

# CCIFA Weekly News

No.15; 19-23 Juin 2017

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



*Les opinions exprimées dans CCI FA Weekly News n'engagent que les magazines cités / Opinionet e shprehura në CCI FA Weekly News janë ato të revistave të përmendura /The opinions expressed in CCI FA Weekly News are the sole responsibility of the cited magazines*



**La CCI France Albanie, a organisé le 17 Juin, à Vila Golem la «Fête de l'Été» . Il y avait environ 90 personnes réunies pour l'occasion, dont Mme.Christina VASAK, Ambassadeur de France en Albanie, Mme Milena Harito, Ministre de l'Innovation et de l'Administration publique, Julien Roche, notre Président, Pirro Vengu, Chef du cabinet, Ministère Etrangère, Tomi Frasheri, Conseiller du Premier Ministre, les membres de la CCIFA**

**CCI Francë Shqipëri , organizoi më 17 Qershor, tek Vila Golem « Festën e Verës ». U mbledhën rreth 90 persona, ndër të tjerë Znj. Christina VASAK, Ambasadorja e Francës në Shqipëri, Znj Milena HARITO, Ministër për Inovacionin dhe Administratën Publike, Z. Julien ROCHE, Kryetari yne, Z. Pirro VENGU, Shef kabinetit, në Ministrinë e Jashtme, Z. Tomi FRASHERI, Keshilltar i kryeministrit gjithashtu dhe anëtarë të CCIFA**

<http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/festa-e-veres-2017/>

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Chambre-de-Commerce-et-dIndustrie-France-Albanie-17720465242672/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=83416523397324](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Chambre-de-Commerce-et-dIndustrie-France-Albanie-17720465242672/photos/?tab=album&album_id=83416523397324)

## Classement CCI FI 2016



Retrouvez toute l'actualité de CCI France International  
et des CCI FI sur **M@CCI**

Dear members,

We are very happy to inform you that thanks to your participation and contribution, our Chamber has been classified above our French Chambers'colleagues in Balkans and several other countries - **report prepared by CCI International for 2016** (*attached*)

This report has been prepared based on:

**Number of members of the CCI; population of the country; activities organized; promotion of the members, no. of staff working for the CCI, etc...**

**WE THANK YOU ALL!**

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**Vous êtes plus de 1,000 à nous suivre chaque jour! Merci**



**+ 1000**



**ON FACEBOOK**

<https://www.facebook.com/Chambre-de-Commerce-et-dlndustrie-France-Albanie-177204652426722>



## Message de l'Ambassadeur, Mme Christina Vasak



### Remise des lettres de créance

<https://al.ambafrance.org/Message-de-l-Ambassadeur-Mme-Christina-Vasak>



# PROUD OF OUR MEMBERS:

Joli succès pour le vernissage de l'exposition autour des créations de "Cécile & Albana", le 17 juin 2017, à la **Maison de l'Albanie**.

Nous avons eu le plaisir de compter parmi nous aussi des diplomates français et beaucoup d'autres amis de l'Albanie en France



