

# CCIFA Weekly News

No. 2 ; 06-10 Mars 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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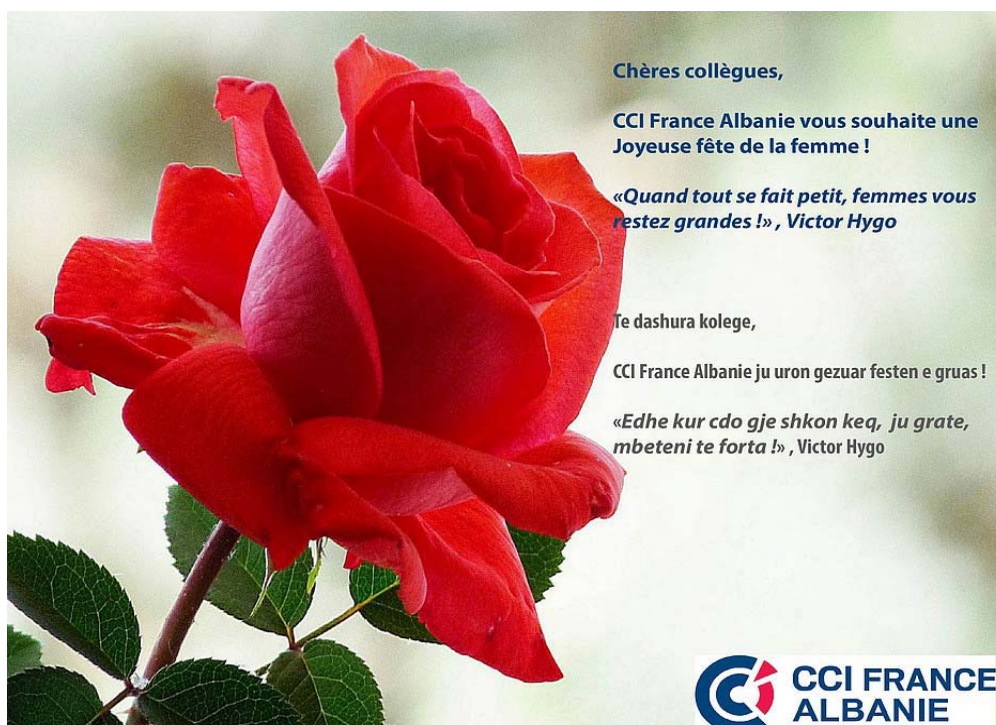
**Wine Party**  
Taste the Music **8** Mars  
By DJ **8** ora  
17:00

 **NAPOLEON**  
WINE & SPIRITS  
Ring Center



Alliance Française  
**Tirana**

Bienvenue à notre Partenaire -  
Alliance Française de TIRANA  
[www.aftirana.org](http://www.aftirana.org)



Chères collègues,


CCI France Albanie vous souhaite une Joyeuse fête de la femme !

«*Quand tout se fait petit, femmes vous restez grandes !*», Victor Hygo

Te dashura kolege,

CCI France Albanie ju uron gezuar festen e gruas !

«*Edhe kur cdo gje shkon keq, ju grate, mbeteni te forta !*», Victor Hygo

 CCI FRANCE  
ALBANIE

### **Number of Concessions Reaches at 166**

TIRANA – Albania has provided over 166 concession contracts till the end of 2016, according to the National Agency for the Treatment of Concessions.

The majority of concessions were given in the field of energy, mainly for the construction of hydropower plants, but there are also contracts that transferred public services to private sector, mainly in health sector, or in the field of Fiscal issues and transportation.

But beyond distribution by sector, the distribution by year shows another panorama according to which concessions are mainly issued during electoral years.

According to the agency, although the awarding of concession contracts started in 2004, most of them, or about 60 percent of the total approved in only two years, 2009 and 2013, both years in which are held parliamentary elections. So, this is a tradition that seems likely to continue in 2017 considering PM Edi Rama pledge to inject in economy about 1 bln lek.

