

CCIFA Weekly News

No.34 20- 24 november 2017

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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Rapport d'activités 2017



Chers membres et chers amis,

Nous sommes en train de préparer le rapport d'activités 2017 de la CCI FA. Merci de me transmettre des PHOTOS lors de vos activités avant **le 08 décembre 2017**

Të nderuar anëtarë dhe miq,

Dhoma po përgatit raportin vjetor të 2017. Jeni të lutur të dërgoni FOTO nga aktivitetet tuaj para **08 dhjetorit 2017.**

Dear members and friends,

We are preparing the annual report 2017. Please kindly send us PHOTOS during your events before **08 december 2017.**

Merci,

"Le succès n'est pas un but mais un moyen de viser plus haut..."



Visite des étudiants de l'école de commerce française ICN Business School



25 étudiants de ICN Business School ont visité Tirana en fin Novembre. Lors de cette visite ils ont rencontré des business francophones, les étudiants de l'université de New York et son recteur ainsi que notre Chambre.

Les étudiants ont été intéressés spécialement de la place de la France en Albanie et des futurs débouchés.

Nous leur souhaitons un agréable séjour dans notre pays

Visite organisé par notre membre **"Vacances en Albanie"**

<http://vacancesalbanie.com/>

étudiants ICN Business School, 23/11/2017

Visit of the students of the French business school "ICN Business School" /
<http://www.icn-groupe.fr/fr>.

25 students from ICN Business School visited Tirana at the end of November. During this visit they met Francophone businesses, students from New York University and its president and our CCI France Albania.

The students were especially interested on the importance of France in Albania and the future opportunities.

We wish them a pleasant stay in our country!



This visit is organized by our member **"Vacances en Albanie"**

<http://vacancesalbanie.com/>



our members...



RENAULT
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automita

3 gjëra të reja, të mëdha, më 23 nëntor, ora 17:30



MIRË SE VINI NË NIVELIN TJETËR!



RENAULT
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automita

Congratulations to our member *Renault & Dacia - Auto MITA* for the event to be held today. We are looking forward to discovering the 3 surprises...

<https://www.facebook.com/AutoMita.Renault/videos/1203990956369869/>

Mother Teresa helped me to find Albania and paradise

By : Jose Pinto
CEO Hotel Sheraton



When back in my birthplace – Portugal – and later on, in other countries where I had the pleasure to work like Mexico, Brazil, Egypt , UAE and many others, I have never stopped from hearing and getting inspired from Mother Teresa, the world famous Albanian icon of charity and kindness. In my life, there was not a single day that I did not think how giant her work was. I was born in Madeira, the Island of Eternal Spring, from two parents who strongly believed in the good deeds stemming from believing in God.

So, when I heard about Mother Teresa, I was so happy to cherish my constant love for this woman who arrested the attention of the whole world with her captivating personality and became the source of inspiration for all the coming generations. Mother Teresa helped me to learn more about Albania from the distance. But time came to put feet on this country. The very first minute I did, all my thoughts on ALBANIA, perceived through her figure, proved so right....

Source:

<http://www.tiranatimes.com/?p=134259>



SWAROVSKI



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SHQIPËRIA PUNON TOKËN KONSUMO SHQIP



“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

Programi:

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

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

Programi:

http://www.ccifa.al/index.php?id=7212&no_cache=1&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews_preview%5D=60339

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

Albania's Durres port boosts Jan-Oct cargo traffic

Albania's largest sea port of Durres has handled 3.1 million tonnes of cargo in the January-October period in 2017, up 8% year-on-year, the port authority said. Cargo exports increased by 20% on the year to 1.123 million tonnes, the port authority said in a statement earlier this week. Cargo imports grew by 3% to 1.956 million tonnes. Cargo ships carried 2.4 million tonnes of goods from/to Durres, up 9% year-on-year, while ferries transported around 674,000 tonnes of cargo in the first 10 months of 2017. A total of 475 commercial vessels were handled by goods terminals, while 849 ferries visited the ferry terminal, which, besides passengers, also transports goods by trucks and trains, the port authority said.

Albania to build two new gas-fired thermal power plants

The Albanian government Friday announced it was planning to offer public private partnership incentives for the construction of two new hydro and liquid gas-fired thermal power plants (TPPs). The two plants will be built in the southeast region of Korca and the southwest town of Kucova, local media reported, as part of the framework of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) project. The construction of Albania's onshore section of the natural gas TAP project is about to be completed; with 70 percent of overall works completed. The Albanian government also announced it was planning to revive the Vlora thermal power plant by feeding it with gas from TAP. Vlora TPP was completed in 2011 but never put into operation over technical issues and due to high power generation costs. TAP, designed to bring Azeri gas to Greece, Albania, Italy and then to European market, is expected to inject over 1 billion U.S. dollars in Albanian economy and has employed more than 2,500 Albanian citizens.

