



WEEKLY NEWS

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Premier Berisha receives senior representatives of Italian Delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly

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Premier Berisha meets with delegation of ODHIR Needs Assessment mission

Premier Berisha met today with the delegation of OSCE/ODHIR Needs Assessment mission, which is visiting Albania for evaluation of



preparatory framework of elections. The Premier expressed his pleasure over the visit of the mission and assured the delegation of the full support of Albanian government in relation to electoral process.

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Secretary General of "Adenauer" foundation, Micheal Thielen praises reforms of "Berisha" government

Premier Berisha, at invitation of "Konrad Adenauer" Foundation attended the conference "Years 1989/1990: Wind of Change in Albania", organized by this foundation on occasion of 20th anniversary of fall of Berlin Wall. Secretary General Micheal Thielen hailed the presence of PM Berisha as the co-founder of Democratic Party.



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Premier Berisha attends Summit of European People's Party in Brussels

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Premier Berisha receives senior representatives of Italian Delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Prime Minister Sali Berisha had a cordial meeting with the top level delegation of the Italian Senate headed by



Chairman of the Italian Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Senator Sergio de Gregorio and composed by Senator Lamberto Dini and Senator Franco Marini. Attending the meeting was also Italy's ambassador to our country Saba D'Elia. Welcoming the senior senators, the premier expressed gratitude for the very worthy support of the Italian people and government and of the institutions of the neighboring country for development and integration of Albania. The premier emphasized that Albania is passing through an historic moment, NATO membership, and a process which would not have been possible without the full support of Italy in every aspect. The Italian senators thanked Premier Berisha for the hospitality and said that Albania development is impressive and that Albania has enjoyed the fruits of the government consistency with sweeping reforms in many fields. Further on, the Italian senators congratulated Premier Berisha for Albania NATO membership in April summit while highlighting that Albania will be an added value to NATO given that it is a country which has implemented sweeping reforms and has made a real contribution with its forces fighting side by side with the NATO against terrorism. Premier Berisha acquainted the Italian senators with the progress of the sweeping reforms, the fight with zero tolerance against corruption and crime and the steps toward the economic development and the exploitation of the numerous resources of the country and especially with the favorable business climate for the FDI. The Italian senators considered Albania an interesting country for the Italian companies which will never experience any fall, irrespective of the economic crisis and they pointed to cooperation in the energy field. Premier Berisha emphasized that the most major companies of Italy have moved to Albania and the government would support their projects. The Italian senators congratulated Premier Berisha and his government for the essential elections and the determination in the road of major reforms that transformed the country and paved the way to NATO membership in record time and which would also facilitate the EU integration of the country. They assured the premier even for their support for Albania EU integration.

Premier Berisha meets with delegation of OSCE/ODHIR Needs Assessment mission

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Albania for evaluation of preparatory framework of elections. The Premier expressed his pleasure over the visit of the mission and assured the delegation of the full support of Albanian government in relation to electoral process. Premier Berisha said that June 28 elections are very important regarding the full achievements of international standards for democratic elections, adding that all efforts will be undertaken in this respect. In this framework, Premier Berisha invited ODIHR representatives to send largest possible observation mission, and assured them that the official invitation for observation of elections by OSBE/ODIHR will be presented within next week. Chief of Needs Assessment mission, Gerald Mitchel extended thanks for the support given to this mission and role of ODIHR in this electoral process. Premier Berisha expressed his pleasure over the approval with very wide consensus of constitutional changes and Electoral Code, especially the new electoral system, which eliminates definitely the negative phenomenon of "Dushku". Likewise, he hailed the consensual approval of new Central Elections Commission, and informed of signing of a cooperation and understanding memorandum. Premier Berisha made a panorama of the electoral infrastructure, focusing on equipment of citizens for the first time with electronic Identity Cards, modernization of civil registry office and addresses system, in cooperation with project of OSCE presence in Albania, emphasizing that such achievements will deeply improve the elections standards. Premier highlighted that actual process of lists compilation is continuing successfully and without complaints, in contrary to the past, where object of polemics were the voters lists and not political alternatives. The meeting concluded with the expression of will for further cooperation.