Source: ADN

### **Albania's inflation rate slows to 2.2% y/y in Feb**

Albania's consumer price inflation slowed to 2.2% year-on-year in February, from 2.8% in January, the statistical office, INSTAT, said on Wednesday. Prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages, which have the largest weight of 40% in the consumer basket, grew by 3.9% on the year in February, after rising 5.8% a month earlier. Housing, water, electricity and fuel prices, which have a weight of 20.7% in the consumer basket, edged up 0.6% in February following an annual increase of 0.4% a month earlier. Monthly inflation was 0.5% in February. At the beginning of February, 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 news

## *A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS*

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### **IMF Urges Tax Reform in Albania**

TIRANA – Albanian authorities must secure parliamentary approval to bring about much-needed improvements to the country's tax regime, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said in its latest Article IV consultation for the country.

The report said that the country's tax administration is "inefficient" and the development of a new property tax system has been delayed until 2017.

It noted that tax revenues, particularly value-added tax revenues, have been impacted by lower-than-expected oil prices and consumption and by inflation.

The country's 2017 Budget seeks to raise oil-related revenues, broaden the base for the circulation tax on luxury cars, reduce exemptions, and introduce pilot projects to improve its current area-based property tax, the report said. Albania also plans to increase cigarette excises starting in 2018, to gradually meet EU levels. The authorities have also committed to address the increasing stock of VAT credits.

The IMF called on Albania to streamline VAT exemptions for imports of machinery and equipment, and refrain from announcing any tax amnesties or new tax exemptions or preferences without prior consultation with the Fund.

Albanian Minister of Finance Arben Ahmetaj has declared recently that after general elections there will be a new program in place with International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Currently there is a joint instrument approved by the Board, an instrument that monitors the government on all commitments made throughout 2017. We switch over to a new relation with IMF, which is monitoring after the arrangement, a close cooperation with IMF, while after elections it is the incoming government's target to decide on a fresh program," he said at a press conference.

Source: ADN

### **Foreign Companies Concentrated in Albanian Capital**

TIRANA – Foreign entrepreneurship in Albania is mostly concentrated in capital city Tirana. Based on the data that the National Business Centre provided for the third quarter of 2016 some 9,377 companies operate in the capital. About 75 percent of those companies are foreign-owned and 25% are joint ventures.

According to the Albanian Investment Development Strategy (AIDA) 6,385 companies are located in Tirana Region, 1,080 in Durres, 427 in Vlora, 296 in Korca, 222 in Fier and 217 in Elbasan.

Regarding their economic activity, foreign companies operate in the trade, extractive industry, and construction, professional, scientific and technical activities. Moreover, data from AIDA confirm that foreign entrepreneurs are investing in telecommunication and financial services.

Source: ADN

## **Bonds Interest Rates Down to 2.46%**

TIRANA – Interest rates of treasury bills fell for the fourth consecutive auction this week, confirming a new cycle of lowering of interest rates.

According to data from the Bank of Albania in auctions this week, 12-month maturity bonds were issued at a weighted average interest of 2.46%, down from a level of 2.81% of the previous auction.

The interest rate of bonds with a maturity of 6 months dropped to 1.7% from 2% that had been in the previous auction. After a significant growth in the last quarter of last year, the interest rates are now stabilizing and the main reason is the significant growth of the financial market demand to invest in bonds.

Investors are channeling more funds into the market, signaling a greater amount of free liquidity in the financial system.

Lek 11.9 billion of bonds were offered at auctions by the Ministry of Finance, while the total demand amounted to Lek 19.5 billion. The stabilization of interest rates is expected to affect the low interest rates for bank deposits and loans. However, this new cycle of falling interest rates is not expected to reach the size of the middle of last year, where 12-month bonds touched a historic minimum of 1.24%.