Supreme State Audit blames Tax Office for accumulated debt from businesses

The Supreme State Audit blames the tax administration for the increased level of debts that businesses owe to the government. "The Tax Directory has been unable to collect the delayed payments from subjects, because they didn't create the necessary conditions for the implementation of the law", says the SSA report. According to official data, the debt that businesses owed to the government mounts up to 1.1 billion EUR, twice higher than in 2011. The SSA blames the fiscal administration, which not only has not prevented this debt, but has not been effective to collect it. Although there are more than 140.000 companies, most of the debt is created by a few larger companies. SSA says they have damaged not only the state, but citizens as well.

Investments Saw Highest Growth in Q2 since 2011

The annual increase of investments in Albanian economy marked 14.3% in the second trimester 2017, the highest increase rate since the fourth trimester 2011. The Bank of Albania forecasts that investments in economy are expected to be on the increase even in the third trimester backed by extension of private investments. The support factors to this level of investments are a greater demand for products and services, the increase of the number of building permits. According to Bank of Albania the major investment infrastructure projects that are underway and a greater confidence in economy. The increased rate of investments in economy is supported mainly by public and private components. According to the Bank of Albania, the private investments were generally influenced by a greater confidence and the financial condition of the businesses as well as continuation of the major investment projects in infrastructure. The private investments in the building sector were revived by increase of the demand for buying of houses and increase of the number of building permits.

Albania, Montenegro inaugurate joint railway station

Albania and Montenegro inaugurated on Monday the Tuzi railway station located on the border between the two countries, the Albanian ministry of infrastructure and energy said. The station is part of a joint initiative to offer more services at the border crossing point of Hani i Hotit located opposite the Montenegrin town of Tuzi, Albanian minister of infrastructure Damian Gjirkuri said in press release after visiting the new railway station. The Albanian government sees the Tuzi railway station as an important connection for the trade in goods between the two neighboring countries and beyond, according to the release. At present, the railway toward Montenegro is the only functioning international rail link of Albania with the rest of the region, according to state-owned Albanian Railways.

Wizz Air to increase London-Pristina frequencies, to add route to Tirana

Hungarian low-cost carrier Wizz Air said on Monday it will increase the frequency of its flights from London Luton to Kosovo's Pristina and will add a route to Albania's Tirana. Starting 25 March 2018, flights on the London - Pristina route will be increased to three per week, from the current two, Wizz Air said in a statement. Wizz Air's new route from London Luton to Tirana will be serviced three times per week - on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday, starting 31 May 2018.

Albanian state budget: Funds for the main ministries and institutions

Next year, Albanian citizens will have to pay around 300 billion lek out of their pockets to sustain the country's institutions. This money will be collected in the form of taxes and they will be spend for institutions such as Presidency, Parliament, Council of Ministers and tens of ministries or institutions depending on them. This figure is confirmed by the 2018 draft budget, which has been approved in principle by MPs. According to this budget, the ministry of Finance and the Economy will be the ones which will spend the biggest amount this year, namely, 68 billion lek. "Social contributions" and "pensions" will be the main two items of the spending made by this ministry with 44 billion lek. This ministry is followed by the ministry of Health and Social Protection, for which the government will spend 60 billion lek. Out of these funds, the majority of them will be spent for secondary services and social care, namely, 22 and 21 billion lek. The ministry of Infrastructure and Energy is another institution which will spend a large amount from the budget, namely, 48 billion lek. Like the two ministries mentioned above, these two ministries have merged, therefore, its expenses are higher than last year's. The majority of funds will be spent for roads, namely, 24.6 billion lek. 1.2 billion lek will be spent on railroads, while almost no funds at all have been allocated for air transport. Meanwhile, 38 billion lek have been allocated for the ministry of Education. 19.7 billion lek will be allocated for the ministry of Defence and 19.7 billion lek will be spent for the ministry of Internal Affairs.

Government increases property tax for businesses by 33 percent

Businesses will pay more for their properties based on an amendment made by the members of the parliamentary commission of economy in the draft project part of the 2018 fiscal package. For ordinary citizens, property tax is estimated at 0.05% of the property value. Pensioners, beneficiaries of financial aid and heads of families with disabilities will be exempt from tax. Initially, the Council of Ministers submitted to parliament the draft which says that tax of a property used for business activity will be 0.15 percent of its real price. However, during discussions on Monday, the parliamentary commission of economy suggested that the tax must be 0.20 percent.

