

# 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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## LÉGENDE DE LA CITADELLE

EXPOSITION COLLECTIVE

16 artistes peintres albanais s'inspirent du

patrimoine du pays et les mythes du passé et les chimères du présent

PAGE ADUPLICATION ET L'ENVOI GRATUIT A D'AUTRES CORRESPONDANTS QUE LES SEULS ABONNES DE CCLFA WEEKLY NEWS PEUVENT REMETTRE EN CAUSE SON EXISTENCE MEME. MERCI DE VOTRE COMPREHENSION SUR CE POINT.



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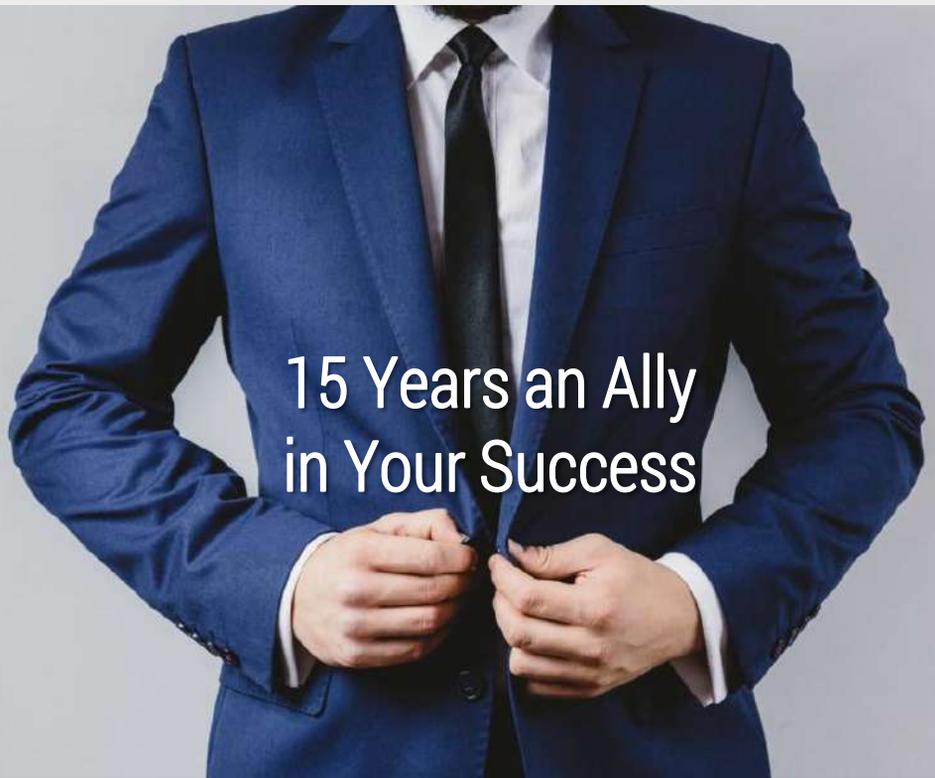
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Accueil | Philosophie et Rare | Balade philosophique en Albanie avec L'institut Européen de Philosophie Pratique (iePP)



Saisissez la chance de participer à des visites intégralement en français sur des thèmes aussi curieux qu'insolites, propres à la culture albanaise.

- Découverte
- Nature
- Plage
- Montagne
- Collaboratif / Aide
- Philosophie et Rare
- Musical
- Excursions / Week end
- NightLife / Beach Party

<http://vacancesalbanie.com/index.php/des-voyages-d-exceptions-en-albanie/307-balade-philosophique-en-albanie-avec-l-institut-europeen-de-philosophie-pratique-iepp>

## Balade philosophique en Albanie avec L'institut Européen de Philosophie Pratique (iePP)

**Une aventure humaine et collective, une invitation à philosopher tout en marchant, en découvrant nos voisins de coeur d'Albanie qui ont depuis des décennies un passé commun avec la France. Gjirokastër, ville emblématique de la culture albanaise tant pour son architecture de style Ottoman classée au patrimoine de l'Unesco que par son rayonnement intellectuel et artistique. La langue Albanaise quand à elle est aussi parsemée de mots transparents que vous aurez le plaisir d'entendre résonner dans vos esprits. Les grands érudits albanais dont Ismail Kadaré sont francophones tout comme bon nombre de personnalités politiques et scientifiques.**