Source: ADN

## **Albania to set up National Food Codex**

Albania aims to set up a National Food Codex in an attempt to increase food security in the country. The Codex, according to Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Management, Edmond Panariti, will act as a reference point for all actors involved in the food sector. Addressing the meeting of the National Food Authority held in Tirana, Minister Panariti said that the Codex represents an integral document that boosts the quality and safety of Albanian products. "We are still in a transitional phase. Albania is not ready to implement EU standards in terms of food safety. At this stage we can refer to standards set by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations," Panariti said. The head of Albania's National Food Authority, Dritan Sejko, added that the set up of the Food Codex is a precondition in terms of food safety for Albania's EU accession. 2016 was a good year in terms of quality for Albania's agricultural products. Authorities have undertaken several measures to assist one of the most important sectors of the country's economy. Last year, Ministry of Agriculture launched the first agricultural stock exchange, an integrated platform for all major agricultural commodities. The platform enabled a balanced pricing of products based on auctions. The stock comes to aid of farmers orienting them towards the prices of sale and purchase. Experts believe that the market is a major step in the transformation of the country's agriculture.

(ATA/WEB)

### **EIB to invest in TAP**

The Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) is capturing the attention of international financial institutions. After the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank is showing interest in crediting the project. This was confirmed by the head of Division for Central and South Eastern Europe, Flavia Palanza following a meeting she had with the General Director of Southern Gas Corridor. Therefore, the European Investment Bank plans to finance TANAP and TAP project. According to Palanza, the bank is aware of the aforementioned projects' importance. This is going to be taken into consideration when the bank will take a decision on financial operations. Moreover, Palanza said that the bank has not defined a specific figure, but it is expected to be about Euro 2 billion. By the middle of 2016, former managing director in charge of the Power and Energy and Natural Resources sectors at the EBRD, Riccardo Puliti said the bank was considering the idea of collecting a loan of Euro 1.5 billion for this project. This would be the maximum loan amount that EBRD could provide. TAP project is an 870-kilometre long pipeline, which will start from the tie-in with the TANAP portion of the Southern Gas Corridor project, at the Greece/Turkey border. The pipeline will then go through Greece and Albania, to eventually cross subsea the Adriatic Sea to end in Puglia, Italy, where it will connect to the Italian natural gas network.

(Dita,11)

### **Ambasadorët, vizitë nga afër punimeve të TAP-it në Shqipëri**

Njëmbëdhjetë ambasadorë dhe përfaqësues diplomatikë të vendosur në Shqipëri, vizituan sot nga afër punimet që po kryhen në zonën e Urës Vajgurore, në kuadrin e gazsjellësit Trans-Adriatik (TAP).

Teksa nga ana e tyre, përfaqësues të TAP-it, u paraqitën atyre një panoramë të ecurisë së deritanishme dhe punimeve që pritet në zhvillohen gjatë vitit 2017.

“Ne u jemi mirënjohës autoriteteve shqiptare për bashkëpunimin e tyre të ngushtë, që ka bërë të mundur ecurinë e mirë të TAP-it. Deri tani, në Shqipëri kemi pastruar dhe sistemuar më shumë se 72 km nga korridori i punimeve, kemi rreshtuar më shumë se 62 km tuba, kemi salduar 52 km të tjera dhe kemi rimbushur rreth 40 km kanale”, tha Ulrike Andres, drejtoreshë për Tregtinë dhe Marrëdhëniet me Jashtë në TAP.

Duke shtuar se gazsjellësi Trans-Adriatik është një projekt tejet strategjik për tregun evropian të gazit. Teksa kur gazi natyror të fillojë të transportohet nga fusha e Shah Deniz II përmes TAP-it në vitin 2020, disa tregje do të përfitojnë nga rritja e mundësive dhe diversifikimi i furnizimit me gaz.

Sipas të dhënave, deri tani në ndërtimin e TAP-it janë punësuar drejtpërdrejt më shumë se 1.700 punonjës, nga të cilët rreth 84% shqiptarë. Për më tepër, infrastruktura e shumë rrugëve dhe urave është përmirësuar, duke lidhur kështu fshatra të thella me zonat urbane.

