

## Investments and financing opportunities in Romanian agriculture – the SAPARD program and the structural funds

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The Romanian Information Centre in Brussels organized on the 10th of March, together with Walloon Agency for Investment and Export (AWEX), the Romanian Mission to the EU and the consultancy company PBS Worldwide Belgium, the conference *“Investments and financing opportunities in Romanian agriculture – the SAPARD program and the structural funds”*.

The conference answered the interest in Romanian agricultural sector of about 60 CEOs of Belgian companies in food and food-related industries, as well as representatives of national and European associations of producers and processors.

The conference aimed at stimulating Belgian investments in Romanian agricultural sector, through the SAPARD program and the structural funds available to Romania after the accession to the EU.



The conference was opened by Philippe Suinen, general manager of Walloon Agency for Investment and Export who explained the interest and opening of the Agency towards Romania, a very dynamic and attractive market. Magdalena Mihordea gave an overview of the Romanian agricultural and food sector; the presentation highlighted the sector's growth potential, by comparing the limited production capacity in some food sectors to the market demand, covered to a great extent by imports. Achim Irimescu, agriculture expert in the Romanian Mission to the EU presented the SAPARD program: the financial allocation for each measure, and the measures to be financed this year. Freddy Jacobs, PBS Worldwide Belgium, gave the practical details on how to access European non-refundable financial assistance. Benoit Nadler, expert in DG Regio in the European Commission presented the structural funds that Romania will receive as a member state starting with 2007. The conference continued with the presentation of Francis Mullers, expert of SOFINEX, a governmental Walloon agency

which provides assistance (including financial) to Walloon companies that want to open a branch outside Belgium. The conference ended with a Q&A session and with a cocktail.



The participants were interested in the SAPARD program, the investment opportunities in the agro-food sectors and in the overall investment climate in Romania.

Taking into consideration that project proposals can be submitted for SAPARD program financing until the end of this year, attention starts to be focused on the structural funds that Romania will receive as a EU member state starting with 2007.

The Romanian Information Centre in Brussels will launch a series of conferences meant to raise awareness about the amount of EU structural funds available in Romania and the investment opportunities arising hereof.



The events are part of the efforts of the Romanian Information Centre in Brussels to promote Romania and its evolution towards accession to the EU in the European environment in Brussels and to the level of EU member states governments and investment circles in Brussels. Building on current Romanian economic growth, existing market opportunities and European financing, the series of conferences organized by the Ro Info Centre is a powerful instrument to bring on board those interested in the outcomes of the enlargement process of the EU.

Partners of the event:



Source Ro info center