### CCI AWARD 2016 VLERËSON ERJOLA BRAHA DHE VILA ALEHANDRO: "MODESTIA DHE PUNA JANË ÇELËSI I SUKSESIT"



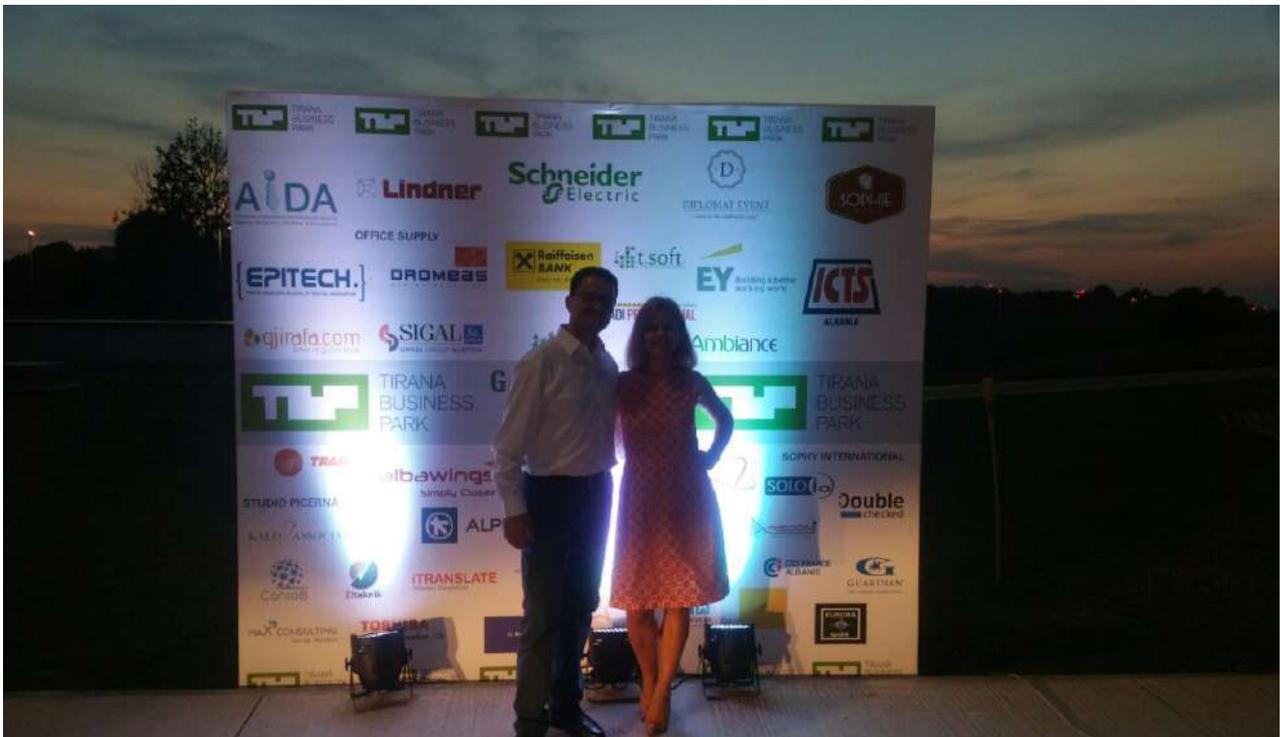
Alehandro Distribution dhe Vila Alehandro u vlerësuan për përkushtimin dhe pasionin përgjatë viteve në artin e kulinarisë, listën e jashtëzakonshme të verërave, nga më të famshmet e pesë kontinenteve. Alehandro Distribucion e ka origjinën e saj në vitin 2001, si një ndër kompanitë e para në import dhe distribucion në Shqipëri.



## Gala Dinner @ TBP

Amazing dinner was prepared by our member **Hotel Diplomat** accompanied by live music from Mr. Kastriot Tusha under the stars.

**Big Bravo to Hotel Diplomat!**



Logo of **our Chamber** & successful companies in Albania....

## Fête de la musique à Tirana



## *A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE /HIGHLIGHTS*

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### **Fiscal administration claims a sharp rise in tax revenue**

The tax administration, including the Tax and Customs, has managed to collect more revenue in the state coffers than a year ago. Referring to the previous fiscal indicators of the Ministry of Finance, it comes out that during five months this administration were collected ALL 150.4 billion, or 8.9 billion more than the same period a year earlier, when they collected about ALL 141.4 billion. According to these data revenues from taxes on the value of ALL 91 billion, while customs ALL 59.3 billion. Throughout the past year, the underperformance in the implementation of tax and customs revenue was the main cause why some heads of these institutions were replaced. But it seems that the launch of this year's budget has changed the trend of poor performance in revenue collection. The revenues to the state budget continued the upward trend during the first five months, garnering more than the same period a year ago. The heads of public finances, who explain the growth of the revenue with the recent reforms, claim that a positive effect has come from the change of the fiscal administration approach in relation to business.

(ATSH)

### **Businesses in Albania seeks lowering of some taxes**

Less than one week before the June 25 general elections, the business community in Albania has requested the Albanian political parties to consider the reviewing of several taxes which are currently being applied in the country, local media reported Monday. The representatives of business community here met Monday and pointed out the need to reduce Value Added Tax (VAT), which is currently at the level of 20 percent Moderate reduction of the level of VAT, progressive decrease for specific sectors and reviewing of local government taxes for manufacturing businesses, because they are very high, business representatives said. On the other hand, the business community also demanded reduction of local government taxes and the reduction of costs for farmers. Since Albania has already officially opened the summer season, the business representatives demanded the immediate implementation of recent government's decision which foresees the reduction of Value Added Tax to 6 percent. Bylaws of the new law on Vat for tourism must be drafted, because June 6 should have seen the enactment of this bill and due to the caretaker ministers, this has not yet happened, they told local media. On the other hand, economy experts here have said that tax policies in Albania were chaotic and that no electoral program offered adequate support for the main two priorities, education and health. They said that the reduction of tax on profit and other sources of incomes to no more than 12 percent would be a real reduction of the tax burden. According to economy experts, Albania should keep lower taxes for at least ten years in order to be become more attractive to foreign businesses and provide a positive impact to the economy.

