



# WEEKLY NEWS

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

YEAR 1/ NUMBER 61

AUGUST 2008

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## **Premier Berisha: Albania has become more attractive and reliable for citizens of other countries**

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## **Premier Berisha: EU integration of Western Balkans, a return to family they belong to**

Prime Minister Sali Berisha paid a visit to Salzburg, where he attended the informal summit of the prime ministers of countries from Southeast Europe "Maintaining Stability in Southeast Europe in 21st Century".

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## **Premier Berisha receives David Landsman, Political Director for the Balkans at British Foreign Office**

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## **Italian government will strongly support integration of Albania and of entire Western Balkans into EU**

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### **Press Release of Prime Minister's Spokeswoman, Juela Meçani**

The arrest of Radovan Karadžić, one of the most barbarous figures of the Serbian ultranationalism and the main responsible for the genocide, and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, is an act to be hailed, a merited blow against the Serbian ultranationalism. In the first place, this act is a relief for the souls of victims and their families calling for justice. We hope the authorities of Belgrade will reserve the same destiny for the barbarous general Ratko Mladic and other war criminals still hiding in Serbia.

### **Premier Berisha receives members of Kosova Communes Chairmen Association**

Premier Berisha welcomed on Monday the members of the Association of Kosova Communes Chairmen. The head of the Kosova Communes Chairmen Association, Bajram Rexhepi thanked Premier Berisha for the hospitality and his determination in protection of independence, integration and modernization of Kosova.

### **Premier Berisha: Supplementary budget, clear testimony of fight against corruption**

During Democratic Party (DP) parliamentary group meeting, Premier Berisha said that budget presentation at parliamentary noon session, for the third consecutive year, consists of the most completed synthesis, most major testimony and clearest result of the government reforms success. Premier stressed that supplementary budget, which consists of a unique case in the history of European governments, is completely the high efficient result of fight against corruption, based on three main phenomena: smuggling, fiscal evasion, informality.

### **Premier Berisha receives Rector of Stuttgart-Hohenheim University, Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Liebig**

Premier Berisha received the Rector of University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Liebig, together with Prof. Volker Kottke and Rector of Tirana University of Agriculture, Prof. Fatos Harizaj. During the meeting, the Premier congratulated Prof. Liebig for the Doctor Honoris Causa title, awarded yesterday by Tirana University of Agriculture for the outstanding contribution in academic development and modernization of Agricultural University of Tirana. Premier discussed with Prof. Liebig about the advantages given by government to high education and scientific research, particularly in the field of agriculture, biotechnology, bioenergy and food security.

### **Premier Berisha: Sportspersons are the best ambassadors of Albania in international arena**

Premier Berisha received the national team that will represent Albania in Olympic Games of Beijing. Premier Berisha congratulated the Albanian Olympic Team, heads of Olympic Committee and their coaches, who will depart for Beijing on July 27. The Premier expressed happiness for his participation in the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games, to closely follow and support our sportspersons. Premier stressed that among all races, the Olympic Games are the noblest because they have turned into a symbol of peace and harmony among peoples.

### **Premier Berisha: New documents and e-lists for next elections make up an excellent electoral infrastructure**

Council of Ministers approved the contract with company "Sagem" for the production of ID cards and biometric passports. Considering it as one of the most important decisions of the government meeting, Premier Berisha said that the new long-awaited and necessary documents for the Albanian citizens bear national and international importance. Considering the long-awaited project a kept promise of the government, the Premier stressed that the completion of e-register of civil registry, process of issuance of ID cards and biometric passports will be done on the most secure data basis.

### **Premier Berisha receives Prefect of Thessaloniki, Panajot Psomiadhis**

Premier Berisha received the Prefect of Thessaloniki, Panajot Psomiadhis and the accompanying delegation. Cordially welcoming the guests, the Premier considered it another testimony of the excellent relations between two countries, governments, institutions and our friendly peoples. Prefect Psomiadhis said that being received by the Premier of Albania, a friend of his nation, is a great honor. Prefect Psomiadhis said that Albanians are a friendly country, whose citizens through their work, devotion and contribution have left deep impressions in the hearts of Greek citizens. They have become an important factor for the economy and Greek society, where they have been integrated and are contributing with dignity. Prefect Psomiadhis praised the role of Premier Berisha in strengthening of relations in the future between two friendly countries and governments.

## **Government of Spain finances 14 million USD to support One UN program in Albania**

Prime Minister Sali Berisha, the UN Resident Coordinator Glden Trkz-Cosslett and the Ambassador of Spain to Albania H.E. Manuel Montobbio presented at the venues of the Council of Ministers three new programs in the framework of the One UN pilot program. The three programs, 10.760 million USD worth, are financed by the government of the Kingdom of Spain in support of the Millennium Development goals. Along with financing of these programs, the government of Spain has a three-year commitment in support of One UN Program in Albania with a 4 million US dollar fund.

