

CCIFA Weekly News

No.5; 27-31 Mars 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



Bonne nouvelle. Notre Chambre compte désormais trois nouveaux membres/*Lajm i mirë. Dhoma jonë mirëpret tre anëtarë të rinj.*

On remercie les sociétés/*Falenderojmë kompanitë :*

ADVANCE BUSSINES SOLUTION – membre stratégique/*Anëtar strategjik*
www.abs-al.com

RENAULT
www.renault-rks.com

THE BLACK ROCKETS Entertainment Group
www.theblackrocket.com

Investment Council Secretariat: Facilitation of customs procedures will be the focus of discussion in the upcoming meeting of Investment Council, planned on 10 May 2017 (tbc). Based on the discussions that the Secretariat of Investment Council has held with the business (during 2015-2016), we have listed some issues for potential discussion by the Investment Council (in attachment) for deeper analysis related to customs procedures in import or export such as delays in time, required documentation, customs controls, customs codes, etc

<https://www.investment.com.al/concerns-on-customs-procedures;>

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE /HIGHLIGHTS

Agribusiness Support Facility to Boost Agriculture

The Albania Agribusiness Support Facility was launched in 2016 by the EBRD with the support of the government in order to address this pressing issue. "It aims to facilitate access to finance in order to boost investment, innovation and growth in this vital sector of Albania's economy. Its successful implementation is expected to benefit the country's rural economy and to promote private sector development," Matteo Colangeli, Country Head of Albania at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said in an article published by media Sunday. According to him, its geographical position puts Albania in a unique position to be able to grow and harvest a diverse quantity of agricultural produce, ranging from fruits and vegetables to dairy products and medical and aromatic plants as well as wheat. Consequently, he said agriculture is the most vital sector of the Albanian economy. "Around 50 per cent of employment is in the agribusiness, and the sector accounts for approximately 20 per cent of the country's GDP. However, only two per cent of the total lending that has been provided to the Albanian economy is allocated to this area. As a result, funding is one of the major obstacles for Albania's agribusiness sector. Lack of finance makes investments difficult and this in turn holds back innovation. Albania's farmers are suffering from having to use outdated technology and low productivity levels. This makes competing with the market requirements more and more difficult for them," Colangeli said. Overall, the EBRD aims to support Albania's journey from low productivity and subsidized farming to a sector that is highlighted by investments and sustainable development. The bank recognizes that these efforts will not come to fruition instantly, but it is completely behind the goals of innovating and expanding agribusiness in Albania and will continue to work alongside the Government and partner financial institutions over the coming years to achieve this.

Source: Albanian Daily News

Medicinal plants top exports in agriculture

Collection and exports of medicinal plants and aromatic herbs would be more lucrative provided that they are processed and certificates of origin and quality are issued. However, medicinal plants and aromatic herbs lead Albania's agricultural exports over the past years. Albanian sage makes up for the largest share of the U.S. sage market and expanding the exports of medicinal and aromatic plants is the main challenge for Albania. Albania makes up for around 70 % of the American sage market, while Albanian medicinal plants also supply the market of France, Germany and Italy, agriculture experts say. Noting that Albania competes today more effectively in the export market with the quality of its agricultural products, agriculture experts highlight the need to certify medicinal plants as endemic and authentic Albanian trademark, in order to boost gains not only for farmers, but also the country's economy. Nature has given Albania a huge variety of wild medicinal plants, while collection of aromatic and medicinal herbs is more concentrated in the regions of Malesi e Madhe, Shkoder, Skrapar, Elbasan, Korce, Berat, Permet, and Durres. The northern part of the country is well known for production and quality of sage, while central and southern part of the country is specialized in production of qualitative oregano and thyme.

