



# WEEKLY NEWS

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Premier Berisha: Albanian people and Kuwaiti people keep consolidated friendship

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Berisha and Prime Minister of the state of Kuwait, Sheikh Naser Al Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah. *(continues page 2)*

Independent Kosovo, a guarantee for regional peace and stability

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Kosovo status. The Kuwaiti premier promised that after discussion enters the UN General Assembly, Kuwait will vote positively. *(continues page 2)*

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Premier Berisha attends European People's Party summit

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Premier Berisha: Albanian people and Kuwaiti people keep consolidated friendship

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Sheikh Naser Al Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, as well as the delegation accompanying him. While extending welcome to the guest, PM Berisha expressed his great pleasure at the Kuwaiti delegation visit, the first in the level of prime minister.

Sheikh Naser Al Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah appreciated Albania's stance towards Kuwait which has been recorded in the history of his country, as he put it. The Kuwaiti prime minister stressed that relations between both countries are not simply diplomatic, but cover all the fields like in culture, finance, investments etc. Among other things, Sheikh Naser Al Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah appreciated especially the contribution and support of Albania in fight against international terrorism. On his part, PM Berisha considered this visit marks a moment of importance in the relations between both countries, which will experience improvement as a result of the six agreements signed. PM Berisha also appreciated the common contribution that both countries give in fight against international terrorism. And he said that the Albanian government will continue to do so. PM Berisha appreciated the significant assistance that Kuwaiti Fund has provided since then and on, through a series of projects, which cover fields like infrastructure, agriculture, education, health and other fields. Through guaranteeing a complete constitutional and legal protection to Kuwaiti investors, the prime minister invited the group of investors accompanying the Kuwaiti premier to benefit from this visit and to decide for other projects in Albania. ■

Independent Kosovo, a guarantee for regional peace and stability

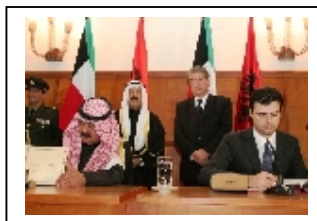


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Kuwaiti premier promised that after discussion enters the UN General Assembly, Kuwait will vote positively.

On his part, PM Berisha reiterated the stand of the Albanian government in support of Kosovo independence, as the only solution in favor of regional peace and stability. The prime minister stressed among other things that the USA strongly supports independence as the only solution that produces peace and stability in the region. Likewise, PM Berisha highlighted the fact that the EU countries are united in their stand, in support of President Ahtisaari's project, as the best project of solution, a fact that makes a very important test not just for Kosovo, but for the whole Europe and the whole region as well. ■

Seven agreements of cooperation between Albania and Kuwait signed



Albania and Kuwait signed today seven agreements of cooperation in the presence of Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha and Prime Minister of the state of

Kuwait, Sheikh Naser Al Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Lulzim Basha and the Under-secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait Khalid Sulaiman Al Jarallah signed the Agreement on setting of the joined Committee of Cooperation and the Memorandum of Good Understanding and Bilateral Consultation between both governmental Foreign Affairs Departments. The Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy Genc Ruli and the Minister of Finance of Kuwait Mustafa Jassim al-Shamali signed Agreement for Economic and Technical Cooperation. The Minister of Finance Ridvan Bode and the Minister of Finance of Kuwait Mustafa Jassim al-Shamali signed Agreement on Mutual Stimulation and Protection of Investments. The Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports Ylli Pango and Minister of Trade and Industry of Kuwait Falah Al-Hajri signed Agreement on Tourist Cooperation and Agreement on Culture and Arts. Likewise, there was signed Agreement between the respective Chambers of Commerce. ■

Premier Berisha: Open to collaboration with opposition for a stable pensions reform

During his address, held on occasion of first anniversary of establishment of Financial Supervision Authority, Premier Berisha focused on reform in pensions. Considering it as one of the greatest reforms of the time, not only for Albania, premier said that there will be a debate with the opposition in order to find the best understanding in this direction. ■

### Premier Berisha: Government, support and full attention for Roma people integration



On International Human Rights Day, premier Berisha visited the Roma center “Heart of the mother”, considering it a great human act. This center, which accommodates 60-70

Roma children, has been raised by the investment of a Roma businesswoman.

