

CCIFA Weekly News

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Activité hebdomadaire de la CCIFA /Aktiviteti javor i CCIFA /CCIFA Weekly activity**



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3 nouvelles candidatures spontanées : /Tre kandidatura te reja

Jeton BUJA
Petrika Hajro
Luiza Miraka

<http://www.ccifa.al/fr/services-aux-entreprises/candidatures-spontanees/>

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE / HIGHLIGHTS

World Bank supports integrated urban and tourism development project in Albania

World Bank and Albanian government will co-finance the Integrated Urban and Tourism Development Project in Albania. The project will help create jobs, increase incomes, and support local economic development in selected areas in Albania's south, a key tourism destination with significant potential for growth. The project aims to improve urban infrastructure, enhance tourism assets, and strengthen the capacity of institutions to support tourism at local level. The project comprises of several components. The first component, urban upgrading and infrastructure improvement will finance the upgrading of infrastructure in four municipalities of Saranda, Gjirokastra, Berat and Permet. Investments in selected municipalities will include upgrading public spaces, the street network, and associated infrastructure including urban design studies, construction works to restore selected heritage buildings etc. The second component includes touristic sites upgrading and will finance investments aimed at improving selected touristic sites along the south of the Albania touristic corridor. Investments will include restoring of selected heritage and cultural assets and creating rest stops or viewpoints, repairing and improving site infrastructure such as pedestrian's pathways. The third component, tourism market and product development will finance strengthening the capacity of municipalities to deliver municipal services, tourism market and provision of asset management systems.

(ATSH)

Political crisis didn't affect tourism. More foreign visitors this year

Despite the unstable political situation, foreigners have kept visiting Albania. The Institution of Statistics reported that the number of foreign citizens entering the country increased with 13.4% the first four months of the year. 961.000 foreigners have visited Albania from January to April, a significant increase compared to 848.000 for the same period of one year ago. Data show that 98.3% of the foreigners visit Albania for personal reasons, but the number of tourists has increased significantly, although the tourist season has not started yet. INSTAT says that if last January-April there were a total of 91.500 foreigners visiting our country for tourism, their number has increased to 234.700, or 2.6 times more. Albanians have also traveled more, with 1.47 million people going abroad during the January-April period, or 5.8% more than the same period of one year ago.

(Scan TV)

Energy regulator to license new companies to further liberalize market

Albania's energy watchdog plans to issue a five-year licence to a company involved in electricity trading operations and to another company operating in natural gas trading as part of the government's strategy to further liberalize the country's energy market. Along with companies that have already completed the process there are at least three other companies that have passed the first stage of the evaluation of the required documents and the Board of Energy Regulatory Entity has launched the licensing procedures in the energy sector. Experts say new operators are increasingly entering the country's energy market giving a new development dynamic to this sector.

(Report TV)

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

National investments estimated at 34.1 % of GDP

Bank of Albania released the economic report on foreign trade highlighting that national savings have significantly contributed to narrowing of the current deficit. According to this report, national investments were estimated at 34.1% of GDP, around 0.3 percentage pts higher compared to Q4, last year. Net profits from services are estimated at around EUR 229.6 million compared to EUR 141.1 million the corresponding quarter, last year increasing by around 62.8%. This progress was mainly determined by expansion of export in services by around 17.0% on a yearly basis. Simultaneously, import of services increased by around 3.8%. In terms of nominal GDP, the surplus of service account was estimated at around 7.9% with travel services bearing the main weight. Net profits from travels, including the net flows from tourism are higher compared to the previous year, according to BoA. It says that net revenues expanded to EUR 95.7 million compared to EUR 51,6 million the corresponding period, last year.

(Scan TV)

Albanian company gets 5-yr concession for ship services at country's ports

Albania's transport ministry said on Monday that local company Anijet e Sherbimit Detar won a tender for a five-year concession contract for ship services at the country's ports. The company offered to invest 238.4 million leks (\$2 million/1.8 million euro), according to a notice of the transport ministry in the weekly bulletin of the country's Public Procurement Agency. One other company, Italy's Gesmar, took part in the tender but was disqualified because the documents it provided were incomplete and because its vessels were not registered in the country's floating vessels register. Under the contract, the concessionaire will be required to offer services including piloting and ship towing, in the ports of Durres, Vlore, Saranda, Shengjin, as well as at oil terminals Romano Port and Vlore's Petro-lifere. According to local broadcaster TopChannel, Albania's ports handles some three million tonnes of goods and 1.5 million passengers annually.