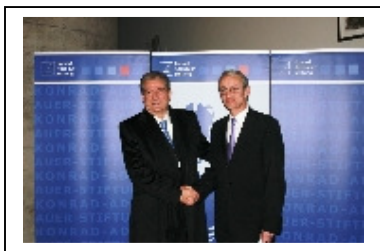
Premier Berisha receives Mr. Pojar, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic

Prime Minister Sali Berisha had a meeting today with Mr. Tomas Pojar, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic. Welcoming the guest, Premier Berisha considered brilliant the political relations

between the two countries. After expressing cordial thanks to Premier Berisha for the warm reception, the Deputy Minister Pojar conveyed to the prime minister the most cordial and friendly greetings of Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek. Mr. Pojar said that the aim of his visit was to extend the invitation of Premier Topolánek for Premier Berisha official visit to Prague at the most suitable time for Premier Berisha. Deputy Premier Pojar assured Premier Berisha that the EU Czech Presidency has defined the Western Balkans region as its main priority and an opportunity of deepening further the all-round cooperation between Czech Republic and the regional countries. Likewise, Mr. Pojar informed Premier Berisha about the decision of Premier Topolánek for establishment of the Stabilization Association Council as envisaged in the Stabilization Association Agreement due to go in force in April. Further on, Mr. Pojar brought to Premier Berisha wonderful news, the Former Czech President Vaclav Havel, a distinguished friend of Albania and Premier Berisha, has accepted with pleasure the official invitation to visit Albania in April of the current year. Premier Berisha cordially thanked Premier Topolánek for the invitation and expressed deep gratitude to Deputy Minister Pojar for the support that the Czech Republic has constantly provided Albania with about NATO membership and EU integration of the country. Also Premier Berisha positively appreciated the job of the Czech Presidency for coping with the numerous problems in the course of this six-month period and demanded that in the quality of the EU Presidency to make a contribution so that monitors from the EU member countries should come to monitor the election process in Albania. During the meeting it was also positively assessed the successful completion of the privatization process of Albania's OSSH power distributor and the Czech state-controlled power utility CEZ successful buying as an important step that shows the great interest of the Czech investors in the Albanian market as well as confirm the fact that the reforms implemented have turned the country into an attractive place for business and FDI.

Secretary General of “Adenauer” foundation, Micheal Thielen praises reforms of “Berisha” government

Premier Berisha, at invitation of “Konrad Adenauer” Foundation attended the conference “Years 1989/1990: Wind of Change in Albania”, organized by this foundation on occasion of 20th anniversary of fall of Berlin Wall. Secretary General Micheal Thielen



hailed the presence of PM Berisha as the co-founder of Democratic Party. “You have headed the biggest opposition party in Albania, you have been the first dissident of Albania. During this time, you have carried out reforms in your country and embraced the opening of Albania to outside world”, Thielen said. Further on, Thielen stressed that after a few years in opposition, with the victory of Democratic Party in 2005, Mr. Berisha took the office of Premier of Albania, pushing ahead the country toward road of Euro-Atlantic integration. “Your reforms enabled Albania’s membership invitation to last year. You have opened your country to world for great economic investments. You have extended the excellent economic relations with Balkans. Mr. Prime Minister, since you have received this office, you have pushed ahead fight against corruption. Your government has implemented important reforms in justice, thus we all share the same opinion that independence of justice must be maintained and strengthened, as well as principles of rule of law must be respected”. Secretary General Micheal Thielen pointed to lustration law. “This has been a controversial law in Albania and wider. We wish this discussion would give a strong impulse to social reconciliation in Albania”. In his address, Thielen said 2009 is an important year for Albania. “In June, you will hold parliamentary elections. This year, your country will be accepted as a NATO full right member, and we are very happy for it. Meanwhile, your government is trying to receive the EU candidate country status. All the EU member countries have ratified SAA with Albania, and this is a sign of unshakable trust in the fact that course of reforms in Albania is a full success. This is necessary to push ahead the common European perspective of Albania”. In conclusion, Secretary General of “Adenauer” foundation thanked Premier Berisha for the impressive and professional address that gave life to the historic events of toppling of totalitarian regime. Secretary General of “Adenauer” foundation conveyed to Premier Berisha the good news that in the framework of 20th anniversary of fall of Berlin Wall, “Konrad Adenauer” will open a representation office in Albania.