The premier stated that the government is aware of the immediate need of this center for elementary school teachers and assured that the Education Directorate will deal with this problem, and very soon this center will have its pedagogical staff. The premier assured that in collaboration with local authorities, the government will do its utmost to construct new homes, with a reasonable price, for these communities. ■

### PM Berisha: Public-Private partnership law enforcement by local governance authority, increases its budget

During meeting of the Democratic Party Parliamentary group, PM Sali Berisha said that Public-Private Partnership law enforcement and the



law on credits to local governance units, due to be approved in Parliament, raise the possibilities to increase local authority budget.

He added that many other economic activities can be made in the spirit of this law. And such a thing would multiply the budget of the local governance units. ■

### Prime Minister Sali Berisha greets EC decision on Kosovo

The Prime Minister of Albania Sali Berisha hailed decision taken by the European Council and the statement by the President of the French Republic Nicholas Sarkozy on Kosovo, considering them as acts of fundamental importance for peace, long-term stability as well as the future of Europe and the region. The prime minister emphasized that the Albanian government is willing to coordinate the efforts with the United States of America and the European Union so that to make its contribution to the success of this process. ■

### PM Berisha: Financial Supervision Authority is accomplishing with responsibility its important mission for setting standards in non banking financial market

The prime minister attended today the proceedings of the Conference hosted by the Financial Supervision Authority (FSA) on occasion of the first anniversary of foundation of this institution, under topic “Developments and challenges of the non-banking financial markets”. In his greeting message to the participants, PM Berisha said that establishment of this authority was in response to the growing demands for supervision and adjustment of the non-banking financial market, one of the most important markets for development of the country. The prime minister stressed that FSA has clearly proved within a year that it is accomplishing with responsibility its important mission, for setting of the standards in the financial non-banking market, for stimulation and development of this market, through protecting first of all the interests of the public and consumer as well. The prime minister considered important that Albanian economy enforces regulations and sees in business adjustment the biggest guarantee and avoiding of the risks.

### PM Berisha: Government, a present of 5000 lek for every pensioner on occasion of New Year

The Prime Minister Sali Berisha announced that the government is set to approve a 5000 lek present for the country’s pensioners on occasion of the New Year. Speaking at the meeting of the Democratic Party Parliamentary group, the prime minister said that a decision will be taken in one of the coming meetings of the government. The prime minister said that the total amount is over 25 million USD.

Likewise, the prime minister said that the employees in the budgetary institutions are expected to get as New Year bonus an amount of 10000 lek.

### Representatives of “Zumax” present to premier Berisha a project for construction of a containers port

Premier Berisha has received today in his office representatives of “Zumax” company, who proposed the construction of a containers port in Tripor, Vlora. After being acquainted with this project, premier Berisha has reiterated to the representative of this company the interest of Albanian government in expansion of harbor infrastructure, which is of a great importance, along with the completion of road network, connecting Albania to other countries of the region. ■

[PM Berisha meets President of Chamber of Commerce of Greece, and at the same time, vice President of the European Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jorgos Kasimati](#)



The Prime Minister Sali Berisha met with President of Chamber of Commerce of Greece, also vice President of the European

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jorgos Kasimati.

The prime minister assessed positively the role the Greek business has played in the economic development of Albania and the successful economic and trade cooperation between both countries.

Mr. Kasimati appreciated the investments' legislation as well as the business climate as a whole. And he also expressed the willingness to facilitate the free movement for Albanian business in cooperation even with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Albania.

Likewise, Mr. Kasimati expressed support to projects in energy field like in oil pipeline, gas pipeline and Albania's connection with these energy corridors.

The prime minister expressed full support of the Albanian government to the Greek companies interested to invest in Albania. ■

[Celebration of 17-th anniversary of DP foundation](#)



Prime Minister Sali Berisha attended the 17-th anniversary celebrations of foundation of the Democratic Party. In

his greeting message delivered on this occasion, the prime minister said that in this 17-th anniversary of the Democratic Party's foundation, the Albanians commemorate emerge of political pluralism in Albania, as the day marking revival of the freedom and human rights, following the savage years of dictatorship. The prime minister appreciated the date as one of the greatest days of our national history, which produced the first opposition party after half a century of extreme one-party system.

PM Berisha evoked with esteem and gratitude Tirana students and intellectuals who 17 years ago with courage, bravery and determination brought political pluralism to the country.