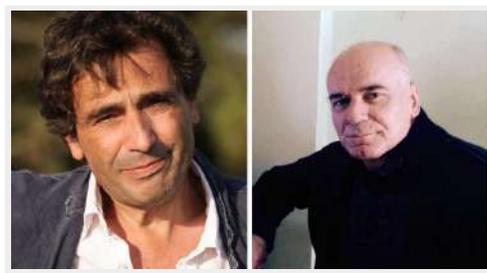
Ce séjour est placé sous le signe de la rencontre (pays, culture, habitants...) et de ce qu'elle éveille en nous : nul besoin d'avoir lu Kant ou Platon, juste le désir de penser ensemble, avec la nature et dans la bonne humeur, de répondre aux questions qui se poseront chemin faisant.  
 Une re-découverte de soi et de plaisirs simples ...



## Randonner et philosopher

- Se laisser inspirer par la marche et la nature, ressentir la plénitude, se ressourcer...
- Redécouvrir le plaisir d'une pensée libre, sans jugement, en marche
- Partager des aspirations, des questions, des convictions ou des doutes, et apprendre les uns des autres et ainsi se former au vrai débat philosophique
- Vivre une histoire collective et amicale, apprécier les idées et les pensées des autres
- Découvrir via l'échange culturel cette histoire communiste si mal connue et l'étonnante entente en Albanie entre les religions, un exemple dans la rencontre entre l'Orient et l'occident
- Et ainsi, mieux comprendre pourquoi chacun agit comme il agit et se sentir prêt à envisager le présent et l'avenir avec lucidité et imagination

**Bernard Benattar, philosophe français, spécialiste de l'action collective et du travail** ; anime depuis plus de vingt ans des débats publics, des cafés philo et accompagne les organisations publiques et privées dans leurs positionnements éthiques. Il vous guidera dans cette aventure de la pensée en marche vers une philosophie joyeuse et créative. (Découvrir le site internet de Bernard Benattar : <http://www.penser-ensemble.eu/>)



**Viktor Sharra, érudit albanais francophone, ancien responsable des cultes, spécialiste des musiques et cultures traditionnelles albanaises.**

Il vous fera découvrir le passé de son pays, et vous démontrera pourquoi après plus de vingt-cinq ans de liberté, l'Albanie reste un pays mystérieux mais des plus accueillants.

## Inauguration d'une nouvelle agence bancaire de la Société générale à Durrës

### Përurimi i degës së re të bankës Société générale në Durrës

L'ambassade de France a participé à Durrës à l'inauguration de la 39ème agence bancaire de la Société générale en Albanie le jeudi 20 avril 2017. Devant le Directeur M. Frédéric Blanc, les membres des comités de gestion et les invités, Mme Isabelle Le Guellec, Première conseillère, a rappelé le dynamisme de la Société générale et a réaffirmé le soutien de l'ambassade de France au groupe bancaire au service du développement économique et social de l'Albanie

Ambasada e Francës mori pjesë në përurimin e degës së re në Durrës të bankës Société générale në Shqipëri, e 39-ta për këtë bankë në Shqipëri, ditën e enjte, 20 prill 2017. Zonja Isabelle Le Guellec, Këshilltare e parë, i kujtoi Drejtorit, Zotit Frédéric Blanc, anëtarëve të komitetit drejtues dhe të ftuarve dinamizmin e bankës Société générale dhe ripohoi mbështetjen e ambasadës së Francës për grupin bankar në shërbim të zhvillimit ekonomik dhe shoqëror në Shqipëri



Directeur de la Société Générale M. Frédéric Blanc



Première conseillère de l'Ambassade de France en Albanie, Mme Isabelle Le Guellec

**“SALT REST OPEN PARTY”;**  
Magnific place for our members and friends



**SALT Restaurant – Great for every hour**

Everyone is talking about and checking in at SALT right now in Tirana! Since the opening a few months ago, it seems like this is the perfect place to be for dinner, lunch or maybe just drinks.

