

# CCIFA Weekly News

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**Revue de presse hebdomadaire/Përmbledhja javore e shtypit /Weekly press review  
Activité hebdomadaire de la CCIFA /Aktiviteti javor i CCIFA /CCIFA Weekly activity**



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## Focus membres



**HAPJA E DYQANIT TË RI**  
në QËNDREN TOPTANI  
03/03/2017; 17h00



**DEGUSTATION EVENING: WINE OF TOSKANA**  
**CANTINE "CASTELLO DEL TERRICCIO",**  
**11/03/2017, 18.00, Hotel "Plaza" Tirana.**

Presidenti i Alehandro Distribution, Znj. Erjola Braha dhe Ambasada e Italisë në Tiranë, kanë kënaqësinë t'ju ftojnë: në eventin e prezantimit dhe degustimit të verërave të kantinës së Toskanës "Castello del Terriccio", që do të zhvillohet më 11 Mars 2017, ora 18:00, në katin e 23 të Hotel "Plaza" Tirana.

### Main Indicators of Albania

	2013	2016
GDP growth (percent)	1.0	3.4
Primary balance (percent of GDP)	-2.0	0.2
Overall balance (percent of GDP)	-5.2	-2.2
Tax revenues (percent of GDP)	22.0	24.3
Non-performing loans (percent)	23.5	20.4

## A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE / HIGHLIGHTS

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Albanie - AMI

Albania Successfully Concludes Three-Year IMF-Supported Program

February 28, 2017

On February 24, Albania drew the last installment of a SDR 295.42 million (\$400.4 million) credit line, successfully concluding its three-year program aimed at restoring economic growth and controlling the rapidly rising public debt that had threatened the stability of the economy.

“The program has successfully put Albania on a recovery path with sound public finances,” said Anita Tuladhar, the head of the IMF team for Albania. “Thanks to the commitment of the Albanian authorities, we could support reforms that are critical to growth. The program strengthened the institutional framework, reduced vulnerabilities of the economy, and helped maintain economic stability despite difficult external conditions.”

Here is what the program achieved:

- economic growth accelerated to over 3 percent;
- the budget gap narrowed by 3 percent of GDP, helped mainly by growing tax revenues;
- public debt declined from its peak of 73.7 percent;
- government arrears have been mostly cleared;
- the budget now records a surplus before payments of interest on the country’s debt;
- the reform of the pension system and the electricity sector has advanced considerably, lowering the two sectors’ reliance on budget support;
- the ratio of overdue bank loans fell and parliament agreed on a bankruptcy law to resolve the bad loans; and
- overall fiscal and financial frameworks have been strengthened.

However, Albania must continue efforts to reinforce its growth and the resilience of its economy.

Here is what the IMF suggests doing:

- continue efforts to lower the public debt and borrowing needs;
- reform property tax and reduce tax exemptions;
- make public financial management more efficient and modernize the tax administration;
- resolve the overhang of overdue bank debt that impedes lending; and;
- press ahead with the recently launched, EU-supported justice reform initiative and related structural reforms to address governance concerns and an inefficient justice system.

Background

In 2014, Albania’s economic growth almost slowed to a halt as the economic crisis cut demand from Greece and Italy, its main trading partners. At the same time, public debt surged and arrears accumulated due to election time splurges, an unsustainable pension system, and an unviable electricity sector. The banking system, on which the government relied heavily for borrowing, had weakened due to a high ratio of overdue loans, increasing financing pressures. The IMF loan aimed to help address these fiscal and financial challenges and restore economic growth in Albania.

### **Agriculture Sector, Key to Albania's Economy**

A conference entitled "Access of Farmers to Market", hosted by Tirana's Agricultural University, put emphasis on ways to promote and establish cooperation in order to meet the challenges of new problems facing farmers across the country.

A group of German experts and Embassy officials attended the conference, including the head of the Development Policies Sector at the German Embassy in Tirana, Maren Kneller.

