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Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Daniel Berg, said today that EBRD plans to invest more than one billion euros this year in the Western Balkans region, of which more than 300 million was set aside for Serbia.

Berg was a guest of the Serbian Broadcasting Corporation where he said that the EBRD plans invest more than 100 million through banks into small and medium enterprises, while it is also showing interest in the privatisation of large systems, such as the Nikola Tesla Airport and Telekom.

When it comes to the Airport and Telekom privatisations, he added that the EBRD is in contact with the Serbian Government, while the cooperation also takes place in the area of governance, reform of public administration and public enterprises.

"I think that these are just two of the possible projects on which we can work. We have some large foreign investments and we hope that they will decide to come to Serbia," Berg said, adding that the arrival of China in this part of the world is very useful.

Berg said that China has recently become a shareholder of EBRD and added that he hoped that cooperation with Chinese investors who came to this region would materialise.

He recalled that last year "The Investment Climate Management Facility" was signed.

"The government will have to face tough decisions in the field of privatisation and make the investment climate more attractive. There is a lot to be done and the Government should immediately start working," Berg said.

According to him, EBRD invested more than one billion euros in the Western Balkans and Serbia is in the center of this.

"Every year we try to have over 300 million euros of investments in Serbia. Some years there will be even more investments, when large projects are implemented. Last year we had some great projects so that these investments have increased," Berg said.

EBRD believes that economic growth in Serbia will be some two percent and maybe even slightly higher next year, said the CEO of this European bank.

He said that for economic growth it was important to implement reforms, but also to attract small and large investments.

He added that arrival of the Chinese investors and investing into the Smederevo Steelworks was also very important.