SALT restaurant became instantly famous for its great location in the very center of the Blloku area. The amazing veranda, perfect for the spring and summer days and nights is an added value to this beautiful location. Besides the nice atmosphere, the food and the drinks prepared with care are indeed delicious. The menu is not very large but there are many Italian-inspired dishes that can go very well with the great choices of wine, beers or cocktails of the house. A hit that everyone is loving is ‘La pizza lunga’ (Long pizza) that you can order by the centimeters and is served in a large tray for everyone to try, it looks and tastes fantastic



Mrs Mirjana Kuka, owner

**Félicitations à tous !**

"La Maison de l'Albanie", notre Administrateur

# LÉGENDE DE LA CITADELLE

EXPOSITION COLLECTIVE

16 artistes peintres albanais s'inspirent du patrimoine du pays pour exprimer l'esprit des mythes du passé et les chimères du présent

**15 mai - 27 mai 2017**

Beffroi - Mairie du 1<sup>er</sup> - 4 place du Louvre - Paris 1<sup>er</sup>  
du lundi au vendredi: 10h00 - 17h00  
samedi: 10h00 - 12h00

Ambassade d'Albanie en France & la Mairie du 1<sup>er</sup> arrondissement de Paris  
en partenariat avec *Fondacioni KALO*



sous le signe des « Temps forts de la culture albanaise en France 2016-2017 »

avec le soutien de Rezart Jasa Events & La Maison de l'Albanie

# FOCUS MEMBRES & CCIFA



## FORUM

### PRESENTEZ VOTRE ENTREPRISE PREZANTONI KOMPANINE TUAJ

Place & date  
to be decided



*En commerce, l'occasion est tout!*

*"Në biznes, shfrytëzimi i oportuniteteve është gjithçka!"*

*Honoré de Balzac*



#### Chers membres,

Voulez-vous présenter votre entreprise aux autres membres en présence des invités spéciaux ?

À quoi sert une présentation d'entreprise ?

L'objectif de cette communication d'entreprise est de susciter l'attention de votre interlocuteur, lui donner envie d'en apprendre davantage sur votre société, susciter sa confiance et l'encourager à travailler avec vous. En quelques phrases, il doit saisir la valeur ajoutée que vous pouvez apporter et le profit qu'il peut tirer de cette collaboration.

#### Të nderuar anëtarë,

Dëshironi të prezantoni kompaninë tuaj anëtarëve të tjerë si edhe të ftuarëve specialë ?

Për çfarë shërben prezantimi i kompanisë?

Qëllimi i prezantimi është që të ngjalli vëmendjen e partnerëve tuaj, që ata të duan të mësojnë më shumë për kompaninë tuaj, të rrisë besimin e kompanisë dhe të inkurajojë partneret që të punojnë me ju. Me pak fjalë, prezantimi i kompanisë duhet të tregojë vlerën e shtuar dhe çfarë përfiton nje partner nga ky bashkëpunim.

<http://www.ccifa.al/fileadmin/template/albanie/uploads/Forumi.pdf>  
<http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/forum-presentez-votre-entreprise/>

# Promote YOUR COMPANY

The French Chamber's publications offer your company key tools to promote your products and services to a unique target of professionals interested or involved in the trade between France and the Albania.

More information: <http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/promote-your-company/>



**BIENVENUE À LA CCI FRANCE ALBANIE**



Albanie - Signature par Harlem Désir et Ditmir Bushati ! | 30 mars 2017



Advanced Business Solutions | 29 mars 2017



Trois nouveaux membres | 27 mars 2017



Jean-Alain Award from President - "Grand Master" | 27 mars 2017

**REKLAMA 2**  
310x144

 VOUS AVEZ UN PROJET  
EN ALBANIE  
ET VOUS SOUHAITEZ ETRE  
ACCOMPAGNE?

