



WEEKLY NEWS

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Europe. This meeting was chaired by the Chancellor of Austria Mr. Alfred Gusenbauer. *(continues page 2)*

Prime Minister Berisha meets the Chancellor of Austria

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The statement of the spokeswoman of the government Majlinda Bregu on the 85th anniversary of Albanian-American relations

The Minister of Integration who is also the spokeswoman of the Albanian government Mrs. Majlinda Bregu praised on behalf of the government the 85th anniversary of the establishment of relations between Albania and United States of America.



(continues page 2)

In this issue you will find;

-The Prime Minister Berisha urges regional cooperation in the energy sector *(page 2)*

-The Institute of Monuments of Culture endorses the agreement with three Italian Universities *(page 2)*

-The Prime Minister Berisha meets Czech and Hungarian Ambassadors at the end of their mission in Albania *(page 3)*

- The Prime Minister Berisha meets the representatives of several energy companies *(page 4)*

The Prime Minister Berisha signs the contract with Antea Cement Company

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Prime Minister Berisha participates in the meeting of heads of governments of Southeastern Europe, in Salzburg



The Prime Minister Sali Berisha attended on Saturday in Salzburg the annual meeting of Prime Ministers from

Southeastern Europe. This meeting was chaired by the Chancellor of Austria Mr. Alfred Gusenbauer. Among the participants were the Prime Minister of Croatia, Mr. Ivo Sanader, the Prime Minister of Montenegro, Mr. Zeljko Sturanovic, the Prime Minister of Moldavia Vasile Tarlev, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria Ursula Plasnik, the Stability Pact Coordinator Erhard Busek and representatives of significant private entrepreneurships, such as Raiffaisen Bank and Siemens.

The heads of governments of Southeastern Europe focused on regional cooperation, traditional and renewable energy, transportation, environment and climate protection, the boosting of direct foreign investments in the region, strengthening the rule of law, the establishment of "one-stop-shop" and the removal of administrative barriers.

The heads of governments also discussed the strengthening of cooperation concerning the Cooperation Process of Southeastern Europe and the Kosovo issue. Prime Minister Berisha reiterated the stance that a further delay of the final status of Kosovo does not bring stability, but ruins the process. The participants agreed that the resolution of this issue as soon as possible is significant for the stability in the region. ■

The Prime Minister Berisha urges regional cooperation in the energy sector

The Prime Minister Berisha described as necessary the cooperation and renewal of interconnection lines in the region during a meeting with the heads of the Southeastern European governments in Salzburg. Mr. Berisha informed the participants about the energy resources of the country pointing out that in this sector are planned to be used some 6 billion euros. ■

Prime Minister Berisha meets the Chancellor of Austria

The Prime Minister Sali Berisha during his stay in Salzburg had a meeting with the Chancellor of Austria, Mr. Alfred Gusenbauer. The Austrian Chancellor positively assessed the constitutional process on the election of the President of the Republic. The Prime Minister informed his Austrian counterpart about the latest reforms and initiatives of his administration including strengthening the rule of law, the economic development particularly the encouraging of foreign investments. Chancellor Gusenbauer expressed Austria's full support for the integration of Albania in the European Union. ■

The Institute of Monuments of Culture endorses the agreement with three Italian Universities

The Institute of Monuments of Culture endorsed an agreement with three Italian Universities, The



Polytechnic University of Torino, Bari and Milano, to materialize the project of the reconstruction of the architectonic assets of Tirana. The agreement foresees the preparing of the feasibility research aiming at the restoration and improvement of functionality of three buildings; The Palace of Brigades, the Prime Minister's Offices and the building of Dajti Hotel. The agreement was endorsed in the Palace of Brigades by the Director of Monuments of Culture, simultaneously the coordinator of Albanian Task-Force Mr. Lorenc Bejko and Mrs. Maria Adriana Giusti, the representative of Polytechnic of Torino and coordinator of Italian Task-Force. ■

The statement of the spokeswoman of the government Majlinda Bregu on the 85th anniversary of Albanian-American relations



The Minister of Integration who is also the spokeswoman of the Albanian government Mrs. Majlinda Bregu praised on

behalf of the government the 85th anniversary of the establishment of relations between Albania and United States of America.