(Scan TV)

## ***A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS***

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### **Albania's trade deficit narrows by 4.1 pct year-on-year in first 5 months of 2017**

Albania's trade deficit in the five months of this year registered a decline of 4.1 percent year-on-year, totaling at 127 billion lek (1.07 billion U.S. dollars), Albanian statistical office, INSTAT, said Monday. INSTAT experts told reporters that Albanian exports rose by 16.7 percent on the year amounting to 111 billion lek, while imports increased by 4.6 percent, amounting to 238 billion leks. Only in May 2017, the exports amounted to 24 billion lek, increasing by 18 percent compared to the corresponding period of 2016 while they rose by 0,8 percent compared to the previous month, according to statistics institute. Imports of goods in May 2017 amounted to 55 billion lek, increasing by 5.8 pct, in comparison to the previous year and by 9.7 pct in comparison to April 2017, data showed. Thus, in May alone, Albania's trade deficit totaled 31 billion lek, down 2.2 pct year-on-year. Italy remained Albania's main trading partner in the January-May of 2017, absorbing 54.4 pct of Albania's exports and providing 29.7 pct of the imports into the country. According to INSTAT, other major importers into Albania were Turkey, Germany, Greece, and China. Albania exported mainly textiles, footwear, minerals, and construction materials and metals, and imported mostly machinery, spare parts, food, beverages and tobacco, chemical and plastic products. Albanian exports had dropped for two consequent years, 2015-2016, due to the lower oil prices. But this year, the tendency has changed and exports are growing.

(Rilindja Demmokratike)

### **Albania's Jan-May budget surplus falls on higher expenditures**

Albania posted a budget surplus of 6.3 billion leks (\$53 million/47.5 million euro) in the first five months of 2017, compared to a surplus of 18.3 billion leks a year earlier, according to preliminary data released by the finance ministry. The decline resulted from a 16.4% increase in total expenditures to 170 billion leks, as both current and capital expenditures rose, the data showed. Total budget revenue grew 7.3% to 176.3 billion leks. Albania recorded a budget deficit of 26.7 billion leks last year, lower than planned 35.7 billion leks shortfall. (Report TV)

### **75,4% of households in Albania live in detached houses**

More than 75.4% of households in Albania live in detached houses. This is confirmed by the Household Budget Survey, according to which, the rest of Albanians who live in buildings with up to 15 apartments occupy 13.6% of the total. "Meanwhile, homes which are part of buildings with 15 or more apartments account for 10.7% of family homes in Albania", the survey adds. According to this survey, it is a fact that homes with an area bigger than 90 square meters account for the majority part of total number of homes. "Homes with an area ranging from 91 to 130 square meters rank second as far as their distribution is concerned, at a level of 31.3%", the above mentioned survey adds. Meanwhile, the survey also adds in 93% of cases, people own the homes in which they live in.

(Scan TV)

## **Albanians are the second largest community of emigrants in Italy**

Albanians account for the second largest community of emigrants in Italy with around 448 thousand. This figure is provided by Italian authorities. According to these authorities, Albanians are second on the list after Romanians, which account for 1,1 million emigrants in Italy. According to the official figures, the number of Albanians in Italy has registered a decrease compared to last year with around 20 thousand individuals. This relates to the fact that many of them have now obtained Italian citizenship. Italian authorities explain that among 200 thousand foreigners who were given Italian nationality, 18% of them are Albanians. Meanwhile, out of 200 nationalities that currently live in Italy, Albanians account for 8,9% of them.

(Dita)

## **Number of road accidents in Albania is growing**

Number of road accidents in Albania is growing. This is confirmed by the latest data supplied by the Institute of Statistics. According to this institution, the month of May registered 176 accidents. "The number of people involved in accidents is 240 people as opposed to 224 a year ago", INSTAT reports, adding that during the first five months of the year, the number of people involved in accidents has gone down by 4%, compared to the same period a year ago. "The number of deaths in May 2017 is 16. Compared to the average of deaths in 2016, this number has decreased by 28.6%. In May, in 73.3% of cases, road accidents have occurred as a result of the behavior of the car driver. The highest number of road accidents has been caused by people aged 25-35 with 30.1% of cases", are also some of the other data reported by the Institute of Statistics in Albania. "In May, the number of people involved in accidents per 100.000 people was around 8. Compared to 2016, this number grew by 3.4%", INSTAT concludes.