Road accidents

Economic costs of road accidents are still high regardless of the fact that authorities have noted a 17% decline in the number of victims and accidents. Experts, note that costs have dropped to 100 million USD from 130 million euros reported last year by World Bank. Artan Sulce says that roads in Albania are problematic in terms of standards. According to Albania's Institute of Statistics, 166 people have died due to road accidents during January-September 2017. Only during September 2017, there are 172 road accidents up from 191 accidents registered last September.

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

“Paying Taxes 2018: Albania has increased taxes

Albania has increased taxes. Such fact was confirmed by the latest report of the World Bank in its recent report “Paying Taxes 2018”. This report is one of the most important ones that this prominent international financial institution publishes every year, along with the other report called “Doing Business”. According to the report, Albania ranks 125th in the world among 190 other economies in terms of the payment of taxes. A year ago, Albania ranked 97th in the world, showing that from one year to another, it has registered an increase in taxes. According to the report in question, Albania’s deterioration in the ranking comes mainly as a result of the increase of business taxes from 36.5% last year to 37.3% this year. Compared to other countries of the region, Albania is one of the countries with the most complicated tax bureaucracies.

Government responds to World Bank

Minister of Transports and Energy, Damian Gjijnuri has responded to World Bank in terms of its economy outlook for next year and to all critics who say that TAP and Devoll HPP are the only private investments in Albania. In his address to the parliamentary committee of economy, Gjijnuri said that there are several contracts in place for investments up to 300 million euros. He mentioned the HPPs of Kalivac and Pocem, two projects worth 200 billion USD. Minister Gjijnuri also said that 2017 was marked by draught and endangered electricity production, increasing the country’s exposure to imports.

A growing interest of Austrian entrepreneurs to invest in Albania’s agriculture

Austrian entrepreneurs have taken an interest in investing in agriculture sector and especially in livestock in Albania. The Trade Office of the Embassy of Austria to Albania organized on Tuesday in Tirana a meeting under topic “Economic Mission, Agriculture in Albania”. Attending the event was Minister of State for Protection of Entrepreneurship Sonila Qato, ambassador of Austria to Albania Johann Sattler, Austrian Deputy Commercial Attaché to Albania Eva Pfurtscheller, and a delegation of 13 Austrian firms from the agriculture sector focusing mainly on livestock as well as Albanian entrepreneurs and businessmen operating in the rural sector. Austrian ambassador to Albania Johann Sattler evaluated the agriculture sector in our country as a catalysis that will give a greater development to Albanian tourism. The ambassador also said that some areas, like Lushnja and Divjaka, are distinguished for their traditional and quality products and carry the potential of supplying Albania with fruits and vegetables. This is a good opportunity for Austrian investors, too. The Commercial Attaché Eva Pfurtscheller emphasized promotion of cross border cooperation among the countries of the region in the field of agriculture. According to her, this cooperation stimulates trade exchanges between the countries and is a good opportunity for absorbing the EU funds on joint projects

Albanians save on rent and spend more for food

Albania has cheaper prices than European Union countries especially for food, beverages, hotels and restaurants, but that does not mean that Albanians can benefit from this trend. INSTAT's Household Expenditure Survey shows that most of the budget goes for food and non-alcoholic beverages. With 45.2%, Albania is far from any other EU country, which has an average of 12.2%. This spending among Albanian families is higher than in other countries of the region, such as Serbia, where these expenditures account for only 26.8% of the total. By comparing the budget of an Albanian residence and others in Europe, it turns out that there are significant differences in how money is spent. Thus, in the union countries, what is most burdensome is housing, rent, water and electricity. This expenditure accounts for one quarter of the budget of a European family and similarly of a family in Serbia. While Albanians are favored by the fact that 93% of households are owners of the apartment they live in. In Serbia this figure is only 81%, while in Germany it is down to 52%. Another area where the families in the country save is the transport, for which only half of what they spend is spent in the EU. And despite saving in rent and transport, there is still no sufficient income for entertainment. It is noted that for the Entertainment and Culture group, an Albanian family spends only 1/3 of that of a European family. This is expressed as a percentage of total spending, since if we calculate that the family budget in Europe is greater, then the differences are even more pronounced. Similarly, less is spent on restaurants and hotels, although it should be said that we leave behind Serbia in this area.