Source: Gazeta Shqip



### **Justice Reform to support economy**

Bank of Albania hopes that the implementation of the judicial reform will create real chances to successfully materialize the joint interoperability plan to reduce bad loans and promote crediting of economy. "We are convinced that effective solution of these problems will inevitably lead to the growth of lending to the economy, thereby increasing domestic and foreign investment and therefore, in the economic recovery. In turn, this will lead to an increase in the level of trust on the part of all economic and financial agents (whether domestic or foreign), in relation to the state, legislation and enforcing of laws," the Bank of Albania said for Monitor magazine. According to BoA, the implementation of the justice reform means improved image, increase in major international ratings, and higher number of foreign investors, investments, expansion and deepening of the financial market, prosperity and faster convergence with European standards. However, BoA noted that there are still encountered practices that in one way or another hinder the exercise of some of the elements mentioned above, particularly in respect of the contractual lending relationship between the banking system and other economic agents. Justice Reform has been the main argument that has dominated political and public debate in general in the past two years. The most prominent achievement in this regard has been the adoption of the justice reform package in July 2016 in a consensual manner by the Parliament. The existence of a rule of law is one of the basic conditions for the rule of law in the economy. In a market economy based on free initiative, ease of opening and development of the business, ensuring property and respect for contracts, the adoption of a modern legal framework, harmonious and comprehensive implementation of laws in daily economic and social reality, legal improvement through accountable and transparent changes, constitute important elements of high-impact decision-making of economic agents, internal and external, experts say. In economic terms, the degree of fulfillment of the above criteria represents a substantial risk to the economy. A high level of risk always results in economic inefficiency, lower levels of investment, in a slower economic growth, a lower employment, and lower welfare for citizens. Latest observations of Global Competitiveness Index identified property rights and the perception of independence of the judiciary, as areas where Albania is lagging behind the standards of the EU and the countries of the region. Also, registering property and ensuring the implementation rate of the contracts identified by the recent survey of Doing Business (Doing Business) of the World Bank, as areas in which Albania is lagging behind too. These are essential for the functioning of a free economy and effective market institutions, therefore the Bank of Albania sees this reform as a strong support in the market for business and economic growth in general.

Source: Scan TV,news; Sot, Gazeta shqip

### Pay increases or indexation for state administration in Albania?

On Wednesday, the government announced a decision for an increase in salaries from 7% to 38% for several public service employees. The Council of Ministers decided to increase salaries for public administration employees, several independent institutions, education and healthcare system by 10%. Minister of Finance, Arben Ahmetaj explains: "Salaries for teachers will be 10% and this decision will benefit 31 370 teachers". Ahmetaj has also announced an increase for university staff by 10 to 12%. "Salaries will increase for 3500 professors", the minister declared. In fact, salaries for professors hadn't seen an increase for over 10 years, in contrast to other employees working in the education system, who last saw a pay increase three years ago. There will also be salary increases for healthcare employees. According to Ahmetaj, the number of healthcare employees who benefit this increase is 18.000. The total annual fund is estimated to be 1.3 billion ALL. At the same time, there will also be a 10% pay increase for diplomats and 7% increase for local government workers. For Mr. Ahmetaj, this is "a reflection of a new reality that the country has entered, as a result of the difficult, but successful reforms undertaken in the past 3 and a half years". This increase in salaries is good news for public administration employees, however, they are skeptic about this increase. Salaries had not seen an increase or an indexation for the past three years. Experts say that the current increase is just an indexation of the cost of living. A former government minister, minister of Finance, Shkelqim Cani has admitted that this increase was mostly a delayed indexation.

