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MS ALENKA SMERKOLJ APPOINTED AS FINANCE MINISTER

Ms Alenka Smerkolj was appointed as acting Finance Minister following the Wednesday decision of Dr Dušan Mramor to step down due to personal reasons. Ms Smerkolj has been holding the position of Minister without portfolio, for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion since 2014.

Ms Smerkolj's efforts as Minister of Development have led to substantial improvements of the absorption of the EU funds for key investment projects in support of the economy. She has 25 years of work experience in the field of international business and financial markets having previously worked at the largest Slovenian bank, Nova Ljubljanska Banka as Director for financial markets.

During Minister Mramor's stay in office important milestones have been achieved: successful exit of Slovenia from the excessive macroeconomic imbalances procedure, on-going gradual consolidation strategy of public finances and the correction of the excessive deficit in June 2016. Significant enhancements were made to the system of corporate governance of state-owned enterprises. During his mandate 25.000 new jobs were created, especially for young people. The country's rating and competitiveness improved in a number of indices, while the cost of financing notably decreased.

Dr Mramor was awarded the title of the Minister of Finance for 2016 by the Banker magazine.

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