

# 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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## [CONFERENCE] "World Diabetes Day"



**SANOFI ALBANIA**, member of CCI France Albania has organized the conference "World diabetes Day" in Rogner Hotel, November 14th 2017.

With the presence of the **French Ambassador in Albania Mme Christina Vasak**, political personalities and health care specialists.

The objectives of this event were to raise awareness on diabetes and Sanofi showed that is an important partner in diabetes management in Albania.

This event was organized with the collaboration of **CCI France-Albania**.

*Photos by: Blerta Zeqiri Photography!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qo0gbwVtAZc>

<http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/conference-world-diabetes-day-sanofi-albania-in-collaboration-with-cci-france-albania/>

## Meeting with the Albanian Ambassadors: meeting with the Albanian Ambassadors around the world “Re-dimension of the Albanian Economic Diplomacy



3 days meeting with the Albanian Ambassadors around the world “Re-dimension of the Albanian Economic Diplomacy: Challenges and Opportunities!” with the focus “economic diplomacy” and the role of foreign service to fully engage in economic development, Albania's challenges to become an attractive destination, its experience with investments and foreign investors so far and the need for a new approach in function of the economic growth.

A successful and effective economic diplomacy requires forms and ways of cooperation that would lead to a better management of our interactions with the outside world, but also within the country aiming measurable results in increasing trade volumes and foreign investment in the country. 17-19 November 2017



Click here:

[http://www.ccifa.al/index.php?id=7212&no\\_cache=1&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bnews\\_preview%5D=60344](http://www.ccifa.al/index.php?id=7212&no_cache=1&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews_preview%5D=60344)

## Cocktail offert à l'issue de la cérémonie au cimetière militaire de Korça le samedi 11 novembre 2017

La commémoration de l'armistice de 1918 au cimetière français, un émouvant moment de recueillement avec de nombreuses personnalités telles qu'un ancien président de la République d'Albanie, le chef d'état-major des armées et ses principaux subordonnés, des députés, et grands et petits, Albanais et Français.



Source:

[https://al.ambafrance.org/Korca-et-l-amitie-franco-albanaise-au-fil-du-temps?var\\_mode=calcul](https://al.ambafrance.org/Korca-et-l-amitie-franco-albanaise-au-fil-du-temps?var_mode=calcul)

## **Ftese:**

### **FORUMI I KINËS**

**24 nentor**

Bashkimi i Dhomave të Tregtisë dhe Industrisë së Shqipërisë, në bashkëpunim me Ambasadën e Republikës Popullore të Kinës në Tiranë, organizon në datë 24 nëntor, ora 17.00, në ambientet e Pallatit të Kongreseve, Forumin Ekonomik Shqipëri-Kinë.

E pranishme në këtë forum do të jetë edhe Ambasadorja e Republikës Popullore të Kinës në Tiranë, SH.S ZNJ Jiang JU, Ministrja e Shtetit për Mbrojtjen e Sipërmarrjes, Znj. Sonila Qato, Drejtoresha e AIDA, Znj. Brisida Shehaj, si dhe përfaqësuesit e bizneseve më të njohura kineze, që ju përkasin sektorëve të teknologjisë dhe IT, industrisë, dhe tekstileve.

Në këtë forum do të zhvillohen edhe takime B2B, një mundësi shumë e mirë kjo për të krijuar marrëdhënie tregtare bashkëpunimi me shtetin Kinez, ndaj lutemi që ftesën ta përcillni edhe tek anëtarët tuaj.

Bashkëlidhur në attach gjeni agjendën dhe listën e bizneseve kineze që do të marrin pjesë.

Për të qenë pjesëmarrës, duhet të konfirmoni sa më parë në adresën [info@uccial.al](mailto:info@uccial.al)

### ***Programi:***

[http://www.ccifa.al/index.php?id=7212&no\\_cache=1&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bnews\\_preview%5D=60339](http://www.ccifa.al/index.php?id=7212&no_cache=1&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews_preview%5D=60339)

## **Ftese:**

### **“SHQIPËRIA PUNON TOKËN- KONSUMO SHQIP” 29-30 nëntor 2017**

Bashkimi i Dhomave të Tregtisë dhe Industrisë së Shqipërisë, në bashkëpunim me Ministrinë e Bujqësisë dhe Zhvillimit Rural, ju fton që në datat 29-30 nëntor 2017, të bëheni pjesë e panairit më të madh që ne organizojmë: “Shqipëria punon tokën- konsumo shqip”. Panairi, i cili do të zhvillohet në të gjithë Bulevardin “Dëshmorët e Kombit”, do të bëjë bashkë të gjithë përfaqësuesit e sipërmarrjes, të cilët promovojnë vlerat dhe produktet shqiptare.