In her address to the conference, the German official said that agriculture was the key to Albania's social and economic development. "Models of contracts of cooperation in agriculture have particularly great potential for productivity and efficiency growth," Kneller noted in her remarks.

To this end, she went on saying, the German Society for International Cooperation, GIZ, will carry out a comprehensive assessment of the national legal framework that is applicable for contracts in agriculture sector and will provide a guideline of most practical examples. GIZ will also organize a training workshop with agriculture officials and representatives of farmers' organizations.

"In order to ensure that contracts of cooperation in agriculture are successful, the Albanian government should create a suitable environment, including innovative security systems, infrastructure investment, professional training and ensuring the right and property and land," Kneller said.

### **Franco-Albanian Musicians to Perform in Tirana**

Organized by the Embassy of France in Tirana, the concert of Franco-Albanian violinist Hasan Bakalli and pianist Geisu Basha will take place on March 2 at 19:00 hours at the University of Arts in Tirana, and on March 3 at 19:00 hours at "Aleksandër Moisiu" Theater in Durres.

Musicians will perform pieces of the repertoire of Ducommun and Sandmeier, two contemporary composers who weren't played before in Albania.

### **Expansion of internet banking is a necessity**

Internet banking is increasingly being used in Albania. Statistics from Bank of Albania for 2016, revealed that the number of bank accounts connected online increased by 37%. Central Bank says that there are about 209,000 accounts accessible via internet or equal to 6% of accounts managed by the banking system. In the past few years, banks have changed their approach making internet banking quite easy and accessible to all. In an interview for Scan TV, Valbona Dhjaku, Head of the Information Technology at Credins Bank said that internet banking is no longer a solution, but has become a necessity. "E-banking is no longer a novelty. Banks must provide competitive services although profits are no longer direct due to the costly platforms. Credins Bank has invested a lot in e-banking," she said. Credins Bank has about 58,000 bank accounts connected to internet. (Scan TV,news)

### **Citizens' share in government bills increases to 15.04%**

The share of individuals in government bonds has reached a new record, according to the country's Ministry of Finances. Data shows that last year, citizens held 15.04% of the total of domestic debt. Last years, the interest rates of deposits dropped significantly and citizens eyed alternative means of profits. Government bonds have satisfactory rates. Meanwhile the share of second tier banks in government bills increased in 2016. Ministry of Finances reports that second tier banks hold 60.29 percent of domestic debt up from 58.2 percent in 2015. The share of Central Bank in government bonds dropped to 9.28 percent. At the end of 2016, the government's debt amounted to 561 billion Lek up by 1.8 percent compared to 2015.

### **PM Rama: Vetting, fundamental step to more investment, employment**

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama on Tuesday urged business community representatives to become involved in the efforts to mount public pressure to unblock implementation of the vetting process and press ahead with crucial judicial reforms, ATA news agency reports. "Every day we waste today is equal to a year we lose on the path of the country's future. Judicial reform is a national issue and not a political one. Any effort to politicize the reform is an attempt to shun and deflect it. Judicial reform and vetting process is a fundamental step to more investment, employment and income for families," the government head told a gathering with Albanian businesspeople and entrepreneurs. PM Rama said Albania has all potential to develop major investment in many sectors, and tourism industry in particular, but he noted that "investors become increasingly sceptical due to legal instability and uncertainties created by a justice system that threatens contracts." "If the country's banking system inherits a series of problems this is because of the courts that block banks," he said. The President of Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Albania, Ines Muçostepa, appealed to political parties to commit themselves to the implementation of the justice system reform, describing the reform as key to the country's economic growth and development. "Albanian business community needs this reform. No economic reform could create such economic sustainability. The reform serves to a secure business climate in the country and attracts more domestic and foreign investment projects," Muçostepa said. Same appeal was reiterated by the Business Albania President, Luan Bregasi, who noted that "all public surveys identify the lack of rule of law and justice as the main stumbling block to business and investment."