Source: ATA

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

EITI Report: Extractive Industry Generated \$ 953mln

The mining and extractive industry in Albania, according to figures, marked a positive performance in 2015, despite being a difficult year due to low prices of raw materials in the international markets. The latest report of "Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative" reflects a positive trend in its figures. The production generated from oil, mining and hydro-power plants in 2015 was estimated at USD953 million, while contributing to the state budget with 4.1 percent of total revenue. In 2014, the generated output was estimated at \$815 million and the contribution to the budget was 3.5%. The production of crude oil in 2015 was 1.279 million tons estimated at \$ 325 million in 2014, while the production in 2014 was 1,386,124 tons valued at \$ 549 million. The contribution to the budget in 2015 was 1.1 percent. 2015 also reflects the effects of the drastic fall in oil prices in global markets. Regarding the mining sector, EITI report estimates that in 2015 there is a growing interest from private companies to exploit the underground. Bulqize dominates again with 116 active licenses for the production of chromium, thus marking an increment when compared to 2014. Mineral production was estimated at about \$230.2 million, including the value added in the country through mineral processing, while the contribution to the budget were 1 percent of revenues. The last position is held by the hydropower sector, since KESH has generated in 2015 76 percent of the total energy production in the country. From the initiative of hydropower concessions only 74 plants managed to produce energy in 2015 when in fact the total number of reported contracts covered 533 HPPs. According to EITI, a good part of the companies are not meeting deadlines regarding the completion of construction works.

Source: Albanian Daily News

Albanian JV gets 35-year concession contract for building 8.8 MW HPP

Albania's energy ministry has awarded a 35-year concession contract for the construction of a hydro power plant with installed capacity of 8.8 MW to a joint venture of three local companies, the country's Public Procurement Agency said. Under the build-operate-transfer contract, the joint venture is obliged to invest 5.9 million euro (\$6.4 million) in the construction of the power plant in Central Eastern Albania, the Public Procurement Agency said in its weekly bulletin published on Monday. The joint venture has to pay an annual concession fee of 817,897 kWh of electricity, equal to 2.2% of the power plant's projected output. The joint venture comprises construction company Sina 98, mineral mining company and retailer Albmerkuri, as well as the car parts and tires retailer Besland. The construction works are expected to be completed within 24 months. One more candidate has applied for the concession contract, construction company Alko-Impex General Construction from Kosovo, but it was dismissed due to incomplete documentation, the procurement agency said.

Source: Scan TV

Local company to build 12 MW wind farm

Albania's government said it approved plans by local construction company Alb-Building to build a 12 MW wind farm. No further details were disclosed in the government decision published earlier this month on its website. However, according to an environmental impact assessment for the project published last year on the environment ministry's website, the wind farm will cover 15,000 sq m and will consist of six turbines. It will be located in a village of the Tepelene municipality, in southern Albania. According to media reports, the project will be worth around 13 million euro (\$14.2 million). Albania relies solely on hydro power plants to cover its energy needs.

Source: Scan TV

30 call centers shut down

30 call center companies have shut down as a result of the legal provisions entered to force in the neighbor country that aims to reenact the industry at home instead. Genti Drenova, from the Call Centers association, said that these companies have worked in Albania for more than five years, under an exclusive agreement signed with an Italian multi-national corporation. The company fears penalties, due to the new law, and has withdrawn. The fine goes up to 50.000 EUR, but some companies are trying to adopt to the new laws in order to survive. "The law forces us to say that we are speaking from Tirana. The law also bounds us that if the client demands to deal with an operator from Italy or within the EU, we are forced to pass the call to an Italian citizen. This raises our costs, because it forces us to open new offices in EU countries, such as Romania and Bulgaria or in Italy. If you open offices in Bulgaria or Romania, there is no problem", said Denis Sina, administrator of a call center. Representatives of these businesses ask the Albanian government to intervene, especially by covering training costs. "We should have at least the cost of social insurance covered. It is very high. 25.000 employees may not be a large number, compared to the job market. But these are the most sensitive employees. They are mostly students who not only make career, but they also support their studies and their families", Drenova said.

