

# CCIFA Weekly News

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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*



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**CCI France – Albanie, a Strong French-Albanian Heartbeat**

*“The 20 events we organize every year, with personalities from the Albanian and French political and business worlds, offer great opportunities for our members to develop their business and expand their network of contacts,” said President of The French Chamber of Commerce in Albania (CCI France – Albanie), Julien Roche in an exclusive interview with FOLLOW BUSINESS ALBANIA.*

He said that nearly 420 French companies export to the Albanian market; around 60 of them are large

## **How and when the French Albanian Chamber of Commerce was born?**

Hi Rudina and thank you for this interview!

Our Chamber has been founded in January 2012 by seven founding members: The French Chamber of Commerce in Albania is part of a network of 113 French Chambers of Commerce and Industry Abroad (CCI France International), which is the largest private French network in the world with a combined membership base of more than 30,000 companies.

One of the largest Foreign Chamber in Albania today in terms of both turnover and range of services offered, we are also member of the "Forum Francophone des affaires" in France.

We count more than 80 member companies - ranging from large companies to SMEs and entrepreneurs.

The diversity and quality of our members - 70% of which are non-French nationals - largely contributes to our success and to the reputation we have acquired over the last 5 years of existence.

## **As well as being a powerful businessman, what are the other reasons behind the choice you made to run this Chamber?**

(Laugh)... thanks, The French Chamber of Commerce plays a critical role in building partnerships and relationships across the French-Albanian business community- this is the reason we founded it.

Our policies are guided by a Board of 10 Directors responsible for all major decisions concerning the Chamber's strategy. The team led by Blerina, our Executive Director is excellent and the members enjoy being part of a dynamic Chamber of Commerce

## **What is the mission behind the CCI France - Albanie and how has this Chamber contributed to the progress of the bilateral cooperation between Albania and France?**

It is very simple; everything we do at CCIFA aims to promote the trade between two countries and promote our members.



*We provide networking opportunities to give Chamber members an opportunity to share ideas with other business owners.*

As a French Chamber since 2012, we have organized important events through which we demonstrate our strong business links with France.

## **How does the current economic situation in both countries affect the overall pace and volume of trade?**



We can mention, Spiecapag, the project TAP; Safran/Morpho for the biometric passport, Airbus helicopters, Nexter systems on defense, CNR on energy sector. We have also EGIS, Societe Generale Albania, Selenice Bitumi on mine industry, MPAY for telephone services, Renault, Citroen,

Peugeot- Cars Industry; internet, agriculture, textile, tour operators, tourism...

**What you are most proud of as a Chamber and what makes it stand out from the other chambers?**

Well, we are proud that our members are

loyal to CCI France Albania; ... The 20 events we organize every year, with personalities from the Albanian and French political and business worlds, offer great opportunities for our members to develop their business and expand their network of contacts.

**Looking to the future, how might the Chamber evolve? Some 'spicy' events to look forward for the rest of 2017...**

*We are in close cooperation with the PACA region (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur); in cooperation with DIHA and other CCI, we organized a Multicultural event – Wine degustation; other event is in social area; also, we aim to promote our members by organizing events dedicated to them.*

Thank you Rudina and see you soon at evenings organized by CCI FA ■





**Chers membres et chers amis,**

Le prochain numéro de la newsletter France Albanie Express sera publiée en Novembre. Merci de me transmettre un article (ou offre) sur vos activités; de préférence en anglais, avec vos coordonnées. Comme toujours, la newsletter va être adressée à notre base de données habituelle (+ 4.000 contacts et a CCI France International - 35.000 contacts, le plus grand réseau dans le monde) La date limite pour envoyer l'article : 1 Novembre 2017

Notre CCI se tient à votre entière disposition,

Bien à vous,



**Të nderuar anëtarë dhe miq,**

Numri i radhës së newsletter-it France Albanie Express do të publikohet në NËNTOR. Ju lutem na dërgoni një artikull (ose ofertë) mbi aktivitetet tuaja; mundësisht në anglisht, ku të jenë edhe të dhënat tuaja. Si zakonisht, Buletini do l shpërndahet bazës tonë të të dhënave (rreth 4000 kontakte dhe CCI France International - 35,000 kontakte, rrjeti më l madh në botë) Afati l dërgimit të artikullit: 1 Nëntor 2017.

