

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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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER...



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WDD 2017 – Event organized by sanofi

SANOFI DIABETES
& CARDIOVASCULAR 

 **CCI FRANCE
ALBANIE**

WORLD DIABETES DAY

November 14th 2017

11h00-13h00 -Expert meetings, Hotel Rogner

12h00-14h00- Blood glucose measurements, Twin Towers

SANOFI ALBANIA organizes “World diabetes Day” in Tirana in November 14th 2017.

The objectives of this event are to raise awareness on diabetes and its complications and to show that Sanofi is an important partner in diabetes management in Albania.

With the presence of the French Ambassador in Albania Mme Christina Vasak, the Minister of Health & Social Protection, Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu, the Chairman of CCI France Albania, M Julien Roche, political personalities and health care specialists

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

<http://www.ccifa.al/fr/single-news/n/event-world-diabetes-day-1/>



Chers membres et chers amis,

Le prochain numéro de la newsletter France Albanie Express sera publiée en Novembre. Merci de me transmettre un article (ou offre) sur vos activités; de préférence en anglais, avec vos coordonnées. Comme toujours, la newsletter va être adressée à notre base de données habituelle (+ 4.000 contacts et à CCI France International - 35.000 contacts, le plus grand réseau dans le monde) La date limite pour envoyer l'article : 3 Novembre 2017

Notre CCI se tient à votre entière disposition,

Bien à vous,



Të nderuar anëtarë dhe miq,

Numri i radhës së newsletter-it France Albanie Express do të publikohet në NËNTOR. Ju lutem na dërgoni një artikull (ose ofertë) mbi aktivitetet tuaja; mundësisht në anglisht, ku të jenë edhe të dhënat tuaja. Si zakonisht, Buletini do t'ju shpërndahet bazës tonë të të dhënave (rreth 4000 kontakte dhe CCI France International - 35,000 kontakte, rrjeti më i madh në botë) Afati i dërgimit të artikullit: 3 Nëntor 2017.

Dhoma jonë mbetet në dispozicionin tuaj të plotë,

Gjithë të mirat,

Dear members and friends,

The next issue of the newsletter France Albanie Express will be published in NOVEMBER. Please kindly send to me an article (or offer) on your activities; preferably in English, with your contact details. As usually, the newsletter will be sent to our usual database (-4,000 contacts and CCI France International - 35,000 contacts, the largest network in the world) the deadline to send the article: 3 November 2017

Our CCI remains at your disposal,

our partners....



First Automotive Dialog in Albania

Dear DIHA Members and Friends

DIHA, the German Association of Industry and Trade in Albania, has the pleasure to invite you at the:

1st Automotive Dialog in Albania

Thursday, 16th November 2017

Beginning: 09:00 hrs

Tirana Business Park

Albania is on its way to be an attractive and cost-competitive location for the automotive supplier industry (Tier 1 and Tier 2) within the European borders.

At the 1st Automotive Dialog in Albania various stakeholders of the automotive businesses meet and discuss with government representatives and foreign investors. Keynote speeches, panel discussions, as well as an info session and a B2B Meeting will be held about the following four topics:

E-Mobility for Albania - challenges and potential
Location for the Production of Automotive Components
Recycling and Remanufacturing in the Automotive Industry
Retail Market and its After Sales Challenges

During the event you have the opportunity to network and exchange experiences with each other.

We would kindly ask you to register here, until the 10th of November 2017.

We look forward to your visit!

<http://www.diha.al/index.php?id=118478>



AEEC AUTUMN CONFERENCE

13 November 2017

Tirana, Albania

The future energy world of Albania and the Western Balkans Investment possibilities and challenges

*Moderated by Ilir Daci, Partner, Optima Legal & Financial and Prof. Christian Held, AEEC
Chairman & Partner at BBH*

Conference venue:	Hotel The Plaza Tirana Rruga 28 Nentori, 1001 Tirana
10:00 – 11:00	Registration and small snack
11:00 – 11:15	Welcoming words <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prof. Christian Held, AEEC Chairman & Partner at BBH- Ilir Daci, Partner, Optima Legal & Financial
11:15 – 11:45	Keynote: Energy policy in Albania <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Damian Gjikhuri, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure
11:45 – 12:15	Energy in Albania - from Backyard to Superpower? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prof. Dr Dirk Buschle, Energy Community Secretariat
12:15 – 12:45	Albania 2025: Bridge and hub for the European energy industry <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prof. Dr Friedbert Pflüger, Director, European Centre for Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS)
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch

- 14:00 – 15:15 **Round Table I: Challenges of the Albanian Oil & Gas Regulatory Framework**
- Dael Dervishi, Optima Legal & Financial
 - Head of Hydrocarbons Department, AKBN
 - Turker Sengonul, Shell Upstream Albania
 - Ervin Lula, San Leon Energy
- 15:15 – 17:00 **Round Table II: The development of the electricity sector in Albania and the Western Balkans**
- Entela Cipa, Head of Agency for Energy Efficiency
 - Alf Henryk Wulf, GE Power AG
 - Dr. Matthias Müller-Mienack, GridLab GmbH
 - Wolfgang Kröpfl, COO, CTO, enso GmbH
- 17:00-17:30 Coffee break
- 17:30 – 19:00 **Round Table III: TAP and the prospective gas infrastructure in Albania and the Western Balkans**
- Yvonne Ruf, Principal, Roland Berger
 - Representative of Trans Adriatic Pipeline AG
 - Maksim Shuli, ERE Albanian Energy Regulator Authority
 - Genci Gjeci, Albgaz
 - Wim Groenendijk, Gasunie
- 20:30 **Gala Dinner**

our member...



OPEN DAYS AT EPITECH ALBANIA

IT enthusiasts looking forward to a higher education will have the opportunity to meet at the Epitech Albania's Open Days

On saturday the 4th of November from 10 am to 4 pm Epitech Albania will receive parents and students as part of its open days.

You will have the opportunity to:

Receive a presentation of the Epitech Curriculum

Visit the premises

Encounter members of the administration

Meet with the pedagogical staff

Meet and exchange with our first year students

Get informed and register for our « Epitech Albania Discovery Days »

This day will be your opportunity to ask any question related to:

Admission procedures

Ways to finance your studies

Job Opportunities

For any further information you may contact us at:

Tel: 042 204 104

E-mail: infobalkans@epitech.eu

www.epitech.al

Address: Tirana Business Park: Rinas Road - Tiranë-Vorë, Building 07,
4th Floor

<http://www.ccifa.al/fr/single-news/n/epitech-albania-open-days/>

Drought-generated decline in energy production threatens Albania's economic stability

The prolonged drought that Albania witnessed during this year and its possible continuation for the coming year is seen as the greatest risk that threatens the fiscal and economic stability of the country for 2018, an analysis of Albanian Ministry of Finance showed Saturday. According to this analysis, the Albanian government has reported to the Parliament that the problematic hydro situation of 2017 has led to the decline of energy production in the country, failing to provide Power Distribution Operator (OSHEE) with the necessary amount of energy. Such situation has forced the latter to turn to energy imports at market price, logically more expensive than domestic production. "Consequently, the fragility of the energy sector from the meteorological situation in the country is the main risk factor," the analysis said. The Albanian government also admitted in this analysis that in case of a significant negative situation, this vulnerability would cause a domino effect on all sector operators, with a significant impact on the financial situation of each of the companies. If such scenario happened, it would question the progress of the measures taken within the framework of the reform of energy recovery, as the analysis indicated. Meanwhile, the disadvantageous financial situation of OSHEE during the second half of 2017, due to difficult weather conditions of the prolonged drought, may reappear during 2018, according to the ministry. As a consequence, the unfavorable financial position of OSHEE would affect the situation of other sector companies, especially Albanian Power Corporation (KESH), due to the impossibility of collecting its liabilities from OSHEE. Experience has shown that lack of domestic energy production has produced fiscal risks that ultimately have contributed to the overall growth of public debt and have been the cause of the chaos of the entire energy system, the ministry added. In the meantime, only few weeks ago, Albanian government was forced to revise the 2017 budget in order to allocate more funds to the OSHEE and KESH in order to help them cope with the energy crisis and cover the energy imports.