Ky panair do të suportohet nga Bashkitë kryesore të vendit, shoqatat, bizneset.

Kostot e pjesëmarrjes për të gjithë bizneset e vogla do të mbulohen nga organizatorët.

Më poshtë gjeni konceptimin vizual dhe në attach programin e panairit.

Lutemi konfirmoni pjesëmarrjen tuaj sa më parë në adresën [info@uccial.al](mailto:info@uccial.al)

## **Programi :**

<http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/ftese-per-pjesemarrje-ne-panairin-shqiperia-punon-token-konsumo-shqip-29-30-nentor-2017/>

## **Albanian Lek value increased against foreign currencies**

This September, the Albanian LEK has increased its value with 4.6% against other currencies, according to the Bank of Albania. Compared to September 2016, ALL has won 4 points against Euro and 9 points against the US Dollar. Dollar has lost value due to foreign market events. The Albanian Lek has kept winning terrain against foreign currencies for the past two years. According to the Bank of Albania, this is due to the economic growth. This tendency will continue in the future and will reduce the risk for our economy. According to the Bank of Albania, there is excessive presence of foreign currency in the market, and this has increased the value of ALL. The Bank says that the flux of cash comes from the increased level of foreign investments and the deficit of the current account, which shows all currency exchange made in Albania.

## **Finance Minister presents budget 2018 in Dibra**

Minister of Finances, Arben Ahmetaj, held a meeting with the community during his visit in Diber, and introduced the fiscal package for the 2018 budget, and the profits that Diber will have from it. "This is the biggest budget of public investments, which includes important parts of Diber, such as the ring road, the Arras-Kastriot, besides the Arber Road", Ahmetaj declared. He added that the government has planned to invest on rebuilding schools and health centers.

## **Albanian Activists Hold Two-Day Protest against the Building of Hydropower Plants in Valbona National Park**

Dozens of activists in Tropoja, a Northern district of Albania, conducted a protest action on November 10 and 11 against the ongoing construction of hydropower plants in the Valbonë Valley National Park. The protest was in response to the decision of the administrative court of Tirana to repeal the lawsuit filed by Valbona citizens who accused the Gener 2 Company of using an expired construction permit. Soon after the decision was announced, World Wildlife Fund declared that "undertaking large construction activity, such as building of a hydropower plant, would without a doubt compromise natural processes and cause the destruction of pristine ecosystems in the National park." The program of building hydropower plants in Valbona was given as a concession by the Ministry of Energy in 2009 when the Democratic Party was still in power. Currently, there are three hydropower plants under construction, and eight more are being considered by the Ministry of Energy. When the Socialist Party came into power in 2013, it promised that it would cancel all hydropower plant projects in national parks. However, this commitment has yet to be fulfilled. According to the law, decisions about such construction must undergo a process of public hearings. However, citizens from Valbona Valley claim that no public hearings were done, and that the documents provided by the company among others revealed signatures of people who have been dead for a while.

# A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

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## **Housing Prices Fell by 2.8% in Q3**

Housing prices in Tirana fell again for the third quarter of the year. According to the Housing Price Index, calculated by the Bank of Albania, prices fell for the third consecutive quarter, which indicates a dim performance of the real estate market. However, in the third quarter, the decline was more restrained, at 2.8%, compared to a decline of 5.9% in the second quarter and a decline of 11.5% in the first quarter. The fall in prices this year is somewhat unexpected, under the conditions when the property market seems in a positive cycle. The improvement of the real economy, of the labor market and the growth of bank lending, in theory, would support a higher demand for housing purchase. Economic growth this year has exceeded the 4% threshold, while unemployment has fallen to 13.9%. According to the Bank of Albania, a further improvement of the mortgage loan portfolio was noted in the third quarter, with an annual increase of 4.6%, continuously supported by attractive offers for this product. However, at least referring to the Bank of Albania measurements, on average, prices this year are declining. Under these conditions, however, the market remains at a stage when buying is still viable.