Premier Berisha presents Albanian state experience in toppling of dictatorial regime at a conference

As special guest of Konrad Adenauer Foundation in the conference “Years 1989/1990: Wind of Change in Albania”, Premier Berisha presented before most high-rank German personalities the experience of Albanian



state in toppling Enver Hoxha dictatorial regime, re-establishment of values of freedom and democracy, which will be coronated with Albania's membership into NATO. At first, Premier Berisha focused on year 1989, which marks not only in the history of Germany, but also the entire world, the fall of Berlin Wall. He considered it the greatest event in the history of humanity of XX-th century, after World War Two. The Premier stressed that Fall of Berlin Wall marked the opening of closed door of freedom for over 400 million citizens of Europe and Central Asia, victory of lacked human dignity. The fall of Berlin Wall, which stretched from the Northern Seas to Corfu Channel, marked the end of surrounding of freedom in Europe and world, as well as immediate end of most tragic, inhuman system ever. Likewise, the Premier underlined that fall of Berlin wall was the result of a series of factors, underling as the most determining was the creation of NATO and its consolidation as the alliance that successfully avoided the soviet expansion in Europe. In this context, PM Berisha stressed that without the foundation and consolidation of the North Atlantic Alliance, the expansionary paranoia of Red Kremlin and its satellites would have not stopped. Kremlin had reserved the fate of Czechoslovakia also to many other countries in the west, north and south of the continents. Focusing on the events happening in Albania then, the Premier said that for Albanians experiencing the deepest isolation ever in their history, Pope John Paul II would remain always their greatest friend, who did not forget them, even when others had forgotten them. His messages and appeals from Brindisi in 1980 and 1982 will always be remembered in the memory of the Albanian nation, added the Premier. Premier highlighted also that after the fall of dictatorship, Albania was the first country in the Balkans visited by Pope John Paul II in April 23, 1993. "I feel proud and blessed that my co-patriots and I, had the possibility to testify our love and greatest gratitude with our reception", the Premier said. Likewise, he recalled that after the creation of Albanian opposition, Helmut Kohl was the first Premier of a great European country to meet him in the capacity of the leader of the Albanian opposition in spring '91 and then, after the victory of democracy he was the statesman he had met more often as President of Albania, and helped Albania more than anyone else in establishment of democracy and market economy. Premier Berisha expressed deepest gratitude for "greatest man of German land" after Bismarck, greatest friend of Albanian nation, Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Likewise, the Premier Berisha considered his participation in this conference as a special occasion to express his deepest gratitude to the greatest friend of Albanian nation, President Bush for the great service to world freedom with his visionary stand toward fall of Berlin Wall and great help given to Albania in toppling of communist dictatorship. "I had the opportunity to meet

him in Albania, and receive him twice in Albania, after leaving his duty, and to express gratitude and most friendly feeling for his contribution in freedom of Albania, Europe and World. March 22, 1992 marks the beginning of democratic system and market economy in Albania," Premier said. In his address, the Premier highlighted that on March 22, Albania was in a complete economic collapse. In this context, the Premier said that the government formed after the elections proceeded with deep and all-sided reforms, which enabled the establishment of democratic rule and market economy. Referring to the then events in Albania, the Premier stressed that in Albania has ruled the most severe and totalitarian form of communist regime of all the former communist countries. Considering the figure of dictator Enver Hoxha as post-war Hitler, the Premier underlined that for 45 years in Albania was established the most extreme form of monism or totalitarianism. The Premier underlined that the iron hand of dictatorial system in Albania prohibited by Constitution the fundamental freedoms and human rights, eliminated private property, nationalized everything and established hyper-collectivization system. In particular, the Premier stressed the most unprecedented act in our century long history the cultural barbarism; destruction of the most beautiful churches, mosques in Albania. PM Berisha stressed that Enver Hoxha regime executed two times more Albanian citizens with and without court process than in all the communist cliques of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, former Yugoslavia and Hungary. Emphasizing that the then situation in Albania was out of every human imagination, the Premier said that Albanians started to feel gale of freedom after the fall of Berlin Wall. Likewise, the Premier underlined the 1990 great student protest, which was a manifestation of courage of citizens and intellectuals, who demanded victory of freedom, democracy and rule of law.