Budget 2018 includes pay and pension hike

The salaries and pensions are expected to hike once again in the year to come, following the substantial pay increase by govt. decision as of March 1, this year. In the 2008 draft budget, the fund made available for wage and pension hike is estimated at ALL 2.8 bn, of which ALL 1 bn for the new payment policies and ALL 1.8 bn for pensions. Secretary General at the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Gelardina Prodani, in an interview with ATA, said that the hike rates and priority sectors will be determined by a special decision of the Council of Ministers in line with the priorities set out in the programme. As of March 1, this year, the govt. set an average increase of 10 percent for salaries of employees in public administration, independent institutions, education and healthcare system as well as institutions subordinate to the Prefect. The fund for pay and pension hike was USD 100 mln, which was also the highest value of funding earmarked for pay and pension increase in a budget during a span of 25 years. "The decision is a testament to the new and clear reality our country has ushered in as a result of tough, yet successful reforms launched in the four last years. Furthermore, it is attributed to consolidation of economic growth," according to Prodani.

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

Back to the roads

In its second mandate, the government will pay more attention to investments in infrastructure by activating three new projects: Arber's Road, Thumane-Vlore Highway and Unaza e Madhe- Shqiponja Square-New Bulevard segment in Tirana. The three projects have an estimated value of 551 million euros and they will be financed by the government's 1 billion euro package, according to Monitor. Meanwhile old working frontiers require another 70 billion lek in financing. The three options for financing road projects are being under review but two of them represent a risk for the fiscal stability and generate additional costs for citizens, Monitor reports. Albania's public debt is the highest compared to the European Union average and stands at 70% of the GDP. The activation of the Public Private Partnership investments is perceived as risky because the financing is extended beyond the political mandate of the government and will boost the public debt. The government's policy is not in harmony with the regional plan that is being financed by the Berlin Initiative. Under the pressure of national and regional priorities, the government has decided to finance the Arber Road and the road in Vlora. The government seems determined to complete the Arber's Road. Its completion requires 242 million euros in investment. 200 million euros will be financed by Gjoka Construction. Meanwhile, the Southern Highway which is Albania's single project that can be integrated in the regional network, hence attracting more EU investments, is not in the plans of the government. The 2018 budget includes foreign financing such as World Bank's new project on road safety and maintenance. Few days ago, the Albanian Development Fund launched the tender for technical projects on rural roads that precedes a 100 million euro investment, obtained by World Bank.

Next year economic growth will be 5%, Albanian PM pledges

For next year, the Albanian government is aiming to have a budget which is 4% higher, while economic growth should be around 5%. This was declared today by the Albanian PM, Edi Rama, according to whom, next year's budget, which will be 4% bigger, will present many investment opportunities. Rama stressed that next year's priorities are investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education and agriculture. On the other hand, according to the head of the government, the aim is to have an economic growth which goes beyond 5%, because according to him, beyond this level, this growth will be tangible for people. "Under 5%, economic growth remains a mere figure and it is not a reality of household economies", Rama said. According to him, economic growth relies, on one hand, on the growth of incomes and on the other, on massive investments in infrastructure. But, this is not all, because the budget also supports other sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture and tourism.

Construction of Arber Road to kick off within 45 days

Arber Highway (Rruga e Arberit) construction work is expected to kick off within 45 days and it will not stop until this important project is utterly completed, Prime Minister Edi Rama stated on Monday during the Socialist Party parliamentary group meeting. The Premier underlined that this important project will also be discussed along with the government of Macedonia in order to provide the necessary ties to this highway. PM Rama said that Arber Highway contract is about to conclude while mentioned the ongoing efforts of the MPs elected in Dibra region. "The Ministry has already kicked off negotiating terms and conditions with the winning company and therefore within 30-45 days the contract will be finalised and Arber Highway will start without stopping until this crucial project is utterly completed," the Premier emphasised. Ultimately, PM Rama said that "along with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs discussions are expected to open with Macedonian government during Pogradec meeting in order to provide the necessary ties to endorse this highway a regional dimension as well."

