

# CCIFA Weekly News

No.7; 10-14 Avril 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*



*Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter!*



**kocaf**  
Club d'affaires  
francophone au Kosovo

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<http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/forum-presentez-votre-entreprise/>  
<http://www.ccifa.al/fr/single-news/n/forum-presentez-votre-entreprise-1/>

*Mais aussi...*

## Les 3 arches – exposition peinture sculpture

### 3 harqet – ekspozitë pikturë dhe skulpturë

L'Ambassade de France en Albanie a le plaisir de vous inviter à l'inauguration de l'exposition de l'artiste français Claudy Pellaton et du peintre albanais Enkelejd Zonja samedi 15 avril à 16h au Musée National Historique de Tirana.

L'exposition se tiendra du 15 au 26 avril  
prochain

Ambasada e Francës në Shqipëri ka kënaqësinë t'ju ftojë në çeljen e ekspozitës të artistit francez Claudy Pellaton dhe të piktorit shqiptar Enkelejd Zonja, të shtunë 15 prill, ora 16:00 në Muzeun Historik Kombëtar në Tiranë.

Ekspozita do të mbahet nga data 15 deri në 26 prill.

**Le 5-6 mai prochain se déroulera le plus grand salon de vins dans les Pays Baltes « Vynodienos », qui aura lieu à Vilnius, en Lituanie.**

**Veillez-trouver plus d'informations ici :**

**<http://vynodienos.lt/en/about/>**



**CONSEIL  
D'ADMINISTRATION DE LA  
CCI FRANCE ALBANIE**

**MBLEDHJA E KËSHILLIT  
DREJTUES TË CCI FRANCE  
ALBANIE**

**26/04/2017, 16h00**

**CCI France Albanie, Twin Towers, Tower 1, Floor 9**

# FOCUS MEMBRES & CCIFA



## FORUM

### PRESENTEZ VOTRE ENTREPRISE PREZANTONI KOMPANINE TUAJ

Place & date  
to be decided



*En commerce, l'occasion est tout!*

*"Në biznes, shfrytëzimi i oportuniteteve është gjithçka!"*

*Honoré de Balzac*



#### Chers membres,

Voulez-vous présenter votre entreprise aux autres membres en présence des invités spéciaux ?

À quoi sert une présentation d'entreprise ?

L'objectif de cette communication d'entreprise est de susciter l'attention de votre interlocuteur, lui donner envie d'en apprendre davantage sur votre société, susciter sa confiance et l'encourager à travailler avec vous. En quelques phrases, il doit saisir la valeur ajoutée que vous pouvez apporter et le profit qu'il peut tirer de cette collaboration.

#### Të nderuar anëtarë,

Dëshironi të prezantoni kompaninë tuaj anëtarëve të tjerë si edhe të ftuarëve specialë ?

Për çfarë shërben prezantimi i kompanisë?

Qëllimi i prezantimi është që të ngjalli vëmendjen e partnerëve tuaj, që ata të duan të mësojnë më shumë për kompaninë tuaj, të rrisë besimin e kompanisë dhe të inkurajojë partneret që të punojnë me ju. Me pak fjalë, prezantimi i kompanisë duhet të tregojë vlerën e shtuar dhe çfarë përfiton nje partner nga ky bashkëpunim.

<http://www.ccifa.al/fileadmin/template/albanie/uploads/Forumi.pdf>  
<http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/forum-presentez-votre-entreprise/>

# Promote YOUR COMPANY

The French Chamber's publications offer your company key tools to promote your products and services to a unique target of professionals interested or involved in the trade between France and the Albania.

Have a look at our wide range of advertising options including France Albania Express newsletter, our Franco-Albanian Directory, our Member-to-member programme, our CCIFA Weekly News, our Annual report and our website and social media.

## France Albania Express

Our bi-monthly Newsletter - France Albania Express - is sent electronically to our member base, partners, which are made up over 4000 representatives in Albania, announcing its forthcoming events and special offers. France Albania Express is sent to the French Chambers of Commerce in France and abroad.

## Franco-Albanian Directory

Our Franco-Albanian Directory is the directory of the French Chamber members. It is distributed to all members' representatives, which is made up over 80 companies and 1500 representatives, free of charge as a benefit of their membership. It is also distributed via our website et social media.

## Member to member offers programme

Our Member 2 Member Offers will this year be featured on our soon-to-be launched in the website. This initiative allows members the opportunity to offer a discounted rate on their products or services to fellow members, in order to attract new clients and to benefit from a year's FREE visibility.

