

CCIFA Weekly News

No.12; 29 Mai-2 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, en collaboration avec l'Association albanaise des représentants de l'industrie pharmaceutique, a organisé le 31 Mai 2017 le « Business Club Cocktail with SHPF and CCIFA ». Cet événement a permis à nos membres de se réunir et de networking avec les membres de la SHPF

<http://www.ccifa.al/fr/single-news/n/business-club-cocktail-with-shpf-and-ccifa-1/>

<http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/business-club-cocktail-with-shpf-and-ccifa/>

L'équipe de France Espoirs disputera un match international de football contre l'équipe albanaise de la même catégorie le lundi 5 juin 2017 à 21 heures au Selman Stermasi Stadium de Tirana (stade Dinamo).
Venez-nombreux !

Ekipi i Francës Espoirs do të zhvillojë një ndeshje ndërkombëtare kundër ekipit shqiptar të të njëjtës kategori me 5 qershor 2017, 21.00 në stadiumin Selman Stermasi në Tiranë (stadiumi Dinamo).
Ju ftojmë të gjithëve !

best evenings are organised only by our members...



Join us for
the **POOL OPENING**
themed event

Wine & Cheese

FESTIVAL



under the
SWING JAZZ tunes
by **HOT CLUB TIRANA**
Thursday, 8th of June
20:30 – 23:30 | POOL AREA

Join us for the POOL OPENING themed event
WINE & CHEESE FESTIVAL
(Napoleon Wines and Zanetti Cheeses)

under the SWING JAZZ tunes
by **HOT CLUB TIRANA** band
Thursday, 8th of June// 20:30
@ Pool Area - Rogner Hotel

À très bientôt / Soon...



Fête de l'Été
Summer Fest



CCI France-Albanie vous souhaite un bel été !

CCI France Shqipëri ju uron një verë të mbarë !

17/06/2017

Photos : Fête de l'été/Summer feast 2015....

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Chambre-de-Commerce-et-dIndustrie-France-Albanie-177204652426722/photos/?tab=album&album_id=823612584452589

Pour votre information!

Les bilans économiques régionaux présentent les principales données économiques par thématique : emploi, chômage, transports, tourisme, création d'entreprises, construction. Des thèmes propres à chaque région complètent ces panoramas, comme l'aéronautique, l'agriculture, l'accès au crédit, etc.

14 régions publient un Bilan économique en mai 2017.

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2851327>

Bourgogne-Franche-Comté

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2846307>

Bretagne

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2849092>

Centre-Val de Loire

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2845284>

Corse

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2846324>

Grand Est

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2846359>

Guadeloupe

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2846493>

Guyane

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2846433>

Île-de-France

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2849109>

Martinique

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2846521>

Normandie

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2852015>

Nouvelle-Aquitaine

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2846537>

Occitanie

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2842453>

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2846551>

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE / HIGHLIGHTS

EU finances project for better management of Albania's protected areas

The European Union has allocated to Albania 4 million euro (\$4.5 million) under a project aimed at improving the management of the country's protected areas, local media reported. The funding will help preserve biodiversity and provide training to management staff of protected areas, state-owned news agency ATA said on Thursday quoting Caterina Carigati, project director of the NaturAL project. The 40-month project is due to end in June 2018. The project is financed by the European Commission and is implemented by Italian Agency for Development Cooperation AICS, Union for the Conservation of Nature IUCN and Italian Botanical Society Societa Botanica Italiana – SBI. (ATSH)

Fewer business loans due to long paperwork and bad loans

Businesses are taking fewer loans, which has caused a discussion among experts. Alban Zusi, former Deputy Minister of Agriculture, says that the first reason is the inability of businesses to invest, due to the lack of industrial areas and due to the bureaucratic procedures that are required for finalizing that investment. Elvin Meka, editor of the "Bankieri" magazine, says banks have strong reasons to be careful with businesses, since there is a huge stock of unpaid loans, which come from businesses. Besides this, the electoral period also has its influence. But what happens if businesses don't take loans? Former Minister of Finances, Arben Malaj, said that businesses cannot grow without loans, but informal loans have increased instead. Malaj says commercial banks must understand that without a developed economy there can be no successful banks. And for the economy to be developed, more structural reforms are needed. (Top Channel)

Albanians prefer air travel

Albanians seem to prefer flying over other means of travelling. Such phenomenon is indicated by the latest data issued by the Institute of Statistics, according to which the number of flights has increased. "Air transport has registered 1.770 flights marking a growth of 6.4% as opposed to April 2016", this institution says. Meanwhile, in the first four months of 2017, there were a total of 6.874 flights, increasing the number of flights by 6.5% compared to the same period a year ago. The details also indicate that in the month of April 2017, the number of passengers travelling through the air is 189.763, registering an increase of 27.9% compared to April 2016. "In the first four months of 2017, the number of passengers which has travelled by air is 697.804, by registering an increase of 22% compared to the same period a year ago. Air travel during this period occupies 71.5% of the total." On the other hand, INSTAT says that air transport of goods has also seen an increase. (Scan Tv)

