European institutional meetings

Lirim Muharemi | Europort Shëngjin | Named interlocutors and documentary record

Record of meetings and project presentations reported in the professional chronology for 2004–2022, supplemented by the Instinctif Partners service letter of 8 February 2018. Exact dates are given where recorded. Participation in a meeting is distinguished from project approval or a financing commitment.

European Commission

11 July 2016 | DG MOVE | Brussels

Lirim Muharemi personally participated in a meeting concerning Europort Shëngjin with the following officials named in the chronology:

- **Alain Baron —** DG MOVE official; identified in a December 2016 professional event programme as Head of Unit for International Transport and Enlargement.
- **Evi Lardi —** DG MOVE official; named participant in the project meeting.
- **Fleur Breuillin —** DG MOVE official; name reproduced as written in the chronology.
- **Wojciech Sopinski —** DG MOVE official; name reproduced as written in the chronology.

Purpose: presentation of the proposed port and its regional transport and economic relevance. The chronology associates the meeting with maritime transport and logistics. Instinctif Partners independently records a DG MOVE meeting, discussion of EIB standards and alignment with DG MOVE priorities.

Alain Baron | Distinction between historical functions

The contact information supplied by Lirim Muharemi identifies Alain Baron as Director (Interim). Official Transport Community material confirms his later role as Interim Director of its Permanent Secretariat. That later title is not applied retrospectively to the July 2016 DG MOVE meeting.

12 July 2016 | DG NEAR | Brussels

Tzvetina Tzvetkova — official in Unit D.4 responsible for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as identified in the chronology. The meeting concerned Europort Shëngjin and its proposed benefits for Albania and Southeast Europe.

European Parliament

11 July 2016 | Knut Fleckenstein | Brussels

Member of the European Parliament. The chronology records a meeting in the afternoon following the DG MOVE meeting. Instinctif Partners also records a meeting with him and proposed follow-up concerning parliamentary support and further contacts.

2016 | Ivan Jakovčić | Brussels

Member of the European Parliament, ALDE, Croatia; identified in the chronology as Vice-Chair of the EU–Albania delegation. The meeting concerned project presentation and possible parliamentary engagement. The service letter places the relevant follow-up in October; the exact meeting date is not stated explicitly in the chronology.

European Investment Bank

Early December 2012 | Dominique Courbin | Brussels

Head of Division for Operations in the Western Balkans at the European Investment Bank. The chronology describes his remit as Slovenia, Croatia and the Western Balkans. Lirim Muharemi presented Europort Shëngjin to him during “Balkans Progress: Battling to Overcome the Impact of the Crisis”. LM & Co is described as a co-organiser of the event with Friends of Europe and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

His divisional leadership is corroborated by contemporary official records. This identifies the senior EIB interlocutor; it does not identify him as President of the EIB.

21–22 April 2016 | EIB and EBRD representatives | Ljubljana

The chronology records discussions on project investment during the Regional Conference on the Investment Plan for Europe. Individual EIB and EBRD interlocutors are not named in that passage. Violeta Bulc, then European Commissioner for Transport, is listed among conference participants; the passage does not separately establish a bilateral meeting with her.

28 February 2014 | EIB correspondence

The EIB letter addressed to Lirim Muharemi & Co acknowledges the Albanian transport minister’s letter of 24 December 2013 and requests information for preliminary assessment. This is documentary correspondence, rather than a separately identified personal meeting or an approval of financing.

Friends of Europe and European leadership contacts

2012 | Étienne Davignon | Brussels

President of Friends of Europe, as identified in the chronology. It records personal meetings during Lirim Muharemi’s visits to Brussels and his membership of the organisation. Friends of Europe is a policy organisation, not an institution of the European Union. No exact date or separate minutes of the personal meeting are supplied.

2012 chronology entry | José Manuel Barroso and Jerzy Buzek

The chronology records meetings with José Manuel Barroso, then President of the European Commission, and Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament from July 2009 to 16 January 2012. Exact meeting dates are not given, so Buzek’s presidency is not assumed to cover the whole of 2012. These contacts are reported by the chronology; separate meeting records were not supplied.

Accompanying team and related port cooperation

For the July 2016 Brussels meetings, the chronology names Lirim Muharemi and Mr Dalan of LM & Co, accompanied by Mr Olisa and Mr Rusagara of Instinctif Partners. The service letter identifies Nigel Olisa as Associate Director. First names for Dalan and Rusagara are not supplied in the relevant source passages.

13 October 2016 — Wim De Rycke, senior consultant at Port of Antwerp International: the chronology records a meeting concerning possible construction advice, port operation and potential minority participation, subject to the port’s decision process. Port of Antwerp International is listed separately from EU institutions.

Sources and scope

LM-Chronology-EN_2004-Aug. 2022_Final.pdf, printed pages 11–12 and 19–21; supplied final version, cross-checked against the earlier copy.

Instinctif Partners service letter, 8 February 2018, pages 1–3; supplied PDF. The filename contains 2016, but the letter itself is dated 2018.

European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek mandate history: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/28269/JERZY_BUZEK/history/7

Government of Montenegro, 10 October 2012, and EIB document 46822679: https://www.eib.org/attachments/registers/46822679.pdf

FEPORT conference programme, 8 December 2016: https://feport.eu/wp-content/uploads/ASC_02_2016-12-08_Booklet.pdf

Transport Community, supporting letter by Alain Baron, 16 March 2020: https://www.transport-community.org/covid-19/supporting-letter-mr-alain-baron-director-interim/