Premier Berisha emphasized these programs are signed at an important moment of the reforms the government of Albania is implementing.

## **Premier Berisha: Albania has become more attractive and reliable for citizens of other countries**

Premier Berisha attended on Friday the kick-off ceremony for works on second stage of extension and modernization of "Mother Theresa" International Airport, in Rinas. Attending the ceremony were members of government, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bernd Borchardt and U.S. ambassador in Albania, John L. Withers II, as well as representatives of business community.

The Premier, Head Administrative Council of Tirana International Airports and General Executive Director, Hochtief Airport Reinhard Kalenda and General Executive Director of the Airport Andrea Gebbeken turned the first spade, marking the kick-off works for the extension of passengers' terminal. The planned extension aims at doubling the capacity to 1.5 million passengers in 2009 and about 20 million Euros will be invested in it.

Premier Berisha considered the beginning of works for extension and doubling of airport capacity a remarkable and important day, not only for the airport, but the entire country, a testimony of efforts of Albania to grow and develop.

## **Press Release of Prime Minister's Spokeswoman, Juela Meçani**

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha hailed the letter sent by U.S. President, George W. Bush to the Senate, in which President Bush praises the successes and efforts of Albania and Croatia and asks the Senate the ratification of Accession Protocols for Albania and Croatia to North Atlantic Alliance. The Prime Minister of the Republic of

Albania Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha takes the opportunity to express the deepest gratitude to President of the United States of America, his government and entire American nation for this important support in realization of one the most major projects in the history of Albania, NATO membership.

## **Premier Berisha: Victory of Kasha by-election is a support for the government reforms**

During Democratic Party parliamentary group meeting, Premier Berisha hailed the Kasha citizens and voters, who one day ago signed with their vote the support for the government reforms. Considering the victory of DP candidate and the allies jewelry, Premier Berisha said that Besnik Fuçia clearly gained more votes than two leftist candidates, without counting the votes of the independent candidate, who also belonged to the right wing.

## **Premier Berisha: EU integration of Western Balkans, a return to family they belong to**

Prime Minister Sali Berisha paid a visit to Salzburg, where he attended the informal summit of the prime ministers of countries from Southeast Europe "Maintaining Stability in Southeast Europe in 21st Century". Attending the summit were the Federal Chancellor of Austria Alfred Gusenbauer, Prime Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina Nikola Spiri, Prime Minister of Croatia Ivo Sanader, Prime Minister of Macedonia Nikola Gruevski, Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Djukanovic, Prime Minister of Rumania Kalin Popescu, Prime Minister of Moldova Zinaida Greceanu, etc.

On the sidelines of the summit, the heads of governments held several informal meetings to discuss bilateral and multilateral relations as well as issues of development and stability of Southeast European countries, consolidation of cooperation and encouragement of dialogue between these countries. Also the Chancellor of Austria Gusenbauer hosted a dinner. He extended welcome to the prime ministers from the Southeast European countries to this summit also attended by representatives from big corporations and business groups like Raiffeisen Bank, Siemens etc. Following the lunch, it was held the plenary session with the participation of all the heads of government that delivered speeches as well. They spoke about EU enlargement process, energy market and resources, climate change, regional security etc. The Austrian Chancellor Gusenbauer highlighted in his opening speech that Irish referendum should not threaten the integration process of Western Balkans into the EU as it is their great interest and of the EU as well.

Likewise, all the prime ministers and representatives of the big corporations and business groups present in the summit took the floor to discuss energy market, environmental issues, and trade exchanges between them in the context of EU integration as well as meeting of the criteria to back up these processes. In his speech delivered on this occasion, PM Berisha congratulated the Austrian authorities for the excellent organization of the summit and focusing its agenda on EU Western Balkans integration. The prime minister expressed thanks to the Austrian chancellor for the support that Austria has provided for implementation of integration processes and meeting of the necessary criteria that will bring about a facilitation of the visa regime with the EU.

PM Berisha said that EU integration of Western Balkans implies its restore into the family it belongs to. The integration of these countries, said the prime minister, that compose just 1% of the GDP of the EU and a population less than half of Poland would cost to the EU less than their non-integration.

### **Premier Berisha received State Secretary in Indian Foreign Ministry H.S Puri**

Premier Berisha received the State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India, H.S Puri.

Thanking Premier Berisha for the hospitality, Puri conveyed to Albanian Premier the message of Premier of India Manmohan Singh, who asks from Albania, as a country member of the Board of Governors of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to endorse the initiative of the Government of India for the establishment of cooperation between India and IAEA as well as for the signing between them of an agreement on safety measures that will enable the opening of a part of nuclear power stations of India to be inspected by IAEA.

Premier Berisha assured Puri that Albanian government will back this important step of India and assured him that Albanian government believes in nuclear energy as a clean source of energy for environment and future of humanity, and as an efficient mean to respond to climate change.