**DEMANDEZ UN DEVIS**

**DEVENIR MEMBRE**

JULIEN ROCHE - BRESSAN D'HONNEUR  
2014 - ACADÉMIE DE LA BRESSE +

JULIEN ROCHE- EN FRANCAIS "KRONIKE  
E PAMBARUAR" - ORA NEWS +

JulienRoche en francais  



**REKLAMA 1**  
640x100

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

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### **Albania's Eurosig selling 90% of Insig (Rilindja Demokratike)**

Albanian insurer Eurosig is selling 90% of the life-insurance business of its wholly owned subsidiary Insig to two local entrepreneurs, Samir Mane and Shefqet Kastrati, according to media reports. After the transaction, Eurosig will own a 10% stake in the life-insurance business of Insig, Albanian business magazine Monitor reported. Kadri Morina, CEO of Eurosig, has confirmed the transaction is under way, Monitor said. Insig had a market share of 7.7% in the life-insurance segment in Albania as of end-March, according to data from the country's financial supervisory authority, AMF. Samir Mane is president and owner of one of Albania's largest private investment groups, Balfin Group. He will acquire 45% of the life-insurance business of Insig, according to Monitor. Shefqet Kastrati, who will also acquire a 45% stake, is the owner and president of Kastrati Group, a company for trading, storage and retail of petroleum. Eurosig bought both the life and non-life insurance businesses of Insig from Albania's government for 2.2 billion leks (\$17.9 million/16.3 million euro) in May 2016. Back then the government received three more offers in the tender for Insig. One of the bidders was Balfin Group. Kastrati Group also participated in the tender jointly with its subsidiary Albsig.

### **Foreign banks in Albania have adequate capital levels (ATA)**

Foreign banking groups operating in our country have generally shown adequate indices of capitalization. Bank of Albania announces that their activity is generally affected by the process of debt reduction and the need to clear the balance sheets from non-performing loans. However, the results of defense tests published by European Banking Authority (EBA) demonstrated good skills in coping with macroeconomic shocks, despite an increasing sensitivity in some of the banking groups. Contraction of activity by some of European banking groups in our country maintain the stimuli for restructuring of activity, including the change of their network in countries outside the EU. This process is based on a thorough analysis of the costs and benefits at the group level in relation to its short and long term objectives, and is oriented towards the actual and potential performance of the activity of each network unit in the jurisdictions they operate.

### **Private investments and consumption marked an increase in first trimester of 2017 (Koha Jone)**

During the first trimester of the current year, Albanian economy accelerated the pace of growth through an increase of consumption and private investments. The Bank of Albania reports that consumption and the private investments got increased favored by the low interest rates, increase of employment, improvement of trust and a high influx of foreign direct investments. The economic growth reflected extension of the domestic and foreign demand for goods and services. The Bank of Albania Report observes that the economic growth of the forth According to the Bank of Albania, the monetary policy has backed reduction of funding costs and increase of loan in local currency, while the total increase of loan remains still low. By the end of March, loan to the private sector was 3.3% higher than the previous year.

### **USAID and Tirana Municipality to hold olive oil fair (ABC News)**

USAID/Albania in collaboration with the Municipality of Tirana, the Albanian Olive Oil Association, and AAC – Lushnja will organize a street fair at the so-called creative square at Tirana's recently renovated "New Bazaar", (Pazari i Ri) this week. More than 20 olive oil processing companies from all over the country will showcase their locally produced olive oil products during the fair, due to open to the public on May 10. The event will also include taste testing of the olive oil by members of Albanian panel of degustation. A series of planned activities will fill the festive atmosphere during all the day. The activities will end with the announcement of prize awards for the competition of extra virgin olive oil.

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

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### **Albania plans to set up new airline**

Albania's prime minister Edi Rama said on Monday that Albania plans to set a national air carrier with the support of Turkish Airlines. According to Rama, the project was being developed with the support of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, assisted by Turkish Airlines. Speaking at the joint press conference with Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee of Turkish Airlines, Ilker Ayci, the Albanian prime minister noted that the new airline would begin a new era of opportunities in Albanian air transport. He said that service quality of the air transport for Albanian passengers will see a considerable improvement. Further details will be disclosed in the next months. On his part, Ayci said that a feasibility study on the new airline is underway, and he also talked about the project to open a new airport in the southern coastal city of Vlora and the construction of a tourist airport in the town of Saranda. Last month, Rama briefly mentioned the airline project, saying that it will offer flights to Skopje, Pristina, Podgorica, Sarajevo, and Zagreb, as well to Western Europe. Albania has been without a flag carrier since 2011 when the country's Civil Aviation Authority revoked the licence of Albanian Airlines. (ABC News; Panorama,9)