(Source: Top Channel,news)

EBRD Board of Directors to visit Albania

Representatives of the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will arrive in Tirana Wednesday evening for a three-day visit to Albania. EBRD Office in Albania said on Tuesday that the EBRD Board Directors will meet government representatives, entrepreneurs and civil society organizations. Another highlight of the visit will be a site visit to a local client benefitting from the Albania Agribusiness Support Facility. This framework, launched in summer 2016 during a visit by EBRD President Sir Suma Chakrabarti, supports local agribusinesses with enhanced access to finance through dedicated credit lines or risk sharing facilities. The government of Albania has joined the facility with a contribution. Other EBRD priorities in Albania according to the current country strategy (2016-2019) include supporting private sector competitiveness, building on the strong entrepreneurial spirit in the economy, strengthening regional infrastructure linkages, enhancing the commercialization of state-owned enterprises and promoting sustainable energy and environmentally sound investments. The Board Directors representing the Bank's shareholders will be hosted by Matteo Colangeli, Associate Director, Head of Albania and accompanied by Holger Muent, Director, Regional Head of Western Balkans and Oleg Levitin, Deputy Director, Governance and Political Affairs. To date, the EBRD has invested Euro 1 billion in 77 projects in Albania. Infrastructure and energy are the largest sectors of EBRD investments, reflecting both the country's most pressing needs and strongest potential.

Source: ATA

L'ACTUALITÉ

Edi Rama devient « Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur »

Le Premier ministre Bernard Cazeneuve a remis au Premier ministre albanais Edi Rama, au nom du Président de la République, M. François Hollande, les insignes de Commandeur dans l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur.



Kryeministri Bernard Cazeneuve i dorëzoi Kryeministrit shqiptar Edi Rama, në emër të Presidentit të Republikës, Z. François Hollande, dekoratën e Komandantit të Urdhrit të Legjionit të Nderit.

Source:

<http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/edi-rama-nderohet-me-dekoraten-komandant-i-urdhrit-te-legjionit-te-nderit/>

Signature par Harlem Désir et Ditmir Bushati, ministre des affaires étrangères, d'un partenariat de coopération stratégique (28 mars 2017)

Harlem Désir, secrétaire d'Etat chargé des affaires européennes, a reçu Ditmir Bushati, ministre albanais des affaires étrangères le 28 mars 2017.

Harlem Désir et Ditmir Bushati ont fait le point sur le processus de rapprochement entre l'Albanie et l'Union européenne. Ils ont évoqué les suites du sommet "Paris-Balkans-2016" qui s'est tenu en juillet 2016 et qui a permis le lancement de l'office régional de coopération pour la jeunesse (RYCO). Les ministres ont discuté du renforcement de notre relation bilatérale et de la situation politique dans la région des Balkans occidentaux.

En présence du Premier ministre, Bernard Cazeneuve, et de Edi Rama, Premier ministre de la République d'Albanie, Harlem Désir et Ditmir Bushati ont signé un partenariat de coopération stratégique.

Source:

<http://www.ccifa.al/fr/single-news/n/albanie-signture-par-harlem-desir-et-ditmir-bushati-ministre-des-affaires-etrangeres-dun-partenariat-de-cooperation-strategique-28-mars-2017/>

EU Twinning project in Albania on consumer protection launched

The government of Albania is committed to protection of the consumer rights. In this context, at the venues of the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship on Thursday was held the opening meeting of European Union Twinning project "Strengthening of capacities of the Consumer Protection Commission and its Technical Secretariat," Albanian news agency ATA reports. The European Union provides the budget of 250 000 Euros on the project. The purpose of the project is to strengthen and enhance the institutional capacities of the relevant authorities in the Republic of Albania for enforcement of consumer protection legislation. It is expected to harmonize the relevant practices for enforcement of consumer protection legislation with EU best practices and to raise public awareness of consumers' rights. Lithuanian expert team and the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship of the Republic of Albania will co-operate together to implement the project. Attending the meeting, the Albanian Minister of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship Adela Karapici positively assessed the project and said that Albania is constantly committed to the Albanian consumer enjoying the same rights and protection like a consumer in the EU countries. Director of Domestic Market Department at the ministry Klotilda Neziri emphasized that the 3 million Albanians will benefit from the project because its impact is directly related to them. On his part, Paulius Griciunas, the project leader and at the same time the Deputy Justice Minister of Lithuania made a presentation of the project, the activities scheduled to take place and the expected results.