More information: <http://www.ccifa.al/single-news/n/promote-your-company/>



BIENVENUE À LA CCI FRANCE ALBANIE



Albanie - Signature par Harlem Désir et Ditmir Bushati ! | 30 mars 2017



Advanced Business Solutions | 29 mars 2017



Trois nouveaux membres | 27 mars 2017



Jean-Alain Award from President - "Grand Master" | 27 mars 2017

REKLAMA 2  
310x144



VOUS AVEZ UN PROJET  
EN ALBANIE  
ET VOUS SOUHAITEZ ETRE  
ACCOMPAGNE?

DEMANDEZ UN DEVIS

DEVENIR MEMBRE

JULIEN ROCHE - BRESSAN D'HONNEUR  
2014 - ACADEMIE DE LA BRESSE +

JULIEN ROCHE - EN FRANCAIS "KRONIKÉ  
E PAMBARUAR" - ORA NEWS +

JulienRoche en francais

REKLAMA 1  
640x100

## A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE /HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Textile industry contributed 296 million Euro to the economy**

Textile enterprises brought 296 million euro to the Albanian economy over the last year. According to the Bank of Albania (BoA) income from goods manufactured services to foreign markets increased by 23% in 2016. Cheap labor provides around 3% of the Albanian gross domestic product (GDP). Cheap labor was the main competitive advantage of Albanian exports economy in 2016. BoA reported that although clothing and shoes exports amounted at around 770 million euro, less than half were actually added value to Albanian economy in the form of payment on processing raw material to ready product.

Source: Scan TV

### **Albania hosts first Mediterranean tourism fair**

Albania hosted the first Mediterranean tourism fair this weekend bringing together several tour operators from Macedonia, Montenegro, Italy and Greece. Albanian Minister of Economic Development and Tourism Milva Ekonomi attended the opening of the fair, noting that the authorities here aimed at putting Albania into the international calendar of fairs. According to her, the organization of such fair in Albanian capital brought added value to the country's tourism. The fair consisted of 72 stands with about 120 subjects. It came a few days after the Albanian government made the decision to cut the tax on tourism from 20 percent to only 6 percent to promote the development of this sector. The minister told reporters that such decision would also promote services quality as well as boost investments in the sector. Albania has seen a constant growth of foreign tourists as well as the revenues generated from this sector. Last year, around 4.7 million tourists visited Albania while the revenues generated from tourists amounted over 1.5 billion euros (1.59 billion U.S. dollars), the highest figure ever recorded here.

Source: Scan TV

### **Albania's inflation slows to 2.1% y/y in March**

Albania's consumer price inflation slowed to 2.1% year-on-year in March, from 2.2% in February, the statistical office, INSTAT, said on Monday. Prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages, which have the largest weight of 40% in the consumer basket, grew by 3.3% on the year in March, after rising 3.9% a month earlier. Housing, water, electricity and fuel prices, which have a weight of 20.7% in the consumer basket, edged up 1.1% in March following an annual increase of 0.6% a month earlier. Monthly inflation was 0.4% in March. At the end of March, Albania's central bank decided to keep its key interest rate at record low 1.25%. Inflation is anticipated to return to the central bank's 3% target around the end of 2018.

Source: Scan TV

### **Water conference, Dervishaj: Some EUR 200 mln invested in 4 years**

Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Sokol Dervishaj attended Monday the Albania-Hungary: Bringing together the water business professionals, conference. Dervishaj, provided an overview of investments in the sector of water supply and sewers system with nearly EUR 200 mln invested so far on new aqueducts. "I feel honored to take part in this conference which takes place within one week of the launch ceremony of the first low cost airline in Albania with the participation of Hungarian Minister for Transport Policies," Dervishaj said. "This forum is very important because it is a proof of the level of cooperation between our two countries, particularly in provision of services, sharing of expertise and on top of all in the interest of fulfilling our duty as best as we can," he added. The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure has prioritized water sector and the comprehensive reform that we have launched in this sector as well, according to Dervishaj. "Water supply has improved significantly all across the country thanks to EUR 60 mln investments made in 4 years 'time. Our cooperation with international donors is very important with roughly EUR 140 mln absorbed and invested in 4 years, and EUR 20 mln in sewers system alone," Dervishaj said. The forum was attended by senior representatives of Hungarian govt. such as Minister of State for Economic Diplomacy Levente Magyar as well as other representatives from water business and associations in Hungary

Source: **ATA** PIRATAGE, LA DUPLICATION ET L'ENVOI GRATUIT A D'AUTRES CORRESPONDANTS QUE LES SEULS ABONNES DE CCI FA WEEKLY NEWS PEUVENT REMETTRE EN CAUSE SON EXISTENCE MEME. MERCI DE VOTRE COMPREHENSION SUR CE POINT.