(Top Channel)

EIB to invest 3.5 bln euro in Western Balkans in 3 years

The European Investment Bank (EIB) plans to invest 3.5 billion euro (\$3.9 billion) in the Western Balkans over the next three years, a senior EIB official has said. EIB intends to deploy an additional 2 billion euro to the Western Balkans over the next three years on top of 1.5 billion euro already planned, the head of the EIB Regional Representation for the Western Balkans, Dubravka Negre, said at an economic forum in Belgrade, according to a video file posted on the website of Serbian news agency Tanjug on Sunday. With the EIB being a project driven-bank, its lending of funds depends on the level of preparedness of a project and project management - two areas in which the bank faces particular challenges, but tries to address them through technical assistance, Negre said during the Vienna Economic Talks forum in Belgrade. The bank started its support to the region more than 15 years ago and today is one of the largest lenders to the Western Balkans, with close to 9 billion euro of committed financing, Negre said in an interview for the European Western Balkans news portal on Saturday. The Vienna Economic Talks forum is taking place in Belgrade May 21-22 under the patronage of the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker

(Report TV)

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

Albania's Jan-April budget surplus falls on higher expenditures.

Albania posted a budget surplus of 11.6 billion lek in the first four months of 2017, compared to a surplus of 15.8 billion lek a year earlier, according to data released by the finance ministry. The decline resulted from an 11% increase in total expenditures to 128.3 billion lek as both current and capital expenditures rose, the data showed. Total budget revenue grew 6.6% year-on-year to 139.9 billion lek in January-April. Albania recorded a budget deficit of 26.7 billion lek last year, lower than the planned 35.7 billion lek shortfall.

(Scan TV)

Ministry reports increase in VAT collection

Revenues in VAT collections in Q1 this year are estimated at ALL 41,9 billion up from ALL 40.4 billion in Q1, 2016. Data shows that VAT returns in Q1 this year are estimated at ALL 2.6 billion attributed to increase in domestic production of electricity and fuel. VAT returns have increased by 14 percent compared to the same quarter 2016. While in comparison to the same quarter 2016, VAT returns have increased by 14 percent. Revenues in VAT collections during 2017 are estimated at 141.2 billion Lek, marking an increase of ALL 3.3 billion lek in comparison to 2016. In 2016 the government collected ALL 131.960 million down from the projected 137,916 million Lek. According to the Ministry of Finance, imports will be the main source of additional revenues from VAT collections during 2017 due to price hikes in international fuel markets. Fight against informality is another positive factor in increase of VAT collection.

(Dita/web)

State budget revenues from local taxes increase

State budget collections from local taxes and tariffs amounted to 7.869 million lek in the first four months of 2017, Ministry of Finance said on Tuesday. According to Ministry of Finance, the share of total local government expenditures in the state budget expenditures in first four months was estimated at around 13.055 million lek. The share of state budget from the local tax revenues includes property tax, small business tax and other local taxes. In first four months, property tax collections amounted to 2.133 million lek, whereas revenues from small business tax amounted to 204 million lek and other local taxes and tariffs were estimated at around 5.532 million lek. The projected local government revenues are estimated at around 15.401 million lek in 2017.

(Balkanweb)

Albania to sell 29.8 mln euro of 7-yr T-notes on May 30

Albania will offer 4 billion leks (\$33.3 million/29.8 million euro) of seven-year fixed-rate Treasury notes at an auction on May 30, according to data from the central bank. The issue will carry an indicative coupon of 5.24%. At the previous similar auction held on December 5, 2016, the finance ministry raised 995.9 million leks from the sale of seven-year government securities, below its target of 1.5 billion leks. The coupon of the issue increased to 5.98 from 4.00% in June.