Dhoma jonë mbetet në dispozicionin tuaj të plotë,

Gjithë të mirat,

**Dear members and friends,**

The next issue of the newsletter France Albanie Express will be published in NOVEMBER. Please kindly send to me an article (or offer) on your activities; preferably in English, with your contact details. As usually, the newsletter will be sent to our usual database (-4,000 contacts and CCI France International - 35,000 contacts, the largest network in the world) the deadline to send the article: 1 November 2017

Our CCI remains at your disposal,

## Our members...



### **Energy Expo & Forum 2017, 14-16 Nov, Expocity Albania...**

Expocity Albania do të organizojë Energy Expo & Forum në datat 14-16 Nëntor 2017 në bashkëpunim me Ministrinë e Infrastruktës dhe Energjetikës së Shqipërisë dhe me Bashkinë e Tiranës. Ky organizim do të ketë një fokus të veçantë në Energjinë e Rinovueshme dhe në Eficencën e Energjisë, ku të gjithë aktoret e tregut të energjisë elektrike do të paraqesin produktet dhe shërbimet e tyre.

Forumi Ekonomik do të trajtojë gjendjen aktuale të tregut të energjisë elektrike duke përfshirë: legjislacionin e ri, mundësitë e financimeve dhe investimeve në fushën e energjisë së rinovueshme si dhe eficencën e energjisë. Ky panair ka marrë një rëndësi dhe vëmendje të madhe, duke marrë parasysh problematikat që ka ky sektor aktualisht në Shqipëri.

Panairi Energy Expo & Forum, do të përmbajë workshop interaktive, prezantime etj.

Per një informacion më të detajuar gjëni bashkëlidhur materialin:

1. Broshuren e eventit
2. Paketat e sponsorizimit dhe pjesëmarrjes për panairin
3. Paketat e sponsorizimit dhe pjesëmarrjes për forumin

Mbetemi në dispozicion për çdo pyetje që mund të keni në lidhje me organizimin.

Web : [www.expocity.al](http://www.expocity.al)

## Konferencë me Dhomen franceze të permbaruesve - 26-27 tetor 2017 (Hotel Plaza Tirane)

Dhoma franceze e Permbarimit në partneritet me fondacionin për të Drejtën kontinentale në Francë, organizojnë në datat 26-27 tetor 2017, në hotel Plaza, Konferencën me temë: « Ekzekutimi i vendimeve të gjyqësorit: Garanci për një ekonomi efikase ».

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Aktiviteti është organizuar si më poshtë:

Ceremonia e hapjes së konferencës, me datë 26 tetor 2017, personalitetet e larta shqiptare, dhe personalitetet e larta franceze do të prezantojnë kuadrin dhe objektivat e kësaj konference.

Gjatë ditës së dytë të konferencës, me datë 27 tetor 2017, punimet do të organizohen rreth dy tryezave të rrumbullakëta të ndara në panele të ndryshme që kanë të bëjnë me: "profesionistët e ekzekutimit në shërbim të qytetarëve dhe bizneseve", më tej "teknologjitë e reja në shërbim të rritjes së efikasitetit të permbaruesve", të ndjekura nga dy panele tematike mbi: "metodat e trajnimeve" dhe "shitjet në ankand".

Bashkelidhur do të gjeni axhenden e perditesuar të konferencës dhe një informacion përmbledhës të aktivitetit.

# A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

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## **Eurostat: Albania fourth in Europe in terms of price increases (Scan TV)**

Besides exceeding the average rate of EU member countries, price increases in Albania rank the country fourth in the list as far as this indicator is concerned. Such fact is confirmed by the latest report, which reveals concrete information regarding price increases during the month of September. According to the report, if the average price increase in Europe was 1.8%, in Albania it was higher, namely, 2.7%. This way, Albania is only overcome by the Baltic countries, such as Lithuania, where prices have increased by 4%; Estonia by 3.9% and Latvia with 3%. According to Eurostat, the biggest price increase was registered in the "Food and non-alcoholic beverage" group with 6.7%, "Rent, water, fuel and power supply" with 2%, "Education" group with 1.5% and "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco" with 1%.

## **World Bank: Albania won't have the fastest growth rate in the region (Scan TV)**

Unlike all other international institutions, the World Bank seems to have a completely different attitude regarding the economic growth of the region. Recent projections, published by the Washington-based institution in a special report, show that Albania will not be the country with the fastest growth in the region, neither this year nor the next, nor in 2019. In this way, the World Bank has a different attitude from that of the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and other institutions in this regard. The data for the current year show that Albania is the third in the list, behind Montenegro and Kosovo, with a projected growth rate of 3.6%. As for next year, Albania is the second on the list, right after Kosovo. As far as 2019 is concerned, meanwhile, Albania shares the third spot along with two other states; Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Meanwhile, Kosovo and Macedonia are projected to have an economic growth of 4 and 3.9% respectively. For the next two years, Kosovo is projected as the fastest growing economy in the region. However, by averaging the three years, it turns out that Albania has the most stable performance and is second behind Kosovo in terms of economic growth.