Source: Ora News

Exports of minerals recovering

Exports of minerals and fuels are recovering according to the Institute of Statistics. Data shows that in the fourth quarter 2016, exports amounted to 13.8 billion Lek up by 13% compared to the same period last year. The increase in exports of minerals has been supported by the recovery of fuel prices in international markets. Meanwhile INSTAT has not provided data on fuel exports because the Agency classifies them as confidential as they belong to a single service provider such as Bankers Petroleum. Exports of chromium have gone up by 150% compared to the previous quarter.

Source: Scan TV,news

Albania's budget surplus falls 7.8% in Jan-Feb

Albania posted a budget surplus of 9.4 billion leks (\$74.5 million/69.3 million euro) in the first two months of the year, compared to a surplus of 10.2 billion leks a year earlier, according to data released by the finance ministry. Total budget revenue added 3.7% to 64 billion leks in January-February, whereas total expenditure declined 6% to 54.6 billion leks. Albania recorded a budget deficit of 26.2 billion leks last year, lower than the planned 35.7 billion leks shortfall.

Source: Scan TV

Albania sells 4 bln leks (29.4 mln euro) of 10-yr T-notes

Albania raised on Thursday 4 billion leks (\$31.6 million/29.4 million euro) through the sale of ten-year fixed-rate Treasury notes, according to auction data posted on the website of the finance ministry. The coupon of the issue was set at 6.45%, compared to 7.20% at the previous auction of ten-year fixed-rate Treasury paper held on January.

Source: Scan TV

Mais aussi...

Assemblée des Français de l'étranger

<http://www.assemblee-afe.fr/lettre-d-information-no10-mars-2017.html>



Lettre Trésor-Eco n° 194 (Mars 2017), " La situation économique mondiale au printemps 2017 : amélioration progressive dans un contexte très incertain

http://www.ccifrance-international.org/fileadmin/courriers/2017/2017_006_194.pdf



“Raport mbi Pjesëmarrjen e Publikut në Procesin e Vendimmarrjes” për vitin 2016.
(bashkangjitur)

Reformimi dhe Standartizimi i Inspektimeve sipas praktikave më të mira Europiane me qëllim sundimin e ligjit *(bashkangjitur)*

FOCUS MEMBRES & CCIFA

Chers membres,

Merci de nous transmettre un article (ou offre) sur vos activités; de préférence en anglais, avec vos coordonnées. L'article sera publié dans « **CCIFA Weekly News** »

I nderuar anetar,

Ju lutem na dërgoni nje artikull (ose oferte) mbi aktivitetet tuaja; mundesisht ne anglisht, ku te jene edhe të dhenat tuaja. Artikulli do te publikohet te "**CCIFA Weekly News**"

Faleminderit,

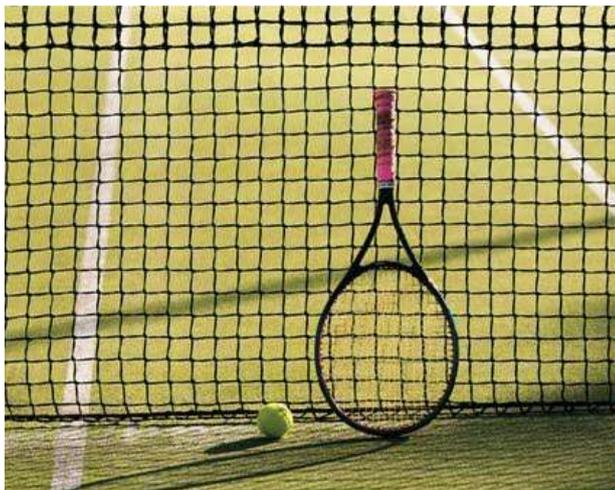
Dear membre,

Please kindly send to us an article (or offer) on your activities; preferably in English, with your contact details. The article shall published to "**CCIFA Weekly News**"



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Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

Albanian Daily news

Scan TV

News 24

Gazeta Shqip

ATA

TOP Channel

Ora News

CCIFA

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The weekly press review is a synthesis of the news from the articles published by the weekly Albanian magazines. The opinions, criticisms and points of view expressed can not reflect any position of the authors, the CCI France Albania, The Press Service of the French Embassy in Albania and are simply the reflection of what has been published.