### **Businesses with 1-4 employees keep the economy “alive”**

They employ 4 people at most mainly relatives and friends. But they make up for 33.2% of the total number of people employed in active businesses in the country. Businesses which employ only 1-4 people, are in fact an added value for the Albanian economy in general, because they not only offer employment opportunities, but they also generate revenues. Their annual turnover is significant. Referring to the Institute of Statistics, businesses that employ 1-4 people, make up for 89.3% of all businesses in the country and they realize 14.3% of the total number of sales. These figures are higher if we consider the fact that for the same period covered by INSTAT in this study, businesses with more than 50 employees only make up for 1% of active businesses. This is explained by the tax facilities that benefits a small business that employs one to four people and which individually declares a low level of turnover. But in total, these small businesses have the highest level of turnover. Such businesses include coffee shops, pizza restaurants, betting points, etc. All of these businesses do not require a high level of initial investment, but they generate a secure turnover, however small that is. This is the reason why businesses that employ 1-4 people dominate. Meanwhile, companies which employ 10-49 people mostly belong to the trade sector, because they require more employees to deliver certain functions. In the meantime, according to INSTAT, hospitality and food services sector has the largest number of companies that employ 1-4 people. Out of 104.534 businesses active in the country during 2015, 93.376 of them employed 1-4 people. This is a significant level compared to 1.031 businesses that employ more than 50 people or 4300 businesses that employ 10-49 people. According to official figures, the number of businesses that employ 5-9 people is also small, not exceeding 6000. This shows that people are very cautious when opening a business in Albania, especially in relation to the employment aspect, preferring to risk less and employing fewer people. The number of private enterprises in Albania is growing. This is indicated by the latest figures of the Institute of Statistics, according to which, in 2015, the number of active businesses in our country grew by 22.7%. In this aspect, businesses offering services come first, taking credit for the growth of this figure, occupying 20.8% of the level of growth. In terms of the number of businesses, the highest number belongs to the trading sector, namely 43.1%, followed by hotels and restaurants with 17.8%. Meanwhile, the extractive industry saw the smallest number of active companies on a national level in 2015 with only 626 companies, which occupied only 0.6% if the total number of companies. The trade sector also has the highest level of net sales, namely 48.3% of the total and the highest level of employment, 25.7% of the total in 2015. The bigger a business is, the bigger is the investment that it must make to continue its operations. This is indicated by the figures and according to them, the sector that has made the most investments, up to 63% of investments, is the one that involves companies that employ more than 50 people. Namely, the sector with the highest level of investments is the energy and water sector with 60 billion ALL during 2015, occupying 28.6% of the total number of investments. Meanwhile, businesses dealing in services, which employ 1-4 people, have made only 38.3% of the total level of investments. This explains the fact that it is the favorite business for Albanians. Meanwhile, investment in the sector of construction has dropped by 8.8%.

### **INSTAT revises rate of businesses sales growth**

Businesses in Albania increased their sales by 3.6% in 2015 according to the revised Structural Business Survey 2015, published by the Institute of Statistics INSTAT. The revised figures show that the rate of sales growth is lower compared to the 6.3% growth in 2014. According to INSTAT, in 2015 the economic growth was 2.59% while the growth in 2014 was at the level of 1.83%. The contribution to sales growth has come mainly from the branch of service, which contributed with 1.9% to total sales growth, while producers of goods contributed with 1.7%. The survey confirms the high growth rates of investment, which last year expanded by 14.9%. This increase was even higher than the 12% growth of the previous year, which proves the high contribution of investment in the growth. According to INSTAT, over 28% of investments were carried out in the energy sector, mainly in the construction of new plants. An even higher growth was reported by employment. According to INSTAT, employment in the private sector last year expanded by 17.4%, while in 2014 the growth was at the level of 7.7%. This is a further confirmation that employment indicators in the economy are improving. However, the highest growth of employment compared to sales makes even more acute the problem of poor labor productivity. This is a competitive weakness of the Albanian economy in relation to all other countries of the region, highlighted earlier this month in a study of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The number of active enterprises in the economy last year was nearly 105,000, marking an annual increase of around 23%.