## ***A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS***

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### **Call Centers, 387 million Euros from service exports**

Last year, Albanian economy exported services worth 387 million Euros, data published by Central Bank showed Wednesday. According to Bank of Albania revenues from call centers increased by 40% compared to 2015. Marketing services, customer care services call centers and any other outsourcing service is considered as very important contributor to the economy. Central Bank said that call centers employ over 25,000 young Albanians.

Source: Dita

### **Dervishaj: Water prices will not increase**

Minister of Transports and Infrastructure, Sokol Dervishaj attended the conference on water between Hungary and Albania. In his address he said that Albania invested 200 million euros in four years on new aqueducts. Minister Dervishaj said that a water price hike is not necessary at the moment. "Together with our donors such as Germany, KFW, World Bank, European Union etc, we have paid a lot of attention to the water and irrigation services. We have invested a lot. Last week we inaugurated the new aqueduct of Saranda worth 6.7 million Euros. We have improved the general network. Our collaboration with the international donors is very important. In four years we have benefited and invested 140 million euros whereas in the irrigation system we have invested 20 million euros," Dervishaj said.

Source: Standard

### **Tobacco imports in decline, consumption of local products goes up**

Tobacco imports are in decline in 2017, daily Shqiptarja reports. Official data from the Ministry of Finances show that during January February, tobacco imports amounted to 390 tons down by 6.7 percent compared to 2016. Shqiptarja reports that the decline in imports is not related to lower rates of smoking, but mostly to an increase in consumption of local tobacco. In the same period last year, tobacco imports increased by 175 percent. In the last two years, the government canceled the excise tax hike in an attempt to hamper higher imports before a change in taxation. However, in 2010 until 2014, the government okayed a progressive increase in excise tax by encouraging companies to import cheaper tobacco before the tax entered to force. By paying less excise tax and by selling the products at a higher value, profits increased rapidly and even encouraged contraband. Custom clearance for tobacco products is still lower compared to consumption values. Albania smokes up to 5 thousand tons of tobacco and if custom clearances do not perform well, imports will not be a match for local consumption. Ministry of Finances says that custom clearances for tobacco were in decline since 2011 as a result of high excise tax, increased domestic production and contraband.

Source: Shqiptarja

### **Austrian businesses: Albania is not an attractive country for investments**

Roughly 52% of Austrian businesses believe that the parliamentary elections scheduled for June will not be favorable to the economic situation according Advantage Austria Albania cited by Rilindja Demokratike. Participants in the survey said they believed justice reform is crucial to restore faith in the system and encourage foreign direct investments. The survey involving Austrian businesses operating in Albania for the period September October 2016 was presented recently and 43% of participants said economic situation has deteriorated and 72% of them do not expect things to change in 2017. Austrian businesses expected a decline in FDI in 2016 and 29% say that Albania does not attract foreign investors due to the main problems such as corruption, lack of rule of law, bureaucracy and problems with administration of clients. The chairman of Albania's Agency For Development AIDA, Gent Beqiri said that the number of Austrian businesses in Albania in 2016 reached to 95, but Advantage Austria Albania claims the number to be 50.

Source: Rilindja Demokratike

### **Ministry to take measures and improve tourism sector**

The Albanian Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship recently launched the first call for draft proposals in the field of tourism for 2017. The main purpose of this call is to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the tourism sector in Albania, encouraging tourist season expansion through product diversification with innovative models and promotion, as well as improving the quality of service offered in Albanian beaches. The deadline to apply for a project in the field of tourism is up to April 21, 2017 and it has no geographical restrictions, leaving open the possibility for any entity within the Albanian territory to apply and benefit from the fund. According to the ministry, funds available for this call for project proposals are 25 million leks (200,800 U.S. dollars). Available funds will cover 50 percent of the project value. Albanian authorities are paying special attention to the tourism sector, considering it as a key contributor to the overall economy.