"Sot Këshilli i Ministrave kaloi një sërë vendimesh, siç ishte rritja e pagave për administratën publike. Sot rrija 10 për qind e pagës në administratë është një realitet për Qeverinë 'Rama' siç ishin dhe pensionet dhe pagat. Duke filluar nga sot është jetësuar rritja e pagave me 10 % për punonjëset e administratës publike, nëpunësit, të Presidentes, KQZ, Kuvendit, Gjykatës së Lartë, institucionet e pavarura. Sot është jetësuar dhe rritja e pagave për punonjësit në arsimit parauniversitar. Rritja e pagave për ta është 10 për qind. Bazë e mësuesit të shkollës së mesme rritet me 3500 leke në muaj. Paga buto shkon në 64 mijë e 650 lekë në muaj. Nga ky vendim përfitojnë në 31 mijë e 370 punonjës të arsimit arsimor me efekt 3,1 miliard leke në periudhë 3 mujore. Ky sistem shoqërohet dhe me rritjen e pagave në sistemin e arsimit ë lartë me 0-12 % rritje. Rritja e pagave me 10 % të sistemit shëndetësor përfitojnë 8 mijë nëpunës. Në të njëjtën kohë rriten me 10 % të pagës për të gjitha gradat diplomatike dhe një rritje me 7 % për njësitë vendore. Dua ta mbyll me faktin se vendimi i sotëm është një shprehje e drejtpërdrejtë ky ka hyrë vendi si rezultat i reformave. Rritja e pagave dhe pensioneve ishte premtim i Qeverisë 'Rama', sot është realitet. Ka akoma shumë për t'u bërë, siç është reforma në drejtësi, vettingu. Ky do të bëjë të mundur një zhvillim që do japë drejtësi. Vendi jonë padyshim e meriton. Në fund, dua të uroj zonjat, nënat, motrat, në të gjithë vendin, gëzuar 8 Marsin dhe sigurisht, dy gëzime për ata që përfitojnë nga rrija e pagave.", tha Ahmetaj gjatë fjalës së tij para mediave.

([ed.me/BalkanWeb](http://ed.me/BalkanWeb))

***Mais aussi...***

***Concert suisse pop-folk, rock / Koncert zviceran pop folk, rock***

It's time to celebrate the Francophonie Spring 2017! Join us for a concert by the Swiss band Macaô on Friday, 17 March! Dream and dance to Macaô's dynamic mix of pop-folk and rock music: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8imALFTGgs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8imALFTGgs).

We look forward to seeing you at RockStock!  
Free entry.



Është koha për të festuar Pranverën e Frankofonisë 2017! Bashkohuni me ne tek koncerti i grupit zviceran Macaô të premten, 17 Mars! Ëndërroni dhe vallëzoni nën përzierjen dinamike të muzikës folk-pop dhe rock : [www.youtube.com/ëatch?v=x8imALFTGgs](http://www.youtube.com/ëatch?v=x8imALFTGgs).

Presim t'ju shohim tek RockStock!  
Hyrja falas.



à bientôt/soon...



**Alehandro  
Distribution**

## Degustation evening: Wine of Toskana cantine "Castello del Terriccio",

11/03/2017

18h00

Presidenti i Alehandro Distribution, Znj. Erjola Braha dhe Ambasada e Italisë në Tiranë, kanë kënaqësinë t'ju ftojnë: në eventin e prezantimit dhe degustimit të verërave të kantinës së Toskanës "Castello del Terriccio", që do të zhvillohet më 11 Mars 2017, ora 18:00, në katin e 23 të Hotel "Plaza" Tirana. Prezent në këte event Cavaliere. Z. Gian Annibale Rossi di Medelana.

20 Mars 2017  
17.h0



## Forum des Femmes Francophones *Forumi i Grave Frankofone*

**20/03/2017 – 17.30**  
Hotel Diplomat 2 Fashion

*Bulevardi Bajram Curri, Tiranë, Shqipëri*

23 Mars 2017  
09h00



## FORUMIN E 3-TË EKONOMIK FRANKOFON NË SHQIPËRI

23/03/2017, 09h-12h00, Hotel Rogner



# Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

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**Albanian Daily news**

**Scan TV**

**News 24**

**Gazeta Shqip**

**ATA/WEB**

**Gazeta Dita**

**Gazeta Sot**

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*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.*

*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.*