“On behalf of the Albanian Government I am here to hail the 85th anniversary of the establishment of the relations between Albania and USA. Today, on 28 July 2007, we mark the 85th anniversary of the recognition of the state of Albania from the USA. After a long pause of 52 years, due to the communist regime in the country, the emergence of democracy was earmarked with the reopening of the American embassy in Tirana in October 1 1991. The former Secretary of State James Baker was the first high-ranked official of USA to visit Albania after a long period of isolation and he conveyed the message: welcome to world of free nations.

Since the re-establishment of the diplomatic relations of Albania with USA, these relations have advanced, are now consolidated and are reaching an excellent level.

The relations between the two countries date since the beginning of the past century, at the time of President Wilson, to whom Albania dedicates its existence. This significant act was never forgotten by thousands of American-Albanians, who kept contact with their country during this period. We cannot forget the contribution of President Bush the father, who led the collapse of the Iron Curtain and establishment of democracy in ex-communist countries, one of which was Albania. We cannot also forget the indisputable role President Clinton, the honorable lady Madeleine Albright and others in the administration had in the nineties, leading to the military intervention of NATO in Kosovo, as well as providing the proof of deep Albanian-American friendship. For the first time in the history of our nation, the superpower of the world and other European superpowers, members of NATO, aligned in the side of Albanian people in both sides of the borders saving them from the slaughter and injustice.

It is the firm stance and commitment of President Bush and his administration to the issue of the final status of

Kosovo that is closing the door to an endless delay for the independence of Kosovo.

The bilateral relations between Albania and USA are considered very significant for the Albanian foreign policy.

The visit of President George W. Bush, is a high point in the relations between the two countries, as well as an estimation of gratitude of Albanian people for the important role that USA has played since the creation of the Albanian state. This historical visit encourages us to continue in the right course of reforms, thankful for the contribution of our country in the fight against terrorism, support for our efforts to join NATO, and it confirms the irreplaceable role of USA for the resolution of final status of Kosovo. Albania and the USA are closely cooperating to intensify their economic relations. We have started the initiatives for a Free Trade Agreement with USA, visa facilitation for students, and the increase of the number of American investors in the country.

Considering as very important the security in the country and beyond, Albania has given and will continue to give its contribution to the Antiterrorism Coalition, contributing with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and wherever they are needed changing from a consumer to a contributor of security” ■

The Prime Minister Berisha meets Czech and Hungarian Ambassadors at the end of their mission in Albania

Prime Minister Sali Berisha held separate parting meeting with the Czech ambassador Miroslav Sindelar and Hungarian Ambassador,



Prime Minister Sali Berisha and Czech Ambassador Mr. Miroslav Sindelar

Sandor Szabo. The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the Czech Ambassador Miroslav Sindelar for the friendly feelings to the Albanians and excellent cooperation during his diplomatic mission in Albania. The Prime Minister valued the contribution of the Hungarian Ambassador Sandor Szabo, as a friend of Albania and its people. Mr. Berisha thanked the Hungarian Ambassador for the excellent cooperation during his diplomatic mission in the country. ■

The Prime Minister Berisha signs the contract with Antea Cement Company

The Albanian government signed a contract with the company "Antea Cement", part of the international group Titan.



The contract foresees the building of a cement factory in Fushe-Kruja, a 250 million euro investment which expects to open some 300 new permanent jobs. Prime Minister Berisha estimated the project as a great sign of the increasing trust of foreign investors in the country. He offered the full support of his administration and emphasized its commitment to facilitate and encourage the foreign investments in Albania.

Titan's Director for Europe and the Middle East, Mr. Mike Slagas thanked the Prime Minister for the support to the project, stating that the product of this factory will bear the mark "Made in Albania". ■

The Prime Minister Berisha meets the representatives of several energy companies

Prime Minister Sali Berisha held several meetings with the representatives of several foreign companies which are interested to invest in the energy sector in Albania. The Prime Minister was introduced with the research of the Macedonian Company "Deboj-Tron" which foresees the building of hydro-plants over Mat and Vjosa rivers. The Prime Minister was also introduced with the projects of Greek company ITA, which is a partner of Chinese company "Boading Tianaei Group". The representatives of consortium TGK Skavica, which consist on Kinglor, Geotecna and Tassera, presented to the Prime Minister the new project for a hydro-plant on Skavica River. The representative of Finn company WARTSILA, Sergio Sandrin, presented to the Prime Minister the projects for hidro-plants of Diesel-motor-type. ■