

“Companies need peaceful and reliable framework conditions”

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Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser, Chairwoman of the German Eastern Business Association, calls for an end to the tensions between Kosovo and Serbia.

The growing tensions between Kosovo and Serbia and their economic impact are increasingly worrying German companies in the region. Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser, Chairwoman of the German Eastern Business Association, comments:

“The German Eastern Business Association has supported regional cooperation among the Countries of the Western Balkans for many years. We firmly believe that the economic and social transformation of the region and its integration into the European single market can only be achieved through close cooperation between all countries.

The German Eastern Business Association and its member companies have been actively involved in enhancing close regional cooperation. Together with our regional partners we have been promoting the commitment of German business in the region. To date, German business has created more than 100.000 skilled jobs in the six countries of the Western Balkans. German trade with the six countries has almost tripled in the last ten years, reaching almost 17 billion euros in 2022.

This positive development is at risk. We are very concerned about the current tensions between Kosovo and Serbia. We have been approached by an increasing number of concerned German companies who are actively involved in Kosovo and its neighbouring countries. Achievements and future investments in the region are at stake. Together with our regional partners, we call on all sides to engage in a constructive dialogue in order not to jeopardise the successful positioning of the region as an investment location achieved so far and its integration in international supply chains. Business needs peaceful and reliable framework conditions for investment.

The German Eastern Business Association believes that regional and European integration must be a common goal for all the Countries of the Western Balkans. Strengthened regional cooperation is the key to positive economic development and further integration of the region into the EU single market.”

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