### **Premier Berisha: Vocational education, our most major challenge**

Prime Minister Sali Berisha attended today the first meeting of the Council of Faculty of Integrated Studies with Practice at the Aleksandr Moisiu University, in Durrs, an innovation in the system of Albanian higher education, but even an important step ahead toward approach of the university diplomas with the needs of the market economy.

While extending thanks to the embassy and the government of Germany for this major project among

hundreds of other projects they have undertaken in Albania, PM Berisha said that the government of Albania considers education its top priority, but the vocational education is currently its most major challenge.

Speaking about the higher education, the prime minister said that in the period 2009-2010 the number of students will triple as compared with 2005, but it is not tripled orientation toward the market and its diversity.

### **Premier Berisha receives David Landsman, Political Director for the Balkans at British Foreign Office**

Premier Berisha received David Landsman, Political Director for the Balkans at British Foreign Office.

Premier Berisha thanked Landsman for the continuous support of Great Britain to Albania, particularly in realization of major national objective, NATO membership and EU integration.

Premier briefed Landsman on comprehensive reforms of Albanian government and the achievements, particularly in fight against organized crime, traffics, reforms for fight against corruption, by increasing transparency, facilitating and digitalizing administrative procedures, reforms for consolidation of rule of law, development of economy at rapid pace and facilitation of bureaucratic burden for business and creation of favorable climate for investments and etc.

Particularly, Premier Berisha put an emphasis on positive progress of electoral and judiciary reforms, underlining the excellent climate of cooperation between political forces, serving to realization of these extraordinary important reforms for Albania Euro Atlantic integration.

Landsman expressed to Premier Berisha his assessment for the reforms and achievements of Albanian government, considering impressive the achievements in reforms for economic development, fight against corruption, etc. Director Landsman voiced the full support of Great Britain for Albania membership process to NATO and EU integration.

The meeting focused also on recent developments in the Western Balkan, particularly in Kosova.

### **Italian government will strongly support integration of Albania and of entire Western Balkans into EU**

Premier Berisha meets the deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy, Senator Alfredo Mantica. Welcoming Senator Alfredo Mantica, Prime Minister Sali Berisha thanked him even on behalf of the government of Albania for the support and solidarity that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Italy

and the Italian government give to the government of Albania in its efforts to transform and positively develop the country as well as for the prime role that Italy plays in the NATO and EU integration process of Albania as the most major projects of the country. The deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mantica expressed his pleasure at Albania signing the NATO Accession Protocol.

The talks focused on EU enlargement process following Irish referendum. Irrespective of the recent developments in Ireland, Senator Mantica emphasized that the Italian government will strongly support integration of Albania and of the entire Western Balkans in the EU and this integration is in the mutual interest of Balkans and of Europe. Speaking about regional developments, Senator Mantica and Premier Berisha emphasized that the role of Italian diplomacy has been worthy of solution of Kosova issue where the Italians are set to make a contribution to development of the new state, the independence of which is very important for peace and stability in the region.

### **Premier Berisha congratulates new Cabinet ministers**

During meeting of the Council of Ministers, Prime Minister Sali Berisha congratulated the three new members of the government, the Deputy Prime Minister Genc Pollo, the Minister of Education Fatos Beja and Minister of Health Anila Godo, on occasion of taking office.

While wishing Pollo on his new duty, as Deputy Premier of Council of Ministers, PM Berisha expressed positive assessments for the reform of the educational system introduced during the period Mr. Pollo was at the head of the Ministry of Education.

The prime minister highlighted that reform of the education system and its consolidation remains vital for the future of Albanian society, therefore, it is a priority of the government. He expressed his belief that Mr. Fatos Beja will take forward the reform process of this system being in the office of the Minister of Education.

### **Council of Ministers approves mid-term action plan of 2008-2009 “Brain Gain” program**

During Wednesday meeting, Council of Ministers approved mid-term action plan of 2008-2009 “Brain Gain” program. The action plan aims at speeding up the work pace and creates a stimulating climate to meet the objectives of 'Brain Gain, a programme initiated by the Albanian government in cooperation with the UNDP which aims at attracting all those that have graduated from universities abroad to give their contribution in their country.

In his address, Premier Berisha stressed that this reforms will continue. In the framework of government serious efforts for investments in education, the Premier mentioned also Excellency Fund, aiming at providing scholarships for those who manage to be accepted in one of ten most quoted universities in the world.

### **Premier Berisha receives representatives of European Company, EADS**

Premier Berisha received the representatives of European company EADS, headed by Vice President Jens Siebrecht. The European company of aeronautics and space defense expressed its interest in extending the activity in Albania.

During the meeting with Premier Berisha, the representatives of the company considered Albania a country with high business potential. They determined the landmarks of their projects, focused on production of civil and military planes and providing of spare parts. Premier Berisha got acquainted with the draft-proposals of EADS and commended the decision of its directors to invest in Albania. Premier Berisha guaranteed the investors for the government support for concretization of their projects.