### **Albanian energy min invites expression of interest in mineral deposits mining**

Interest for Albanian minerals is growing, as the Albanian government has made an offer for another 15 new mineral areas in the entire territory of the country. According to the ministry of Energy and Industry, the list of free mineral zones for which the business sector may bid is led by the Hill of Kojlika in the district of Durres, as this area is rich in limestone. The list continues with the area of Balgjaj in Dibra, declared as a free zone for chrome. The area of Gjinaj, in Kukës, also offers chrome along with the area of Zercan in Dibra. Meanwhile, another free zone has been declared in the area of Mengaj in Tirana for gypsum. All the operators interested on these areas have been invited to bid until 1 June 2017. (Scan TV;)

### **World Bank's energy project**

In its latest revision of the Power Recovery Plan in the energy sector, World Bank provides a positive evaluations of the indicators of the project. The revised draft will be submitted to the government within May. The Bank's report provides a detailed account of the expenses on investments and upcoming procurements. "PMU/PIUs have issued all key procurement packages under the project, with the exception of two HV/MV Substations at Kombina; it has also signed Euro 46 million in contract awards (Concrete Poles, MV-LV Cables & Accessories, Billing System, Meters for distribution, Distribution Transformation Stations, Meters for distribution and metering system for Transmission). Equipment and materials delivery is ongoing, and both OSHEE and OST will award works civil and installation contracts for its implementation during the summer, 2017," the document read. The 150 million USD worth Power Recovery project is one of the biggest in Albania. (Scan TV)

### **New custom code**

June 1st marks the complete entering to force of the new custom code approved in parliament three years ago. During the meeting of the Council of Investments, Minister of Economy, Milva Ekonomi made several proposals for easing custom procedures in the framework of CEFTA. Ekonomi said that exporting businesses need more information to benefit from legal amendments and new procedures. The Custom Code entered gradually to force since 2015. It aims to simplify procedures, controls based on risk and paves the way to a e-customs regime. (Top Channel)

### **EU offers support to Albanian young entrepreneurs**

The European Union (EU) delegation in Albania announced Tuesday the five winners for start-up and young entrepreneurs of the national contest Start Up Albania 2017, the EU office here said in a press statement. The project was realized through the EU information network, in cooperation with the Albanian Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration as well as Albanian Investments Agency. While awarding the prizes, the head of EU delegation to Albania Romana Vlahutin highlighted that such initiatives encouraged young entrepreneurs and offered them opportunities to compete on the European markets. Start-Up Albania 2017 aims to strengthen the climate of business embracing innovation and technology as key elements for business development with special focus on youth, she told at a conference. According to Vlahutin, startups still find it difficult to find favorable environment in Albania, so EU will provide support to an innovative eco-system by establishing an incubator, improving access to finance and acceleration support to innovative start-ups. "EU support for Competitiveness and Innovation sector includes an allocation of almost 50 million euros (2014-2020), of which we have targeted 6.6 million euros for innovation," Vlahutin noted. The Start Up Albania 2017 was launched on March 1, 2017, with the participation of 77 applicants. The applications cover areas like information technology, social business, and agriculture.

(ABC News, Sot,4)

### **Saudi Fund for Development lends 30 mln euro to Albania for road construction**

Albania's finance ministry signed on Wednesday an agreement with the Saudi Fund for Development for a \$30 million (27.6 million euro) loan for the construction of a road section in the south of the country, the ministry said. The 30 km section is part of a 94 km road linking Vloora with Tepelene along the Vloora river, the finance ministry said in a statement. The costs of the entire project are estimated at \$72 million, as \$42 million are financed by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. The construction works are expected to be carried out until 2020.

