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Albania delegation newsletter

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This newsletter contains EU positions, Documents from International organisations, Documents from Thinktanks and NGOs and recent press articles in English

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EU positions

[Fourth meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between Albania and the EU](#)

Joint Press Release, 15 May 2012

The SA Council called for further efforts in public administration reform, including adoption of pending laws, such as amendments to the civil service law, and implementation of existing legislative and policy tools. The SA Council noted the adoption of the judiciary reform strategy and recalled that ensuring independence, impartiality, transparency, efficiency and accountability of the judiciary are central elements in the assessment of the political criteria for EU accession, and key in ensuring the respect for the rule of law

[EU and Albania sign a framework agreement for the participation of Albania in EU crisis management operations](#)

EU, 5 June 2012

The agreement will set out a legal framework for possible future Albanian participation in the full range of EU-led military operations and civilian missions, and represents a step towards more structured cooperation between the EU and Albania in the security field. This new framework instrument will allow on a case-by-case basis the smooth involvement of Albania in on-going and future EU crisis management efforts across the world, avoiding unnecessary delays where Albania is invited and agrees to participate in EU operations

[Albania: Potential to move higher up in the enlargement process](#)

Commissioner Füle, 04/05/2012

He also delivered a speech to the Albanian Parliament and met the Ombudsman Mr. Igli Totozani. Commissioner Füle said Albania's EU perspective was real provided the country delivers credible and sustainable results on EU-related reforms, particularly as regards the 12 key priorities of the Opinion. He stressed the need for Albania's EU integration agenda to become the national agenda and an inclusive process, for the government, opposition and civil society

[Stefan Füle European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Address to the members of the Albanian Parliament](#)

Tirana, 3 May 2012

[Irregularities regarding the population census in Albania](#)

Question for written answer, Question for written answer, 21

November 2011

Answer by Mr Füle:

According to information, some census questionnaires were filled out in pencil by enumerators in the early part of the process. However, this practice was corrected after it was brought to the attention of Instat. Issuing copies of the census forms to the enumeration subjects is not in line with European standards. Furthermore, the inclusion of optional questions on nationality and religion respects the

principle of free self-identification of the census subjects. It also follows the recommendations of Eurostat and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) for the 2011 census round. Following the completion of the enumeration phase, the Commission continues to support Instat in the next stages of the census through the EU-funded IPA project which is due to run until December 2012.

International organisations

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011, Albania

State Department. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, 24 May 2012

Economic, political interests and poor legal implementation hinder free press in Albania, says OSCE media freedom representative

OSCE, 7 June 2012

Albania

EBRD, April 2012

The EBRD is one of the largest investors in the private sector in Albania. Its main areas of focus are supporting the financial sector and small-medium production enterprises, improving infrastructure, and developing natural resources. The Bank is also engaged in policy dialogue with the Albanian government, with the potential to invest in key public sector projects, along with the implementation of numerous donor-funded projects in the country

Thinktanks and NGOs

Nations in Transit 2012 - Albania

Freedom House, May 2012

Albania's civil society sector remains weak and struggles to find space for meaningful activity in a highly politicized environment. Even civic activists appear to view running for office as the only real way to influence policymaking; a large number of them competed in local elections in 2011, especially in elections to municipal councils

Albania Report - June 2012

S.R.M. Studi e Ricerche per il Mezzogiorno, June 2012

Available through the Library in Italian and English

New party promises to break Albania's political mould

Oxford Analytica, 14 May 2012

New parties such as the centre-right New Democratic Spirit (FRD) have emerged amid rising uncertainty in Albania's party landscape. The political dynamic seems to be shifting against the two main Democratic (PD) and Socialist (PS) parties, which have dominated the post-communist era. Their fierce rivalry has marred the country's image and slowed down Albania's EU accession process. Both the new liberal party and the nationalist Red and Black Alliance, also registered as a political party last month, are challenging the mainstream by addressing sensitive political, economic and national issues.