## **Albania adopts new law to relax levies on hotel investment**

The Albanian government has adopted a new tourism law regarding relaxing the criteria that four and five-star rated hotels must meet in order to obtain a special status, a press release of Council of Ministers said Monday. According to the draft law, four-star hotels with a minimum investment of 8 million euros (9.3 million U.S. dollars) and five-star hotels with a minimum investment of 15 million euros will benefit from tax exemptions on these investments. According to the new fiscal package, special status hotels will benefit from tax exemptions for a period of 10 years, while five-star hotels will not pay the infrastructure tax. "Every accommodation facility that obtains a five-star rating from the 30 international luxury brands will not pay taxes for 10 years," Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama told reporters few weeks ago when the initiative was launched. According to PM, the improvement of service quality in the sector of tourism will be high on the agenda of the new government led by Rama in its second term of office. He further said the incentive would also be applied to four-star hotels, considering the fact that currently Albania has only one or two five-star hotels in capital city Tirana. On the other hand, Rama warned tougher measures for operators working against the market rules or those failing to meet hygiene or service standards

## **HPP Moglicë to increase power generation capacity in Albania**

Moglicë Hydro Power Plant, one of the two large hydroelectricity plants under construction on river Devoll, situated near the village of Moglicë, southeast Albania, will streamline the energy produced in 2019, hence improving production capacity in the country. The power plant construction work is within due time, Statkraft company directors informed Prime Minister Edi Rama along with Minister of Infrastructure and Rural Development Damian Gjijnuri during an inspection visit on Monday. The project is expected to generate around 789 GWh electricity per annum which will be supplied to the Albanian grid via newly constructed transmission lines. The asphalt-core rock-fill dam will be 320 m long, 150 m high and 460 m wide. The dam is anticipated to be the world's highest of its kind upon completion. "There are approximately 1300-1400 employees currently engaged in the construction of this work, including replacement routes," one of the implementing engineers said. In addition to investing in energy works, the Norwegian power company Statkraft has invested 60 million euro in road infrastructure, thus assisting residents of Devoll region.

## **Water Price Changed, New Tariffs as of Jan. 2018**

The Water Supply Sector Regulatory Authority (ERU) approved Tuesday the new tariffs for the Municipality of Tirana, according to which the water price for consumers has increased by 44%. According to the tables of decision, family members living in Tirana will pay 65 lek / m<sup>3</sup>; public institutions will pay 140 lek / m<sup>3</sup>, while private institutions will pay 155 lek /m<sup>3</sup>. In the middle of this year, the Tirana Water Supply Enterprise applied to the Water Regulatory Authority for a rise in the price of water by arguing that the money would be needed to implement an ambitious investment plan. In July, this request was also passed by the Tirana Municipal Council which approved the increase of the water price in the capital by 20 lek per m<sup>3</sup>, bringing from 45 lek to 65 lek / m<sup>3</sup> for households and from 135 lek/ m<sup>3</sup> to 190 lek/ m<sup>3</sup> for businesses. According to the Municipality of Tirana, which has full competences on the Water Supply and Sewerage Enterprise, this increase is done to make investments in the network that in the next five years the enterprise guarantees 24 hour water supply of the capital city. WATER REFORM'S PHASE ONE STARTS IN VLORA Water reform's first phase officially kicked off on Tuesday in the coastal city of Vlora. Municipality of Vlora appealed citizens to self-regulate the situation, bind contracts and make water payments in arrears as following February there will be zero tolerance. The first stage of water reform will cut all unlawful water links and will cover the entire city. Prime Minister Edi Rama presented water reform a few days earlier while, said that citizens have to self-adjust any irregularities in the water supply system within a 90-days deadline to later follow-up in February with door-to-door controls and legal penalties to any unlawful water acts.

## **Economy Committee Okays 2018 Draft Budget 2018**

The Parliamentary Committee of Economy and Finance approved on Tuesday in principle the draft budget and the fiscal package 2018. The two main financial laws were approved only by votes of the ruling majority lawmakers as the opposition lawmakers of the Democratic Party and the Socialist Movement for Integration rejected arguing that the proposed budget failed to support the common citizen. The opposition objected the budget on the argument that no increases in wages, or concrete investments, are anticipated. "The budget does not envisage any salary or pension increase. The investments are not clear and the fund for agriculture is reduced," said DP Lawmaker Jorida Tabaku. On his part, Minister of Finance and Economy Arben Ahmetaj has argued that the budget conveys the message of economic growth which in turn promotes well-being and cuts public debt. Thus, the draft budget and fiscal package for 2018 was approved in the Economy Committee without any change while it is expected to go for approval in parliament for a vote at the next session. The Parliament is due to convene in plenary session on Thursday, November 16, to discuss in principle on the draft budget 2018 and will return it again to the Parliamentary committees to finalize the discussion article-by-article.