(Balkanweb)

### **Private pensions: FSA proposes financial incentives to boost market**

The Financial Supervisory Authority has proposed an increase in tax incentives for contributions to private pension funds. According to the proposed amendments to the law "On Voluntary Pension Funds", the FSA proposes an increase of the annual amount of the not taxed contribution from 200 ALL thousand to ALL 240 thousand per year. The law of 2009 provides that the contribution made by each member of a pension fund is deducted from his personal income, for tax purposes, but with some restrictions. This limit is at 15% of the annual gross income, but not more than ALL 200 thousand per year. An exception are persons aged over 50 years, in which case the amount excluded from tax could reach up to 25% of annual income, but not more than ALL 250 thousand per year. With the proposed changes, the FSA aims to arouse the interest of individuals to contribute in private pension funds. After the new tax on personal income in 2014, the advantages of investing in private pension funds have grown, because some of the higher income are exempt from tax. In particular, those who have gross income from wages at over ALL 130 thousand per month, may exclude a portion of this income tax at the rate 23%, by investing in the form of contributions to a pension fund. According to data from the Financial Supervisory Authority, the number of members of private pension schemes in 2016 amounted to over 17 thousand individuals.

(Scan TV)

## **EC lifts Albania 2017 GDP growth forecast to 3.7%**

The European Commission said on Thursday it has raised its projection for Albania's economic growth in 2017 to 3.7% from 3.5% previously. Growth will be driven by household spending and investments, according to the Commission's Spring 2017 Economic Forecast. "Rising employment and higher wages are expected to continue supporting household spending over the forecast horizon," the Commission said. Domestic demand is expected to continue to be supported from an accommodative monetary policy, the Commission added. The country's central bank is maintaining its policy interest rate unchanged at a record low level of 1.25% since 2016. The Commission expects investment activity to remain strong on the back of the two large ongoing projects in the energy sector, the Devolli hydropower project and the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), and foresees stabilisation of investments in the extraction sector, due to higher commodity prices compared to 2016. The Commission pointed to several risks to the forecast. "In particular, the political crisis surrounding the parliamentary election, scheduled for June 2017, may eventually dampen consumption and investment," it said. "In addition, credit recovery may take longer than expected and the still elevated level of sovereign debt provides little room for countercyclical policies in case of need." The Commission also lifted its forecast for Albania's economic growth next year - to 3.9% from 3.6% in the winter edition of the forecast.

(Scan TV)

## **Index of property prices in Albania falls by 5.9%**

In Albania, properties are cheaper than before, following a drop of the index of property sale prices by 5.9% in the first quarter of the year. This was announced by the Bank of Albania, according to which, after a 4% growth in the last quarter of 2016, this index dropped again in the first months of the year. As far as rents are concerned, they have seen an increase. According to the Bank of Albania, the rent index continues to grow for the third quarter in a row, reaching a level of 6.3% in real annual terms. This growth is explained by the growth of the demand for rented property, especially in the capital, Tirana and also due to the fact that many people are unable to buy a home because of their high prices.

(Scan TV)

## **IMF: "Boycott and protests increase uncertainty for the economy"**

The International Monetary Fund declared that the Albanian economy is resisting to the political uncertainties, but they warn that a prolonged crisis would have negative consequences. "The boycott of the Albanian opposition, public protests and their declarations increase the level of political uncertainty. The economy has held well so far, but a long political crisis would create uncertainty and would encourage businesses and citizens to be more careful before spending their investments", declared Jens Reinke, IMF Chief in Tirana. The IMF values that the Albanian economy has produced good news, especially the past year, but everything seems to be overshadowed by the political developments. But is the economic growth assisted by illegal activities, such as cannabis plantations? The IMF answers for the first time: "We don't have any number, but many observers agree that Albania has a huge informal economy. Some of it could be just tax evasion, but, as in every other country, there could be from illegal activities. Some of the international community say this has increased, but I cannot say much about the illegal part. We read news about cannabis and other illegal activities, but those are not included in economic statistics, and we cannot promote them", Reinke said.

(Top Channel; Panorama,9)

# Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

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## Albanian Daily news

Scan TV

ATA

CCI France Albanie

Klan TV

Ambassade de France en Albanie

ABC News

Panorama

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*CCIFA Weekly News is published by CCI France Albania with the support in particular of the Press Service of the French Embassy in Albania.*

### NOTA BENE :

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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