While recalling with deep respect the leader of December Movement Azem Hajdari, PM Berisha

expressed gratitude to all those who in the course of 17 years made a contribution to the development and consolidation of the values, which are in the cornerstone of the DP's program. ■

[Premier Berisha gets acquainted with another project in the energy field by "Global Wood Holding"](#)

Premier Berisha has received today at noon the president of the company "Global Wood Holding", Aldo Bonaldi, who has presented a project for the construction of a 400 mW capacity thermo power station, a new technology, based on wood-generated energy. After being informed on this project, premier Berisha, making a panorama on the economic and energy situation in Albania and numerous investments presented and launched, guaranteed the representatives of this company, headed by president Bonaldi, that their project will be evaluated as soon as possible, in conformity of the domestic laws. ■

[Premier Berisha: The concept of distinction between recognition of property and its compensation should become clear](#)



During Dec 12 government meeting, premier Berisha said that the property restitution issue has seen serious problems.

The premier stressed that the concept of distinction between property recognition and its compensation should be clarified, in order to avoid the blocking of construction surfaces and public objects. Among others, the premier stressed that the commission has acted properly in recognizing the right on property to the legal owners, but added that the surface or the object can not be blocked, as long as it holds a public function. Further on, premier Berisha said that if it is necessary, in collaboration with the opposition, the Civil Code would be changed, in order to define that a certain property has been stolen, despite the time of such action.

During this meeting, premier Berisha mentioned the draft law on public auction, considering it a necessary law for the completion of legal framework on concessions and procurements. ■

## Premier Berisha attends European People's Party summit



Prime Minister Sali Berisha attended last evening in Brussels the summit of the European People's Party (EPP), where presidents, prime

ministers and chairmen of the center right parties from the EU member countries and the associated countries were participating. The President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso and the President of the European Parliament Hans-Gert Poettering were also present. Kosovo issue and solution of its status were among the main topics to be discussed in the summit. Another topic in the agenda had to do with the Reviewing Committee on European issues.

PM Berisha took the floor in the summit. And he hailed signing of the new European Lisbon Treaty as a great achievement for the whole Europe.

In his speech delivered on this occasion, the prime minister highlighted as a great positive development the EU unity, which is being achieved regarding solution of Kosovo issue. The prime minister considered extremely important that Serbia receives the indispensable signals, gives up manipulation of Kosovo Serbs, renounces views of imposing blockade or embargo on it and conforms its stands to European integration perspective. ■

## Oketa: Albania participation in the second stage of Millennium Challenge program, positive development for the country



During a news conference, Deputy Prime Minister Gazmend Oketa hailed today the invitation received by Albanian government from the Steering

Board of Millennium Challenge Program for further development and presentation of its projects at the "Second Stage" of the aforesaid project.

This invitation was extended after the conclusion of Millennium Challenge Program Executive Board meeting, and it is based on the success of the Threshold Program, implemented for more than a year in Albania. This program, according to the deputy prime minister, may start immediately after the completion of the program being implemented, therefore, around October 2008. ■

## Premier Berisha launches beginning of project implementation on regional roads

Prime Minister Sali Berisha held a working meeting with 12 heads of the country's districts, Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications Sokol Olldashi, Interior Minister Bujar Nishani, Manager of the Albanian Development Fund and the Director of ALUIZNI (Legalization, Urbanization and Integration Agency for Informal Area/Buildings) in the framework of the country's regional development. In this meeting, PM Berisha launched beginning of project implementation on regional roads supported by the World Bank. According to the project, every district will benefit roads being constructed through competition of regional priorities.

The prime minister demanded from the local leaders and the representatives of the relevant government departments to coordinate work between them for the technical normalization of the roads, reassessment of the requests as well as making evident the Albanian construction firms capacities. PM Berisha presented as a major problem urban waste recycling. In this context, the prime minister demanded conducting of detailed studies on solid waste, taking into account the European models as well as taking all the measures to create an environmental culture among all the strata of the community.

Speaking about legalization process, the prime minister demanded from the relevant authority to accelerate steps in accordance with the law, so that to proceed with the last stage of legalization. ■

## Premier Berisha meets with Chief of the Police Assistance Mission of the European Community to Albania (PAMECA) Klaus Schmidt

Premier Berisha met with the Chief of the Police Assistance Mission of the European Community to Albania (PAMECA), Klaus Schmidt, at a farewell meeting. Berisha appreciated the assistance provided by PAMECA and its qualified staff in the profound reform launched in the State police, such as in drafting the new law on police, the institutional reform, as well as in the numerous police trainings organized by this mission. In particular, premier Berisha praised the contribution and professionalism of Schmidt, at the head of this mission.

On his part, Schmidt praised the high spirit of collaboration between his mission and Albanian institutions and congratulated the Albanian police for achieving great results in the fight against crime as well as in the reform over this year. During the meeting premier Berisha and Schmidt also discussed several EU programmes on police assistance, after the end of the PAMECA mission by the end of this year. ■