Albania: Secret Service Chief Quits Suddenly

The head of the secret service in Albania, SHISH, Visho Ajazi Lika, has resigned from his position to which he was appointed in August 2012. The news emerged on Monday after Prime Minister Edi Rama's office said Rama had named SHISH vice director Helidon Bendo to President Ilir Meta as Ajazi's successor. "The move follows the resignation of the service director, which was welcomed and Visho Ajazi was thanked by the PM for his contribution," the press release read. Under the terms of the constitution, the Prime Minister proposes both the appointment and the dismissal of the chief of SHISH to the President. It is not clear, however, why Ajazi resigned, as the mandate of the chief of the secret service is not limited to a set number of years. Ajazi was a proposal of former PM Sali Berisha and his appointment was decreed by former President Bujar Nishani. He has been the subject of accusations from Rama's Socialist Party of illegal wiretapping and biased actions. The chairman of the opposition Democratic Party, Lulzim Basha, has meanwhile claimed already that the resignation followed political pressure. "I don't have any other conclusion [that this occurred] besides political pressure," he said. By law, the chief of the secret service reports to and informs the President and the Prime Minister on issues concerning national security.

Albania begins process of vetting judges, prosecutors

The process of vetting Albanian judges and prosecutors officially kicked off Monday. Seen as a key part of a justice reform package, Albanian authorities held an inauguration ceremony at the building where the process will take place. Natasha Mulaj, chief justice of the Appellate College, said faith in institutions of justice had fallen to an all-time low but a major endeavor would be made to change this. Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama said that the setting up of bodies that will vet around 800 Albanian justice officials, paved the way towards implementation of justice reform. He noted that the reform in justice system represented a major step forward on Albania's path towards EU membership.

Winner of Arbri Road Concession Announced

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure announced Tuesday that "Gjoka Konstruktion" Co. is the winner of concession for building of the Arbri road. The evaluation commission announced "Gjoka Konstruktion" Co. the winner of "improvement, building, operation and maintenance of Arbri road" following examination and assessment of the bids submitted via the e-system. In a press release, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy reports that the company had presented the technical, financial and legal documentation in accordance with the requirements and documents of the competition procedures and at the end decided to accept its bid and qualify it into the evaluation stage. During the evaluation stage, the bid came out winner following consideration of technical elements for building the road and its maintenance; environmental impact, social impact, deadline of completion of works and the financial bid, is read in the press release of the ministry. After announcement of the winning company in the competition, the relevant authorities will get committed into negotiation of the concessionary contract, the signing of which paves the way to kicking off works on the ground. The value of the project for building of this road is estimated at about 254 million Euros. "Gjoka Konstruktion" Co. had requested the concession in spring while the tender was held in early October. Arbri road is 73.5 km long. 20.1 km of this length has been built by state budget money and 15 other km has been only partially built. The biggest part of works remains unfinished. The building of this road axis is made according to 1 billion Euros scheme according to which the companies will invest by themselves in public works and will be paid back by the state budget by installments.

BMI Research Highly Optimistic on Albanian Economy

BMI Research, part of Fitch Group, one of the three largest credit rating agencies in the world, along with Moody's and Standard and Poor's, has considerably increased projections for the Albanian economy this year and the next one. The agency's latest report speaks of an economic growth rate of 4% this year, from the previous projection 3.6%, and this is the second growing month in a row. In the face of two recent reports, Fitch has revised the Albanian economy by 0.7 percentage points. Even for the next year, the agency seems convincingly more optimistic, as it speaks of an economic growth rate of 3.6%, from 3.3% estimated in the previous report. This review, as the report states, receives an impetus from the external environment as well as the improvement of the risk profile as a result of June's general elections. Political stability, along with the Central Bank's monetary alleviating policies, is stated that will improve both private consumption and foreign investment. This, the report states, could weaken the governing majority. Another assessment of rating agency refers to consumer prices, which will likely increase significantly in the first half of next year.