(Scan TV)

EU advises Albania to continue with fiscal consolidation

The Council of the European Union has recommended to Albania to continue pursuing fiscal adjustment in order to reduce its public debt. Should debt reduction miss its target, the government will need to introduce further fiscal consolidation measures, the Council said on Tuesday in a statement on the joint conclusions of the bloc's economic and financial dialogue with the Western Balkans and Turkey. The Council encouraged Albania to go further with its recent revenue mobilisation efforts by strengthening tax administration, broadening the tax base and introducing a valuation-based property tax. The statement described Albania's economy as "experiencing a gradual economic upturn" at present, with the trend expected to continue during the 2017-2019 programme period. Growth is expected to be driven mainly by private consumption and investments, as well as by improved labour market and low interest rates. However, the Council warned that there are risks to the downside to this growth projection stemming from persisting macroeconomic vulnerabilities and a renewed slide in oil prices. "Structural obstacles to growth and competitiveness include still unclear land ownership, poor access to finance, a high level of informality and corruption, an excessive regulatory burden and unpredictability in the judiciary system, which acts as a discouragement to both foreign and domestic investment," the Council added. The ratio of non-performing loans (NPLs) remains high (at 17.4% at end-March) despite the partial implementation of measures aimed at reducing them, such as introducing mandatory write-offs, the Council said and urged Albania to implement the remaining measures of the NPL resolution strategy. Albania was also invited to fully unbundle the transmission and distribution activities in the electricity and gas sectors, establish a power exchange, continue to clarify ownership of agricultural land and create a functioning cadastre and an e-cadastre by 2019.

(Balkanweb)

6% VAT on tourism enters into force in the first days of June

Legal changes to lower VAT rate on tourism to 6 percent are expected to enter into force in 15 days. The Official Journal has published legal changes while further stating that the rate of reducing the value added tax which applies to the supply of accommodation services in accommodation facilities, according to the categories defined in the tourism sector legislation, is 6 percent. Conditions, criteria and procedures for the implementation of this paragraph shall be determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers. "The law adopted on 04.27.2017 enters into force 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal," reads the law.

(Scan TV)

Customs must not favor businesses that make political donations-

Albanian customs must distance themselves from any unlawful act which threatens official standards. Such was the appeal launched today by the minister of Finance, Helga Vukaj. The newly appointed Finance minister stressed the importance of delivering the fiscal objectives and the rigorous application of customs procedures to avoid any case of abuse that favors special business operators with the aim of funding electoral activities. Vukaj also warned administrative measures and criminal prosecution for each employee who breaks the law. She also demanded from law enforcement agencies to improve customs inspections and the drafting of an action plan for a swift and coordinated coordination with Border Police. Scan TV

Economy registered a growth during 2016

Economy registered a growth during 2016, while economic growth reflected the increase in consumption and private investments. Such fact is confirmed in the annual report of the Bank of Albania for 2016, adding that economic growth was mainly reflected in the expansion of services and construction. "Gross Domestic Product grew by 3.3% during the first nine months of 2016. Along with the economic activity, the labor market also saw an improvement in the first nine months of 2016. Employment grew by 6.8% following a growth of 5.2% at the same period a year ago", the report also says, adding that the revival of investments and private consumption have been the main factors that determined economic growth. "Investments marked an annual growth of 8% during the first nine months of the year, following an increase of 11% in the previous month", the report also states Scan TV

Ekonomi: Government to press ahead with reforms to reduce barriers for business, improve business climate

Minister of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship, Milva Ekonomi, said Thursday the government will press ahead with structural reforms, reduce barriers for foreign and local business and further improve business climate in the country. Speaking to reporters during the visit to a textile and apparel company in the coastal city of Durrës, Economic Development Minister said that government reforms will translate into more jobs and broader support for private sector in the years to come. "We are more convinced than ever that government reforms over past four years have significantly improved business environment and eased barriers for both foreign and Albanian business," Ekonomi said. She said that much more remains to be done in the next four years as reforms will yield concrete results in terms of new jobs, stronger support for private sector and increased welfare for Albanian citizens. Standard,8

Government Seeking for Consultants for Road Projects

The government has started the phase of selecting the consultants for the road project that it has agreed with the World Bank. In the first months of this year, several contracts were awarded according to the maintenance model based on results while the Albanian Road Authority is seeking a group of consultants. First, the authority is seeking for a foreign technical expert and secondly a consulting company with separate assignments. So the expert will engage in monitoring 4 contracts for 1,335 kilometers of roads. The consultants will provide support to the project management team, train the staff of the Authority for collecting data on the road network and the situation, evaluate the implementation of contracts by private companies and will cooperate with other consultants involved to reconcile the findings. On the other hand, the Albanian Road Authority has expressed interest in finding a consultant that will raise awareness in terms of road safety. (Albanian Daily News,4)

Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

Albanian Daily news

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