(Ora News)

## **Market study on tourism**

The Albanian Development Fund announced recently that is seeking an international consultant to draft the final report on tourism in southern Albania. This component is part of the project finances by World Bank and aims to provide a detailed market research in four municipalities: Gjirokastra, Berat, Permet and Saranda. World Bank has approved a 63.8 million euro loan but the financing for market research costs less than the loan amount. The preliminary report will analyze the current status of tourism in four municipalities. Then there will be a market research followed by an action plan and development strategy. The fourth task is to compile TORs for the implementation of the strategy. The consultant is expected to sign a contract within September and begin work in October. His mandate will be until June 2018. The objective is to restore the four municipalities in key tourism centers performing well in a longer period of time and after the World Bank project is complete.

(Scan TV)

### **EUROSTAT; Albania, the cheapest in Europe for restaurants and hotels**

Albania is the second cheapest country in the European continent for consumer goods and household goods, according to Eurostat's latest data. The European Union Bureau of Statistics analyzes 28 European Union countries, EFTA countries and candidate countries in a total of 37 countries. Data refer to last year and prices refer to 6 different categories. In one of them, namely restaurants and hotels, Albania is the cheapest in Europe, overcoming even Macedonia, so in overall, in six categories, it turns out that Albania is the least expensive country in Europe. In total, prices in Albania for these six categories are as high as 49% of the European average, almost half of the prices in Europe. For restaurants and hotels, prices in Albania are 60% cheaper than in Europe and the region. Meanwhile, in two categories, for consumer apparel and consumer electronics, Albania offers prices almost the same as the European average of the 28 EU member countries. For consumer electronics, prices in Albania are even more expensive than in Europe. Meanwhile, for clothes, Albania is only 4% cheaper than the European Union.

(Scan TV)

### **Abu Dhabi fund financed 27 mln euro, 6 mln euro for the underground parking of the new boulevard**

The fund for Tirana's main boulevard amounted to 27 million euros, while the underground parking project cost 6 million euros. The Municipality of Tirana has been able to finance this project through an Abu Dhabi fund loan with a total value of 48 million euros. Part of this loan is also for the project for rehabilitation of Tirana River with an amount of 20.5 million euros, including 2.5 million Euro for oversight and 4.5 million Euro as reserve fund. This project consists in the construction of a boulevard 1.8 kilometers long and 70 meters wide, starting from the former Train Station to the bank of the Tirana River. At the beginning of the boulevard there is a two-storey underground parking lot with a capacity of 321 parking spaces, 8 parking spaces for the disabled and an electric parking place. Currently, about 50% of the total construction work for the new boulevard has been realized, with 300 lighting spots, 1100 trees and 7300 bushes.

(Shqiptarja/web)

### **Albania's budget revenue increases in first five months of 2017**

Albanian state budget revenue collections amounted to around 176.2 billion lek in the first five months of 2017, Ministry of Finance said on Tuesday. According to the Ministry of Finance in its financial indicators for the first five months of this year, state budget collected 118.7 billion lek in customs revenue and over 163.4 billion lek in tax revenue. Total public expenditure at the end of first five months amounted to 169.9 billion lek, going up by over 24 billion lek compared to the same period of the previous year.

(ATSH)

## **Number of foreign visitors to Albania up 9.5% y/y in Jan-May**

The number of foreign nationals who visited Albania in the first five months of the year rose by 9.5% to 1.32 million, the statistical office, INSTAT, said on Thursday. Foreign nationals who visited Albania for the purpose of recreation represented 27.8% of all international visitors, or 366,919, INSTAT said. By comparison, 132,729 foreign nationals visited Albania for recreational purposes in January-May 2016, or 11% of the total number of foreign visitors, INSTAT said citing data from the state police directorate.

(Dita)

## **Italy is Albania's main trade partner**

As Albania's exports reached the amount of ALL 111 billion for the five-month period of 2017, this growth has also come as a result of the strengthening of trade relations with key partners such as Italy, Kosovo and China. Italy continues to hold its strong position as the main partner, and for the period January to May 2017 accounted for 54% of exports, though falling from last year when it accounted for 58% of exports. But there is also a good news for Albania regarding decentralization and dependence on exports. The main groups leading in exports to Italy were "minerals, fuels" and "textiles and footwear". External trade has increased towards almost all partner countries, overcoming the ALL 1 billion to the US and doubling for the exports to Spain and China. And in Spain, a new market for minerals, fuels and electricity has been found, as this grouping has experienced a six-fold increase, from ALL 617 million in 2016 to over ALL 4 billion in 2017. The countries to which exports are experiencing a reduction are the United Kingdom, Croatia and Russia, although in small numbers, but above all, there is a halving of exports to Switzerland at ALL 650 million, from over ALL 1 billion of the same period a year ago. As for imports, which increased by ALL 10 billion over this period, this growth is mainly attributed to the growth in demand for goods from Italy, the countries of the region, including Turkey, where the latter has moved to the position of the second main partner from the fifth that it was ranked last year. Added demand for goods has been in almost all categories, especially in the "Foods, beverages, tobacco" and "Textiles and footwear" groupings. These demands have been met mainly by the two main partner countries in import, Italy and Turkey.