380 thousand tourists entered Albania in October marking the highest figure ever

During October, around 379,000 foreign nationals entered Albania, or nearly 77,000 more than a year ago. The increase by 25.3% means that the tourist season had a delay in time, bringing more visitors to Albania. The majority of foreign nationals who have entered the Albanian territory over the last month belong to the countries of the region, where the citizens of Kosovo and Greece dominate. For the latter, there has been a doubling in figures and at the border points of the country there were over 75 thousand entries, out of 38 thousand a year earlier. Another group of tourists reporting a higher entry into the country compared to the previous year are tourists from Poland, who have quadrupled the number since last October. There are 9200 Poles who have chosen Albania to make their late holidays. The extent of the tourist season is also reflected in the statement of the purpose of entry made by foreign nationals. 168 thousand have said they have come to Albania for holidays, twice as high as a year ago. The number of overnight visits has also increased, and 25,610 visits were recorded for October, compared with 17,887 last October. As far as the way of traveling is concerned, land transport dominates, marking an increase of 18.5% at entry and 12.2% outbound. Air transport has reported a sustainable growth, with 113,000 people coming in and 119,000 passengers going out. For the period January to October 2017, the number of flights in the country has increased considerably, especially with regard to outgoing flights, which have an annual increase of around 25.5%.

Albania's OSHEE invites bids for power imports in Dec

Albanian power distributor OSHEE said it is inviting bids for the import of up to 409,200 MWh of electricity in December. The bidding deadline is November 22 and the preferred criteria will be the lowest price offered, the OSHEE said in a request for offers posted on the corporate website. In August, the Albanian government increased its fund for energy imports by 3 billion leks (\$26.1 million/22.2 million euro) to 4.5 billion leks, due to the prolonged drought this summer that has limited the output capacity of the country's hydro power plants.

Albania's KESH posts 9-mo net loss of 4.3 bln leks

Albanian electricity producer KESH said it has closed the first nine months of 2017 with an unaudited net loss of 4.3 billion leks (31.6 million euro). The company posted 4.9 billion leks in operating revenue and 3 billion leks of operating expenses, KESH said in its nine-month consolidated statement published earlier this week. KESH ended 2016 with an audited net profit of 1.16 billion leks. The company did not provide comparative figures on its financial performance in the first nine months of 2016 in the report. KESH energy generation decreased to 2.3 million MWh in the first nine months of 2017 from 3.7 million MWh in the same period last year. The company's imports of electricity increased to 148,770 MWh in January-September from 129,620 MWh in the prior-year period, whereas exports fell to 34,020 MWh from 801,445 MWh.

Albania's EU-harmonised annual inflation speeds up to 3.2 % in Oct

Albania's annual harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) rose to 3.2% in October, from 2.7% in September, the country's statistical office, INSTAT, said on Wednesday. The strongest upward push on annual inflation came from a 7.8% rise in the harmonised index of consumer prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages, followed by housing, water, electricity, gas and fuels (+2.1%), education (+1.2%), and recreation and culture (+1%), INSTAT said. On a monthly comparison basis, Albania's HICP increased by 0.2% in October following a rise of 0.5% in September, influenced mostly by an increase in the prices of clothing and footwear (+1.5%) followed by food and non-alcoholic beverages (+0.4%). Albania's annual non-HICP rose 1.9% year-on-year in October, from 1.6% in September, INSTAT said earlier this month. INSTAT started publishing inflation measurement through the HICP in February. The HICP measures consumer price inflation in the euro area. It is compiled according to a methodology that has been harmonised across EU countries to ensure that the data for one country can be compared with the data for another.

GDP per capita in Albania is 4520 US dollars: IMF

Albanians are considered as poor people, with an average level of incomes of 4520 USD a year. Such fact has been confirmed by the recent report of the International Monetary Fund. According to the leading financial institution, Albania ranks 105th in the world amidst a list of 189 countries as far as GDP per capita is concerned. Albania is followed by Kosovo, Moldova and Ukraine. Kosovo's GDP per capita is 3581 USD a year. GDP per capita in FYROM is 5500 USD a year, in Serbia it's 5600 USD a year, while Montenegro is better with 7071 USD a year. On the other hand, IMF predicts that by 2022, GDP per capita in Albania will be 6202 USD a year. Meanwhile, in terms of purchasing power, Albania is 98th in the world and according to IMF, the country ranks among the last in Europe

EBRD: Business environment must be improved

The current business environment in Albania must be improved. This is the main recommendation of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in its recent report Transition 2017-2018. The report adds that the country must not neglect the reform in the energy sector and it must also deliver the conditions set out by the European Union for the launch of accession talks. "GDP growth rates are on the upturn and IMF's program has been successfully finalized, contributing in a growth of fiscal stability and a reduction of public debt (although it is still high)", the report on Albania states. The report also mentions the construction of the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) as a vital project for Albania, because, according to EBRD, it contributes in the diversity of energy sources and regional integrity. In the end, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development says that Albanians have more confidence in the banking sector. "The level of non-performing loans has started to decline. Measures to better handle this sector are being introduced, while the consolidation of the large number of banks is turning out to be a slow process", EBRD says

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CCIFA Weekly News botohet nga CCI Francë Shqipëri me mbështetjen në veçanti të Zyrës së Shtypit të Ambasadës së Francës në Shqipëri.

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

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