Premier Berisha attends Summit of European People's Party in Brussels

- At EPP Summit, Premier Berisha asked support for Albania's application for EU candidate country status, and sending of the largest possible group of observers for June 28 parliamentary elections, as well as other important issues. Premier Berisha attended today the proceedings of Summit of heads of European Union states and government, members of European



People's Party group (EPP), held in Brussels. In this Summit, Premier Berisha asked support for Albania's application for EU candidate country status, and sending of the largest possible group of observers for June 28 parliamentary elections, as well as other important issues.

Premier Berisha presents Albania investment potentials to German entrepreneurs

Prime Minister Sali Berisha had a meeting with a group of local entrepreneurs in Essen, Germany. The meeting was organized by the German Committee for Eastern European Economic Relations. On this occasion was organized a working lunch with many representatives of the local German companies of car industry, infrastructure, agro-food industry, the mineral processing industry and media. Also attending were representatives of the company which worked on modernization of Albania "Mother Teresa" International Airport. Premier Berisha was greeted by Mr. Bodo Hombach, the Head of the Management Board of the WAZ Media Group, an internationally active German publishing company. He thanked Premier Berisha for this visit and his meeting with representatives of the German business world. Mr. Hombach considered Premier Berisha as the "Father of Albania modern history".

Premier Berisha: Education, main locomotive of nation's future

Prime Minister Sali Berisha attended the Albanian Speaking University Network conference under topic "Present-day problems and future challenges" organized in the venues of the U.F.O. University. This is the first conference of this network to present the capacities, opportunities and problems of Albania higher education in the framework of reform and application of new study systems targeting values and public dimension of the education. Attending the conference were Education Minister Fatos Beja, Rector of Tirana University- also holding the chairmanship of the Albanian Speaking University Network- Prof. Dhori Kule, rectors and deans of public and private universities, representatives of universities of Prishtina, Tetova, Southeast European University, Chairman of the Academy of Sciences Beqir Gudari, lecturers, students. In his speech delivered on this occasion, the premier said that the Albanians are living through NATO and EU integration process as a safe future of the country. But, said the premier, "As a nation of no opportunity to build the future and experiencing a history of survival, Albania has just one alternative: to turn education into the locomotive of leading the Albanians toward the future". This process

is of vital importance, said the premier. Further on, Premier Berisha spoke about the extreme importance of the private sector in public education. The premier suggested to university leaders to consider the possibility of the private sector being a shareholder in the university undertaking. Likewise, the premier promised a facilitating framework for the private universities next year targeting their smooth activity and an opportunity of further participation of the private sector in education process.

Premier Berisha receives Mr. Ad Melkert, UN Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP

Prime Minister Sali Berisha received today Mr. Ad Melkert, UN Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP in the framework of his Albania visit to attend the annual meeting of the UNDP | Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States that holds its proceedings in Tirana. Attending the meeting was even the UN Resident Coordinator in Albania Ms. Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett, Assistant Secretary-General of United Nations and Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director of the Regional Bureau of UNDP for Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States Kori Udovički. Premier Berisha expressed gratitude to UNDP for its very important part in the fulfillment of the goals of the government of Albania to change and modernize the country. Speaking about the achievements of the government through the reforms implemented, the prime minister pointed to fight against crime and corruption as well as the priority of the favorable business climate for the country. On his part, Mr. Melkert said he was impressed with Albania development and achievements during the recent years and expressed thanks to the prime minister for the brilliant cooperation with the UNDP and the efficiency of implementation of the projects by the relevant Albania institutions. He also expressed rather positive assessment of their management on the part of the government of Albania. The premier spoke about the progress of the main projects being implemented in cooperation with the UNDP like One UN program, Brain gain, e-schools, extra-legality project, Eco-tourism and Cultural Tourism, projects about which the premier demanded further cooperation with the UNDP given that they are priorities of the government of Albania as well. Premier Berisha demanded from the UNDP representatives a further support for the educational reform as far as the enhancement and consolidation of the private sector in all the stages of education. Also Mr. Melkert expressed UNDP willingness to further cooperation with the government of Albania also based on the results achieved and the progress of these projects. Mr. Melkert said that Albania will set an example even to other countries thanks to the achievements and experience gained. The premier said that UNDP