Source: Report TV

### **Dubai Al Habtoor Group to build 350-meter tower in Albania**

The parliament approved opening negotiations with a Dubai company to build a 350-meter -tall tower in the capital, Tirana. The parliament's vote Thursday didn't make it clear when the government would start negotiations with Al Habtoor Investment LLC, on the 235 million euros Tirana Iconic Tower project. As currently envisioned, the 25,000-square-meter tower would occupy an extension of the capital's main boulevard and house businesses and possibly Tirana City Hall. The builders would be exempt from tax payments for 15 years as an incentive. Al Habtoor Investment is a subsidiary of a subsidiary of the Al Habtoor Group, a conglomerate with interests in the hospitality, automotive, real estate, education and publishing sectors.

Source: ATA

### **Economy Ministry Signs Euro 1 Lease with Private Company**

TIRANA - Minister of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship, Milva Ekonomi, and the president of Rozafa company ltd Gjergj Luca signed on Thursday in Tirana a lease agreement on a surface area of 52,514 square meters in Labinot, Elbasan, where this company will invest on dilapidated premises transforming them into seafood processing plants.

Minister of Economy said that her ministry intends to revitalize all state properties, either derelict or poorly administrated ones, by supporting the entrepreneurship.

"The contract signed today is a new lease at the symbolic rental of EUR 1 in the field of fish processing, however the economic activity will expand into several sub-sectors of processing," Ekonomi said adding that formalization of fisheries sector has started to come to fruition. Actually, there are about 1,000 people engaged in sea fishing generating employment in the ratio of 1 to 3 or 1 to 4. According to her, by signing such agreement, the Ministry is contributing to the revitalization of the state properties left in limbo for many years. She noted that such move will support the businesses as well as lead to a better administration and maintenance of such facilities.

On his part, even the representative of the company said that such initiative of leasing state property or facilities at the symbolic value of Euro 1 will encourage businesses to expand. He also praised government's support to the fisheries sector.

Source: ADN

## **Plans on Albanian Flights over South-eastern Europe Underway**

TIRANA - Prime Minister Edi Rama visited Thursday an 'Innovation Hub', a technology lab of young people of ideas who work and gain from their companies benefiting from the tax-free system on small business and the new government policies of support.

During his visit to the 'Innovation Hub', the prime minister broke the news of launching Albanian flights all over the regional countries and Southeastern Europe.

"We are set to finalize plans on flights with our airline to Skopje, Podgoritsa, Zagreb, Sarajevo and Southeastern Europe," head of government said.

The prime minister also spoke about potential meetings with businessmen on fund-raising opportunities. "We can hold a presentation meeting of your Hub with a group of businessmen and thus overcome obstacles that may arise because of lack of knowledge, skepticism or not having a long-term vision," said PM Rama while pointing to tourism tax which is reduced into 6%.

"It might have been launched earlier. However, you are a great example that the world is yours if you want to be somebody and do something. There's no need of having the support of a renowned father or for the party to find a job for you," said PM Rama.

Source: ADN

## **Arberesh Community Aims to Be Included in UNESCO**

Albania's support is needed for the international recognition of Arberesh community's exceptional values in order to be included in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage

TIRANA - Historically, Arberesh people have had two homelands, but above all, their love for Albania has always prevailed and they were very devoted to preserving their cultural and spiritual values.

Many of us know them as Albanians of Southern Italy, who have historically passed the cultural identity to new generations and kept alive many cultural elements that are hard to find in another culture.

Recently, Arberesh community's aim is to make their intangible values part of UNESCO, and accordingly they seek Albania's support for this process.

"As Arberesh community, one that belongs to the national Albanian culture, we seek political support for our proposal to be included in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage," said Matteo Mandala, scholar and albanologist.

The development of a plan has made this process easier since the community itself developed it, incorporating the language, customs, cultural heritage and natural resources beyond compare.

"We've been working to develop a platform that is ready now and we will announce it officially. And we seek the support of Albania and Kosovo," Mandala said.

This call for cooperation was made at a conference on "Albanian identity today from a global perspective. Italian Arber Model". Thus, Arberesh people are hopeful for a positive response.

Source: ADN



## **Albania and Serbia Undertake New Initiative to Boost Business Cooperation**

TIRANA - There are new possibilities for the increase of the business cooperation between Albania and Serbia in the future, said the President of Albania - Serbia Chamber of Commerce, Isuf Ferra in a joint press conference with the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, Marko Cadez after representatives of an Albanian company and a Serb one signed a cooperation agreement in the field of water infrastructure construction and energy in Tirana on Thursday.

