, under the name of **FORUM OF INTERBALKAN BANKING ASSOCIATIONS** (hereinafter: “**the Forum**”).

To that end, the Associations will discuss issues of common interest with a view to:

- maintain solid relationship and cooperation among them,
- exchange information,
- contribute to the harmonization of banking business practices within the European banking and financial services environment,
- support and organize joint education programs

The Associations declare that the Forum will not be used in any other way with the aim to intervene in the business and the financial activities of their members.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned goals, the representatives of the Associations (Secretaries Generals, CEOs, etc) will hold regular meetings twice a year, following the initiative of each one Association on a rotation basis, unless the majority of the Associations considers a second meeting in the same calendar year not necessary.

The Association undertaking the initiative is responsible for the agenda and the organization of the meeting.

Any Association may request the introduction of an issue on the agenda of a meeting or call for an extraordinary meeting, in which case that Association is responsible for the organization of the meeting.

The above mentioned representatives of the Associations may be accompanied to the meetings by experts of their choice.

The Secretariat of the Forum will be undertaken by each Association on a three-year rotation basis.

The Association organizing the Secretariat will appoint a competent member of its staff, whose responsibility will be to support the work of the Forum, i.e. the organization of the meetings, the distribution of related information, minutes of the meeting and so on in collaboration with the Association organizing the meeting.

The meetings will be chaired by the Secretary General of the Association organizing the Secretariat of the Forum and if he/she cannot attend the meeting, the Secretary General of the hosting Association will chair the meeting.

The Hellenic Bank Association will organize the Secretariat for the first three years.

All the expenses for the Secretariat will be assumed by the Association which is responsible for it.

All the expenses for the meetings, regular or extraordinary, will be undertaken by the Association which is organizing the meeting.

All traveling and accommodation expenses will be undertaken by each participating Association.

The Associations will not pay any contribution, unless otherwise unanimously decided.

The Associations participating in the Forum will make every reasonable effort to come to unanimous decisions. However, if that is not feasible, a resolution may pass on a simple

majority of the participating Associations. To that end, each Association has one vote irrespective of the number of its representatives.

Any Association of Banks of a Balkan country not being a founding member of the Forum, may participate in it by submitting an application to the Secretariat of the Forum.