## **INSTAT: HICP rose to 2.7% in September**

The harmonized consumer price index rose slightly during September. According to the Institute of Statistics, this indicator increased to 2.7%, from 2.5% that it was in August. The harmonized inflation continues to be higher in relation to the domestic inflation rate, which also stood at 1.6% in September, the lowest level this year. In the overwhelming part, the harmonized index growth remains highly concentrated in the food group. The index of this group increased by 6.7% on an annual basis compared to September. Other groups that provided an increasing contribute in the growth, however modest, were rent, services and education. The harmonized inflation in Albania remains higher compared to the European Union average, which stood at 1.8% for September. The only countries of the Union that have higher prices than Albania are the three Baltic states. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The harmonized index of consumer prices includes expenditures made within the territory of the country by Albanian households, as well as visitor spending, unlike the consumer price index, which covers only Albanian private expenditures carried out internally and internationally.

## **Company that will construct Arber Road concession is selected (Gazeta Tema)**

Sources from the Albanian Road Authority say that the winner for the construction of the Arber Road has been selected. Gjoka Construction is the company that won the right to continue with the 33.6 billion ALL project, or 254 million EUR. The company will build the road with its own funds and will have the obligation to maintain it until the government completes the payment. The concession was requested by Gjoka Construction since this spring. The Arber Road is 73.5 kilometers long, 20.1 of which were built by government money, 15 other kilometers only partially built. This investment is part of the government 1 billion EUR project, with companies being paid by the state budget with installments, after they finalize the public work.

## **Italy and Russia, top trading countries in Durres Port (Gazeta Shqip)**

Albania has increased trade exchange with Russia and Turkey through the port of Durres. More than 2.1 million tons of goods have been exchanged in this port during the first nine months of this year, mainly with Mediterranean countries, but also with USA, China and Brazil. Italy and Russia are on top of the trade list, with 21% of the total, followed by Turkey with 14%, Malta with 7%, Greece 6%, China and Egypt 5% and then Spain.

## **Albanian government submits the 2018 draft budget (Report TV)**

The Albanian government has submitted to Parliament next year's draft budget, accompanied by the tax package that goes with it. According to this package, starting from 1 January 2018, Albanian citizens will face a property tax based on the real value of their homes. On the other hand, the tax package also includes the reduction of several customs charges applied on import, relating products used in the domain of information technology and a reduction of VAT to 6% for 5 star hotels. Meanwhile, the debate on the introduction of small businesses in the VAT scheme seems to have come to a solution, by including only 9 thousand businesses in this scheme, with annual turnover of up to 2 million lek. Meanwhile, 61 thousand businesses with a turnover lower than this, will be exempted from this scheme. Another important element of the 2018 draft budget is the one for the acceleration of economic growth up to 4.5%, but also the efforts to reduce debt by 2.5% compared to 2017.

## **Rama invites UAE's entrepreneurs to invest in Albania (Klan TV)**

Entrepreneurs from the United Arab Emirates are welcome to invest in Albania. This was declared by the Prime Minister of Albania, Edi Rama during a meeting with the Prime Minister of UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. This meeting was held during the official visit that Rama has recently held in the United Arab Emirates. During this meeting, PM Rama stressed the need to boost economic cooperation between the two countries. Meanwhile, both countries are interested to see investments in the domain of tourism and infrastructure, but also in sea ports. The meeting also discussed the possibility of introducing a new Emirates air line linking both countries. On his part, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum thanked the head of the Albanian government for this visit and expressed his readiness to promote investments in Albania.

## **Government withdraws from VAT on small businesses (Vizion Plus)**

The Albanian government has partially exempted small businesses from value-added tax (VAT), Finance Minister Arben Ahmetaj told reporters Tuesday. Businesses with an annual turnover up to 2 million leks (176,000 U.S. dollars) would not be included in the VAT scheme, he added. Few weeks ago, the Albanian ministry of finance presented the budget for 2018 and its accompanying fiscal package where it was stated that all small businesses operating in Albania would be subject to VAT. But following complaints and concerns raised by representatives of small businesses as well as economic experts, the government has amended the fiscal package for 2018, local media reported. "Ambulatory salesmen, municipality food markets, artisans, will be left out of the VAT scheme. We are going to include only 9,000 businesses from 70,000 in total," Ahmetaj told the press conference. He further informed that the proposed draft budget and fiscal policy had received approval at the Council of Ministers' meeting and was forwarded to parliament. Small businesses make up a major part of industry in Albania.

# Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

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**SHQIPTARJA WEB**

**SCAN TV**

**CCI FRANCE ALBANIE**

**ALBANIAN DAILY NEWS**

**ATA**

**GAZETA SHQIP**

**DITA**

**KLAN TV**

**BALLKAN WEB**

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