Mr. Ferra said that there are more than 60 companies which are members of the joint Albania - Serbia Chamber of Commerce which was created in Tirana on November 24 last year. "There have been dozens of businesses which carried out trade exchanges between Albania and Serbia," he underlined. In addition Mr. Ferra said that the joint Albania - Serbia Chamber of Commerce was working intensively to promote the Serb companies with the aim of increasing the cooperation furthermore.

The idea on the Tirana-based joint Albania-Serbia Chamber of Commerce was launched by BiznesAlbania, an Albanian organization of employers and business associations, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, in the presence of the Albanian Prime Minister, Edi Rama, and his Serbian counterpart, Aleksandar Vucic on October 14, 2016. Speaking on that occasion Albanian PM Rama said: "There are 100 Serb entities operating in Albania, either commercial or in direct activity. They're modest entities, but they operate in construction, industry, tourism, services, and I assure you that if you ask them, they will say only good things about the atmosphere in which they work. They will surely say that they feel very well and see no problem in the fact that they are from Serbia."

In Thursday's press conference in Tirana the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, Marko Cadez pointed out that the interest of Serb entrepreneurs to expand their activities in Albania and establish partnership with local companies had kept growing. According to him, only during 2016 the cooperation between the two countries in that field grew by 10 percent as compared with a year before.

"Given the fact that I have come to Tirana some times within the last four months shows much over the growing business ties between our countries," he said, unveiling the expectation that the bilateral business cooperation was expected to double during this year as compared to 2015.

"Albania has advanced with regards to the lifting of barriers between the two countries and we are trying to bring as many as possible investors here. Our interest expands in various fields like infrastructure, food industry, tourism, energy etc," said Mr. Cadez.

In conclusion the top representative of Serb businesses said that the economic and trade cooperation would also provide new possibilities for the increase of people- to - people exchanges of Serbia and Albania, improving the friendly ties between Serbs and Albanians, and the other people in the region.

Source: ADN

## **Parliament Passes Project on Tirana's Iconic Tower**

According to the authorities here, such investment will make Albania's capital, Tirana, be soon identified with a giant tower 350 meters high that will be built in the new boulevard

TIRANA - The Parliament approved on Thursday the draft law on the building of iconic Tower of Tirana by the prestigious company Al Habtoor Investments based in Dubai. The construction of the tower is expected to be complete within three years, according to the project. Thus, Tirana will have a new icon in its architecture and thousands of jobs to be generated thanks to this investment in our country.

According to the authorities here, such investment will make Albania's capital, Tirana, be soon identified with a giant tower 350 meters high that will be built in the new boulevard of Tirana. The draft law was approved with 78 votes in favor. "The surface of the tower will be divided into residential residences, hotels and administrative services," it is learned from sources close to the government.

The draft law foresees the establishment of a negotiating group to tackle the demand that the company from the United Arab Emirates has submitted to Albanian government. The company is planning to invest about 250 million dollars, but it has made some requirements such as the provision of 25,000 square meters and exemption from taxes for 15 years

Source: ADN



**kocaf**  
Club d'affaires  
francophone au Kosovo

Le club d'affaires francophone du Kosovo (KOCAF) a été lancé le jeudi 23 mars 2017 à l'Hôtel Swiss Diamond, en présence de S.E. M. Hashim THAÇI, Président de la République du Kosovo, de S.E. M. Kadri VESELI, Président de l'Assemblée du Kosovo, de S.E. M. Isa MUSTAFA, Premier Ministre de la République du Kosovo



<https://kosovo.ambafrance.org/Lancement-du-Club-d-affaires-francophone-au-Kosovo>

# Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

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**Albanian Daily news**

**Scan TV**

**ATA**

**Ambassade de France à Tirana**

**Ambassade de France à Prishtina**

**CCI France Albanie**

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

## 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.

*Përmbledhja javore e shtypit është një përmbledhje e lajmeve nga artikuj të botuar nga gazetat javore shqiptare. Mendimet dhe këndvështrime të shprehura nuk reflektojnë asnjë qëndrimin të autorëve të CCI Francë Shqipëri, Shërbimit të shtypit të Ambasadës së Francës në Shqipëri dhe janë thjesht një reflektim i artikujve të publikuar.*

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