program has been an important and worthy assistance focused on vital projects for the young Albania nation and said these projects were implemented even thanks to UNDP experience and support. Likewise, the premier expressed the willingness of the government of Albania for further cooperation in other projects of social importance for Roma population. And the premier emphasized that every step should be taken for improving the life of this community. Mr. Melkert said that UNDP also appreciates highly the coming Albania NATO membership. He emphasized that these successful projects and the country's admirable economic stability give an impetus to fulfillment of standards and the EU integration process.

Decisions approved in meeting of Council of Ministers

DECISION ON EXPROPRIATION, IN PUBLIC INTEREST, OF OWNERS OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY (OBJECTS), AFFECTED BY BUILDING OF MILOT-RRËSHEN ROAD SEGMENT

DECISION ON APPROVAL, IN PRINCIPLE, OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, FOR COOPERATION IN FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, ESPECIALLY TERRORISM, ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS AND ORGANIZED CRIME

DECISION ON TRANSFER OF "SHKODËR PREFECTURE" PREMISES INTO PROPERTY OF SHKODËR MUNICIPALITY

DECISION ON APPROVAL OF INVENTORY LIST OF STATE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES, IN KOTË COMMUNE, VLORA REGION

DECISION ON APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY LIST OF PUBLIC, STATE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THAT ARE TRANSFERRED, INTO PROPERTY OR USE, OF BALDUSHK COMMUNE, TIRANA REGION

DECISION ON APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY LIST OF PUBLIC, STATE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES TO BE TRANSFERRED, INTO PROPERTY OR USE OF COMMUNE OF TREBINJA, KORÇA DISTRICT

DECISION ON APPROVAL OF FINAL LIST OF PUBLIC, STATE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES TO BE TRANSFERRED, INTO PROPERTY OR USE OF

COMMUNE OF QENDËR BULGAREC, KORÇA DISTRICT

DECISION ON APPROVAL OF FINAL LIST OF PUBLIC, STATE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES TO BE TRANSFERRED, INTO PROPERTY OR USE OF COMMUNE OF MOLLAS, ELBASAN DISTRICT

DECISION ON APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA AND GOVERNMENT OF KINGDOM OF SWEDEN FOR COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

DECISION ON APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA AND CONCIL OF MINISTERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR MUTUAL MOVEMENT OF CITIZENS

DECISION ON APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA AND CONCIL OF MINISTERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR RE-ADMISSION OF PERSONS WITH IRREGULAR PERMIT

DECISION FOR APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF AGREEMENT IN FRAMEWORK OF LOAN BETWEEN REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE DEVELOPMENT BANK (CEDB) FOR FINANCING THE PROGRAM FOR STABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS

DECISION ON LICENSING OF PRIVATE SCHOOL "TIRANA INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS"

DECISION ON EXPROPRIATION, IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, OF THE OWNERS OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES, AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION OF LAÇ-KISHA SHËN NDOU ROAD SEGMENT

DECISION ON EXPROPRIATION, IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, OF OWNERS OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES, AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION OF SHKODRA ROAD RING.

DECISION FOR APPROVAL OF TRANSFER IN PROPERTY OF CONSTRUCTIONS SITES IN FAVOR OF INFORMAL OBJECTS OWNERS