## **Corruption's "hell": Albania in the sixth circle of Transparency International**

Transparency International has recently published a report entitled People and Corruption: the Voice of People around the World. This report focuses on the findings of the global barometer of corruption. Transparency International categorizes world states in 9 circles, as many as those of Dante's Hell. Albania results in the sixth circle, like no other country in the region. Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are in the fifth circle. Macedonia and Kosovo in the third and Montenegro in the fourth. In Europe, meanwhile, Russia and Ukraine are in the same circle with Albania, while Moldova is in the seventh. The circles refer to the percentage of citizens who have paid bribes in public administration in the last 12 months. The sixth circle, where Albania is classified, refers to a percentage of 30% to 40%, which is relatively high and reveals an alarming level of corruption. Transparency International is one of the most prestigious global body for measuring corruption and provides interesting data on an annual basis that enables comparison between different countries of the world for one of the greatest plagues of the modern society: corruption.

## **Albanians has the second highest number of homeowners in Europe**

The latest figures from the European Union Statistics Office shows that in poor countries there are more homeowners than in rich countries. In the case of Europe, the division is not only between rich and poor Europe, but also between east and west. The latest Eurostat data show that only 43% of Swiss people live in their home. In Germany the rate goes up to 52%, in Austria 55%, France 64% and Italy 73%. The European Union average is fixed at 69%. The situation changes completely with the rest of Europe, namely the poor one. The latest data released by Instat show that 93% of Albanians own their home, and only 5.5% of them have rented their dwelling place. This is the second highest rate across Europe, behind Romania with 96%. Albania is followed by Macedonia with 90%, Lithuania with 89%, and Hungary with 86%. In Serbia the rate is fixed at 81%. Due to the high level of informality, especially in the property market, which would make useless figures, Instat's data refer to a survey.

## **BoA: Inflation decreases by 0.3 percentage points**

Bank of Albania reported on Wednesday that inflation rate is expected to follow an upward trajectory over the next quarters, despite an average annual level of 1.7% in the third quarter in 2017 remaining at a 0.3 percentage points lower compared to the previous quarter. According to BoA, inflation rate decrease was mainly generated due to a reduction inflation rate on processed grocery consumer price and transportation services which is also noticed in the majority of Balkans countries during the third quarter of 2017.

### **World Bank encourages Albania to speed up economic reforms**

Albania is expected to record a 3.8-percent economic growth in 2017, mainly driven by the increase of domestic demand, foreign direct investment and consumption, World Bank representatives told reporters here on Thursday. While presenting World Bank's 12th Western Balkans Regular Economic Report, World Bank representatives in Tirana said that growth was expected to moderate to an average of 3.6 percent for 2018-19 as private consumption accelerated. According to the World Bank report, investment dynamics are linked to progress on two large FDI-financed energy projects such as the Trans Adriatic Pipeline and the Devoll hydropower plant. Meanwhile, it showed that private consumption was supported by job creation and the easing of credit conditions. "The economic expansion has created jobs. Prudent fiscal policy, continuing during the electoral year, has reduced public debt," World Bank said. The report showed that the economic growth stimulated job creation in 2016 and the first half of 2017 when the employment grew by 2.5 percentage points in 2016 and 1.7 percentage points in the first half of 2017. However, World Bank experts said that Albania must speed up reforms to consolidate public finances, improve the efficiency of spending, reduce risks from the energy and financial sectors, and build up the legal system. According to the World Bank, reforms are critical for Albania to foster confidence and accelerate growth. "Sustained fiscal consolidation efforts and structural reforms should gradually reduce the fiscal deficit to 1.5 percent of GDP by 2019 and the debt-to-GDP ratio to 60 percent of GDP by 2022," World Bank noted in its report on Albania.

### **Albania's agriculture needs to address low expenditure, land fragmentation**

Low expenditure and structural problems such as low average farm size and plot fragmentation are some of the main challenges Albania faces in the area of agriculture, the European Commission (EC) has said. Albania has strengthened its administrative structures in order to receive financial support under the EU pre-accession assistance on rural development (IPARD), the Commission noted in a press release issued after a meeting of EU - Albania Stabilisation and Association Agreement subcommittee on agriculture and fisheries on Tuesday. The publication of agricultural census results, the adoption of a framework law on geographical indications on organic products legislation, as well as on approximation of marketing standards for olive oil were some of the main elements of progress, according to the Commission. Regarding food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary issues, the EU executive recommended Albania to strengthen its administrative capacity and to reinforce its official controls in all three areas. The Commission also said that Albania needs to further align its fishery legislation with the EU acquis and ensure a consistent management of fishing and aquaculture activities in order to achieve more economic, social and employment benefits. Albania should further implement the recommendations of the fisheries commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), make full use of the FAO AdriaMed regional project and enhance its collaboration with the EU on the Malta MedFish4Ever declaration on the sustainability of Mediterranean fisheries, the Commission said.

# Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

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