(Scan TV)

## **CEB Gives Euro 28.7mln for "Alps and Coastal Development"**

One of Albania's most beautiful coastal cities, Vlore, south Albania will be supported by a 28.7 million euro fund project of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) on the implementation of 'Development of the Alps and Coastal areas' in Albania, including also construction of the main road axis such as Vlore -Kanine. The aim of the project is to improve infrastructure to serve the function of tourism development. Albanian Development Fund opened calls on proposals to interested companies pointing out that the project on this road will be co-funded by a 6 million euro fund of the Albanian government. Construction of the road is expected to finish within six months aiming to improve inhabitants' commuting means as well as the tourists visiting the castle.

(Albanian Daily News, 5)

### **Tax administration, revenue target achieved at the extent of 104 % in first 5 months Scan TV**

Vice Minister of Finance, Irena Beqiraj, and taxes-levies director general Vasilika Vjero held on Thursday a meeting with directors of General Directorate of Taxes with main focus on the performance of tax administration over January- May 2017. Analyzing the indicators in relation to the previous year, Vjero praised the raise and the achievement of the planned revenue collection target at the extent of 104 percent. She put the emphasis on systematic approach to ensure a progressive and stable increase from May. Meanwhile, Vice Minister of Finance Irena Beqiraj said that tax administration as the main pillar of economic consolidation has significantly improved the performance indicators in these 5 months. She put the emphasis on implementation of the govt.'s economic plan as well as its policies saying the recent govt. initiative for VAT reduction in tourism from 20 to 6 percent will give fresh impetus to economic development in the country In the first 5 months this year the net incomes generated by tax administration are estimated at ALL 89.7 bn.

(Balkanweb)

### **Drought forces Albania to import energy**

The recent drought has forced the Energy Distribution Operator (OSHEE) to start a bid to import 285.000 MW to supply the country for the June 28th and July 31st period. The water reserves at the Drin cascade have dropped to minimal levels, even 15 meters lower than the last year. With these imports, OSHEE plans to cover 53% of the consumption, while the rest, 47%, will be covered by local production. These imports will hurt the OSHEE annual budget significantly, forced to even cut its further investments, since current prices will force them pay 18 million EUR just for July.

(Balkanweb)

### **Albania's EU-harmonised annual inflation slows to 3.4% in May**

Albania's annual EU-harmonised consumer price inflation decelerated to 3.4% in May, from 3.6% in April, the country's statistical office, INSTAT, said on Thursday. May inflation was driven mainly by a 7.4% year-on-year rise in the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) of food and non-alcoholic beverages, which have the largest weight of 38.02% in the consumer basket, INSTAT said in a monthly HICP report. On a monthly comparison basis, Albania's HICP edged down 1.6% in May. Albania's non-HICP has risen by 2% on the year, speeding up from a 1.9% increase in April, INSTAT said two weeks ago. On a monthly comparison basis, non-harmonised prices fell by 1.2% in May, after decreasing 0.6% a month earlier. INSTAT started publishing inflation measurement through the HICP in February. The HICP measures consumer price inflation in the euro area. It is compiled according to a methodology that has been harmonised across EU countries to ensure that the data for one country can be compared with the data for another.

(Scan TV)

# Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

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**BALLKAN WEB**

**SCAN TV**

**ALBANIAN DAILY NEWS**

**CCI FRANCE ALBANIE**

**SHQIPTARJA WEBS**

**ORA NEWS**

**DITA**

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**RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE**

**REPORT TV**

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La revue de presse hebdomadaire est une synthèse de l'actualité à partir des nouvelles et articles publiés par les revues hebdomadaires albanaises. Les opinions, critiques et points de vue exprimés ne sauraient refléter une quelconque position des auteurs, de la CCI France Albanie, Le Service Presse de l'Ambassade de France en Albanie et sont simplement le reflet de ce qui a été publié.

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