Business in Albania demands lower taxes

The reduction of taxes is at the essence of the requests that the business community in Albania is addressing to political parties during meetings being held with its representatives as part of the June 25 election campaign. So, during a meeting with left wing representatives, businesses have asked them to review the current level of taxation, but at the same time, to stimulate businesses which produce Made in Albania products. While supporting the reduction of VAT on tourism from 20% to 6%, businesses have also requested a reduction on the tax on profit. Meanwhile, the former minister of Finance, Arben Ahmetaj said during this meeting that the progressive tax will be reviewed. (Gazeta Shqip)

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

Albanian currency earns point against EUR and USD

The Albanian Lek has earned more points against Euro and US Dollar, especially against the US Dollar recently, with almost eight points. The dropping trend of the US Dollar was noted by international markets as well, but without very steep fluctuations. Adrian Civici, professor of economy, says that this is related to other factors, besides the international ones. "Albanian businesses are not using dollar as their exchange currency. There is a higher presence of Euro in Albania", Civici said. In this situation, businesses and individuals are advised to be careful with loans. "Interest rates are very low for US Dollar, and that may attract people and make them think it could be profitable. But if their main revenues are in Albanian Lek, then they are constantly endangered by the currency exchange. It may be favorable today, but in a few months it could be not", Civici says.

(Top Channel)

Life Insurance Premiums Grow by 27.77%

Voluntary insurance premiums in the first four months of 2017 amounted to around Lek 1.976 million or 17.68% higher compared to the same period of the previous year, the Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority said in its latest report on Albania's insurance market developments. The number of insurance contracts increased by 34.67% compared to the period from January through April 2016. According to the report, life insurance premiums reached over ALL 345 million or 27.77% more than during the same period of 2016, whereas non-life insurance premiums were estimated at around 15.75% higher than in January-April 2016. The market continued to be dominated by Non-Life insurance, which share was 92.73% of the total premium volume, Life insurance and Reinsurance market share was respectively 7.26% and 0.01% of the total premium volume. Market shares of voluntary and compulsory insurance gross written premiums were respectively 41.64% and 58.36%.

(ATSH)

Public Investment Up by Lek 3.8 bin in 2017

Public attention is increasingly focused on public investment, especially when the budget year corresponds to an election year, as it is the case with 2017. But compared to previous years, where there was an investment shortfall, it seems that the beginning of this year has been comparatively more auspicious. Thus, referring to the data released by the Ministry of Finance, capital expenditures for the fourth quarter of 2017 have been realized at about Lek 14.4 billion. Compared with the same period of 2016, the investments are about 3.8 billion more. While considering these data, we can discern two points: either there is a good management of public finances, or the election year has imposed a rigid efficiency on public investments. According to the data, expenditures for investments from domestic funds amount to Lek 10.8 billion while those with foreign funding amount to Lek 3.6 billion. But in the same period of last year, this item accounted for Lek 6.2 billion in domestically financed investment and Lek 4.3 billion in foreign funding. Referring to the same sources, the total expenditure of the state budget for the period of four months reached a value of Lek 128.2 billion, of which Lek 114 billion is recurrent expenditure, or otherwise known as operating expenses.

(Scan TV)

Kalivac HPP Project Revisited, Vjosa at Risk

After 20 years of construction postponements, the Albanian government decided to cancel the contract with the Italian Company Kalivaci Green Energy in regards to the unfinished hydropower project (HPP) Kalivag on the Vjosa River in Albania. Shortly after, the Ministry of Energy and Industry opened the procedures for re-issuing the concession Contract Notification. The interested companies can apply for the construction of the HPP according to the defined criteria until July 18th, 2017. "The cancellation of the existing contract, which makes the Vjosa legally free from any HPP plans, offers a real chance to declare the Vjosa to the first Wild River National Park in Europe. Nonetheless, the government has decided to re-open the concession procedure, against the will of local authorities and communities, national and international stakeholders. We will vigorously fight against this project and for a dam-free Vjosa!" says Olsi Nika from EcoAlbania and coordinator of the Vjosa campaign in Albania. The Kalivac project was the first hydropower plant that was issued on the Vjosa River in 1997. The construction of the dam started in 2007, but was halted several times. Initially, the main source of funding was the Italian Becchetti Group and Deutsche Bank, however, the constructions have only been completed to 30 percent, leaving the river yet unimpaired. This is not the only HPP the Albanian government tries to push through despite strong opposition. They have just appealed a decision of the Administrative Court against the construction of the Pocem HPP which was to be built just downstream of Kalivac. "The court's decision against Pocem, which was based on a highly deficient Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as well as the public consultation process, indicates the flawed rule of operation inside the government. We call upon the Albanian authorities to follow national law and international standards in regards to the Kalivac concession procedure." so Ulrich Eichelmann, coordinator of the "Save the Blue Heart of Europe" campaign at Riverwatch.