Doing Business in Albania Getting More Difficult

To do» business in Albania is becoming more and more difficult. This has been stated in the latest report of the World Bank called "Doing Business 2018" where Albania has lost 7 positions. In this report, Albania ranked 65th, while last year, it ranked 58th among 190 countries of the world. The report in question also points out positive aspects of doing business in Albania, such as borrowing or the part that concerns labor market regulation. "On the distance to frontier metric, Albania's score went from 67.74 in Doing Business 2017 to 68.70 in Doing Business 2018, using a comparable methodology," said Maryam Salim, WB Country Manager for Albania. "This means that throughout the last year Albania has improved its business regulations as captured by the Doing Business indicators in absolute terms - the country is narrowing the gap with the global regulatory frontier. It's a positive move," Salim added. On the other hand, "Doing Business 2018" mentions the fact that supply of businesses with power supply is a problem. Then, the report mentions difficulties in the payment of taxes or construction permits and also the registration of properties, where Albania ranks 103rd. "Albania has improved access to credit, by making amendments in the Civil Code and the Law on Collateral and also by approving a new law on bankruptcy. Also, Albania has amended legislation to reduce the maximum amount of work hours (including extra hours) during a week", the report says. This year, Albania ranks at 65 on the ease of doing business, compared to 58 in last year's report. The main reasons behind this change in the ranking are: significant improvements in other economies' business regulatory environment compared to Albania's; some methodology refinement and data revisions. More specifically, Doing Business finds that Albania implemented substantive changes in the local regulatory framework in the following areas in 2016/17

Gap between rich, poor in Albania widens

The gap between the rich and the poor in Albania is growing wider, the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INS-TAT) said Tuesday in its household budget survey for 2016. An Albanian household with an average size of 3.7 members spends an average of 73,143 leks (638 U.S. dollars) per month while the average consumption expenditures per capita is estimated to be 19,591 leks per month, of which 8,861 leks is for food and 10,730 leks is for non-food items. According to the survey's findings, over 90 percent of households in Albania spend 78.3 percent of their total monthly earnings. Meanwhile, 10 percent of households spend only 21.7 percent of their monthly household earnings. Household average consumer expenditures per capita showed the same trend of higher expenses for both strata. Per capita consumption expenditure showed that the population of the households with the lowest expenditures (the 90 percent) spent an average of 18,119 leks monthly per capita in 2016, while the richer 10 percent of households spent an average of 62,562 leks monthly per capita, or 3.5 times more.

World Bank: Remittances in Albania account for 8.7% of GDP

The money that Albanian migrant workers who live and work abroad send to their country, account for 8.7% of the country's Gross Domestic Product. Such fact was announced by a recent report issued by the World Bank. According to this report, despite the contribution that remittances make in the economy, relying on them in the medium-term and long-term, may be a threat for the macro-economic stability of a country. This is based on the argument that although remittances have a positive effect in revenues and consumption, they can discourage investments and the creation of new jobs. "Emigration may also impose challenges", the World Bank report says among others

Four candidates seek permits to build small HPPs in Albania

Albania's energy ministry said it has received four applications for building permits for small hydro power plants (HPPs) in the last two days of October. The applications have been submitted by the following companies and consortiums: Marjakaj (3 power plants), Gjoni Kalivac, Ervin Kita & Taverna Agolli and Anesti Jaupllari & Eralda Intimo (1 power plant each), according to a list of applications posted on the website of the energy ministry on Tuesday. The capacity of each planned HPP shall not exceed 2 MW. Albania produces 98% of its electricity from HPPs, most of it from three power plants along the Drin River, in the northern part of the country.

Fight against informality in economy

As many as 2,941 new businesses have applied to register in the National Business Registry, whereas 645 others have become newly active in the first four weeks of a fresh crackdown on the country's informal economy. Tax audit administration groups have checked around 11,166 businesses and 22% of them have been penalized for tax avoidance. Data from the General Tax Directorate show that 1153 businesses in Tirana, Durres and Vlora changed tax responsibility. During the first four weeks only, more than 500 workers have been included in the social insurance scheme, whereas 319 unregistered businesses were closed due to tax avoidance and failure to issue fiscal bills.

Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

BALLKAN WEB

SCAN TV

CCI FRANCE ALBANIE

ATA

MONITOR

TOP CHANNEL

KLAN TV

ORA NEWS

TEMA

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NOTA BENE :

La revue de presse hebdomadaire est une synthèse de l'actualité à partir des nouvelles et articles publiés par les revues hebdomadaires albanaises. Les opinions, critiques et points de vue exprimés ne sauraient refléter une quelconque position des auteurs, de la CCI France Albanie, Le Service Presse de l'Ambassade de France en Albanie et sont simplement le reflet de ce qui a été publié.

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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.