### **TAP Upgrades Road Infrastructure in Southern Albania**

The Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), a natural gas pipeline project, concluded the refurbishment works for another 8-km road segment, connecting around 3,000 residents from the Seman i Ri, Baltez, and Hamil villages to the city of Fier, southern Albania, TAP said in a press release on Friday. Local representatives welcomed the reconstruction of this road segment which is a great contribution to the community. The newly built road will help local residents to reach faster the city's market and sell their agricultural products. The road also promotes tourism in this area because as it will be used by tourists travelling to the Adriatic Sea beaches. In addition to the refurbishment of the road, upgrade works were undertaken on a series of secondary inner roads and access roads. The refurbishment of this road segment is part of TAP'S commitment to improve several road and bridges along the pipeline corridor in Albania. During the first phase of works at the end of 2016, more than 58 km of roads have been rehabilitated, 40 existing bridges were refurbished, and 2 new bridges were built. Another 120 km of road will be rehabilitated during the second phase of roads and infrastructure upgrades. TAP will transport natural gas from the giant Shah Deniz II field in Azerbaijan to Europe. Albanian section covers around 250 km of pipeline.

Mais aussi...

Le concours de la chanson française



DE L'HEBDO  
D'INT.



à bientôt/soon...

Yves  
Rocher



YVES ROCHER  
FRANCE

KRIJUESI I KOZMETIKES BIMORE

ZBULONI  
DYQANIN MË TË RI YVES ROCHER  
NË QËNDRËN TOPTANI

Hyrja A (nga hotel Plaza) kati 0, dyqani i parë në të majtë

Në mes të vrullit të punës së përditshme, dyqani Yves Rocher në qendrën tregtare TOPTANI ju mirëpret për një pushim bukurie.

Me më shumë se 50 vjet përvojë, Yves Rocher i ofron lëkurës tuaj të gjithë mirësinë e natyrës, risit më të fundit nga zhvillimet e kozmetikës dhe garancinë tuaj me produkte të cilësisë së parë me çmimet më ekonomike.

Mbi 700 produkte bukurie për të zgjedhur në dyqanin tuaj të bukurisë Yves Rocher si: Përkujdesi i Fytyrës dhe i Trupit, Parfume dhe Makiazhe.

03/03/2017

17h00

Na ndiqini në Facebook  
Yves Rocher Albania



Alehandro  
Distribution

**Degustation evening: Wine of Toskana cantine "Castello del Terriccio",**

11/03/2017

18h00

Presidenti i Alehandro Distribution, Znj. Erjola Braha dhe Ambasada e Italisë në Tiranë, kanë kënaqësinë t'ju ftojnë: në eventin e prezantimit dhe degustimit të verërave të kantine të Toskanës "Castello del Terriccio", që do të zhvillohet më 11 Mars 2017, ora 18:00, në katin e 23 të Hotel "Plaza" Tirana.

Prezent në këtë event Cavaliere. Z. Gian Annibale Rossi di Medelana.

Presidente di Alehandro Distribuzione, la Sig.ra Erjola Braha e L'Ambasciata d'Italia a Tirana, hanno il piacere di vi invitare all'evento di presentazione e degustazione dei vini della azienda Toscana "Castello del Terriccio", che avra luogo 11 marzo 2017 alle ore 18:00, al 23 ° piano dell 'Hotel "Plaza" di Tirana. Presente all'evento Cavaliere Gian Annibale Rossi di Medelana.

# Projekti: “POPULLIMI, NJË QYTETAR NJË ADRESË”



**Ka filluar  
projekti “Identifikimi,  
kodifikimi dhe lidhja e një  
adrese me secilin prej jush, i cili  
do të garantojë dhe lehtësojë të  
gjitha shërbimet komunitare dhe  
zgjidhjen e shpejtë të realizimit  
të tyre”.**

[PËR MË SHUMË INFORMACION KLIKONI KËTU](#)

# Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

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## Albanian Daily news

## Gazeta Sot

## News 24

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