(Albanian Daily News 9)

Albanian economy grew by 2.23 % in 2015

Albanian economy recorded a 2.23 percent real growth in 2015 compared to a growth of +1.77 % in 2014, the National Institute of Statistics, INSTAT, said on Wednesday. INSTAT said in its latest report that the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated at around 1.427.799 million lek, or EUR 10.2 billion in 2015 and around 1.395.305 million lek, or EUR 10 billion in 2014. In 2015, GDP per capita amounted to ALL 496 000, or EUR 3.547 from ALL 483 000, or EUR 3.450 in 2014. According to GDP by production approach, the main contribution to economic growth is driven by the following branches: "Construction" by +0.57 percentage point, "Professional services and Administrative services" by +0.44 percentage point, "Industry" by +0.29 percentage point, "Trade, transport, accommodation and food services" by +0.28 percentage point, "Arts, entertainment and other services" by +0.16 percentage point, "Agriculture, hunting and forestry" by +0.16 percentage point and "Financial and insurance activities" by +0.13 percentage point. Net Taxes on products contributed by -0.06 percentage point. Related to GDP structure by economic activities, Services continue to represent the main share in the economy in 2015, accounting for 46.5 % of GDP and they increased by 2.77 % in real terms. Industry and Construction realized 21.2 % of Gross Domestic Products. Industry rose by 2.26 % in real terms, meanwhile Construction by 6.64 %. Agriculture, hunting and forestry with 20.1 % share of GDP, grew by 0.79 % in real terms. Exports of goods and services decreased by 0.65% in nominal terms and 0.97% in real terms, while imports of goods and services decreased by 3.00 % in nominal terms and 2.88% in real terms compared with 2014.

(Dita)

New Customs Code takes effect on Thursday, Investments Council and customs directorate hold consultative meeting with business

As the new Customs Code approved back in July 2014 is about to take effect on Thursday, the Secretariat of Investments Council in conjunction with General Directorate of Customs and Tirana's Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a consultative meeting with business to discuss the novelties and advantages stipulated in this code. The meeting comes at the request of business during the 10th meeting of Investments Council on streamlining of customs procedures. At the last meeting of Investments Council, the highlight was an array of reforms launched by govt. such as the green channel, local customs clearance, joint transition system with Kosovo, etc. The new Customs Code was approved in July 2014 and will take effect on June 1, 2017. The Code has been crafted in compliance with EU directives and offers a series of streamlined procedures for export and import businesses with view to facilitating trade and boosting commercial exchanges. Implementing provisions of the new Code have been designed by General Customs Directorate and come into effect in tandem with Customs Code. Informing the business on opportunities and stipulations of the new Customs Code is important to pave the way for fair implementation of customs practices. To that end, representatives of General Customs Directorate during the consultative meeting with business presented the most important aspects of the new Code with impact on business relations, customs administration, such as: customs statements, opportunities for streamlined procedure applications, customs regimes, mandatory tariff information, actions for Code violations, etc.

(ATSH)

Registered businesses at 2016 up by 5.5 percent

Albania had 160,679 active enterprises in its business register at the end of 2016, recording an increase of 5.5 percent compared with 2015, the Institute of Statistics said in a report Thursday. According to statistics, Albanian economy is mainly concentrated in trade activity, a phenomenon that is also observed in companies registered in 2016. New registrations account for 21.6 percent of trade enterprises in 2016, INSTAT said. Among all the enterprises, most of them, about 54.7 percent, are in capital Tirana and southeast Albania's Fier and Korca. The highest number of enterprises was registered in Tirana with 53,405, while the smallest number was in Kukës, north of Albania, with 1,780. Another element noted in the business register for 2016 was that big enterprises with 50 or more employed represented 1.1 percent of total active enterprises while their contribution on employment is estimated at 48.3 percent in 2016 from 46.2 percent in 2015. Foreign and joint enterprises represent 3.5 percent of active enterprises, of which 47.2 percent are from Italy and 9.2 percent from Greece, INSTAT report showed. Meanwhile, women managed or owned 26.8 percent of active enterprises, down from 31.3 percent at the end of 2015.

(Ora News)

Minimum salary increased to ALL 24 thousand as of June

General Directorate of Taxes informed taxpayers that the contribution of social insurance should be calculated in accordance with the new govt. decision, whereby the minimum wage goes up from ALL 22 thousand to 24 thousand. General Directorate of Taxes says that the effects of govt. decision extend to May 2017. "As of May 2017, the minimum base salary on national scale for employees, mandatory for any juridical and physical entity, national or foreign, is ALL 24,000," according to General Directorate of Taxes.

(Scan TV)

Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

Albanian Daily news

Scan TV

ATSH

CCI France Albanie

Dita

Top Channel

Gazeta Shqip

Ora News

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