Political and Cultural Development in Albania Under Globalization

Influences

Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences Vol. 3 (5) March 2012

Press articles in English

Albanian president-elect says ready to cooperate with opposition

BBC Monitoring European, 12:20, 18 June 2012, 2140 words , (English)

Text of report by Albanian privately-owned independent newspaper

Koha Jone, on 13 June [Interview with Albania's President-Elect

Bujar Nishani by Blendi Fevziu; place and date not given:

"Opposition Deputies Did Not Vote for Me, But They ...

Albanian paper says new president loyal to premier

BBC Monitoring European, 14:46, 17 June 2012, 1843 words , (English)

Text of report by Albanian privately-owned pro-PS party newspaper

Tema, on 12 June [Commentar by Mero Baze: "A Prime Minister's

President"] What happened is not worth being too emotional about.

Sali Berisha got his president. Ilir Meta ...

(AE) ALBANIA

Agence Europe, 14 June 2012, 116 words , (English)

13/06/2012 (Agence Europe) - Accession process, lack of positive

signals. On Tuesday 12 June, the spokesperson to Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Füle, Peter Stano, stressed that it is “hard to see any positive signals bringing Albania and ...

Albania, Kosovo sign cooperation protocol on fighting human trafficking

BBC Monitoring European, 15:58, 12 June 2012, 177 words , (English)

Text of report in English by Albanian state news agency ATA ["Kosovo, Albania Sign Additional Protocol on Fight Against Human Trafficking" - ATA headline]

Albanian Inflation Edges Up But Remains Modest at 1.9% Y/Y in May

IHS Global Insight Daily Analysis, 8 June 2012, 290 words , (English)

The latest data from Albania's National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) showed that consumer price inflation remained modest although it picked up to 1,9% year-on-year (y/y) in May, from 1.6% y/y in April, 1.0% y/y in March and only 0.6% ...

Unemployment Rate in Albania Remains Stable at 13.3% in Q1

IHS Global Insight Daily Analysis, 8 June 2012, 302 words , (English)

Data from the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) showed that the unemployment rate in Albania was stable at 13.3% in the first quarter of 2012, unchanged for the fourth consecutive quarter. This was the lowest rate since the third ...

Enhanced media freedom Albanian government's top priority - premier

BBC Monitoring European, 16:58, 5 June 2012, 256 words , (English)

Text of report in English by Albanian state news agency ATA ["Berisha: Promotion of Media Freedom, Top Government Priority" - ATA headline] Tirana, 5 June (ATA) - Promotion and enhancement of the media freedom is a top priority for the ...

Albanian commentary highlights "alarming situation" in Defense Ministry

BBC Monitoring European, 16:42, 27 May 2012, 591 words , (English)

Text of report by Albanian leading national independent newspaper Shekulli, on 19 May [Commentary by Hajro Limaj: "Organization crisis in Defence Ministry"]

Commentary slams Albanian, Kosovo premiers for "stale patriotic rhetoric"

BBC Monitoring European, 18:20, 21 May 2012, 1394 words , (English)

Text of report by Albanian privately-owned pro-PS party newspaper Tema, on 18 May [Commentary by Mero Baze: "A Rag of Patriotism"] It had never crossed my mind that we had a primer that was different to that of Kosova [Kosovo]. Nor did I ever ...

Albanian paper views OSCE envoy as "disgraceful figure"

BBC Monitoring European, 11:04, 21 May 2012, 1449 words , (English)

Text of report by Albanian privately-owned pro-PS party newspaper Tema, on 17 May [Commentary by Mero Baze: "A Diplomat That Puts OSCE to Shame"]

Expert warns Greek collapse would have serious impact on Albanian economy

BBC Monitoring European, 15:24, 18 May 2012, 130 words , (English)

Text of report in English by Albanian state news agency ATA ["Cani: Greek Crisis Will Affect Soon Albanian Economy" - ATA headline] Tirana, May 17 (ATA) - Economic collapse that has gripped the Hellenic state is expected to affect also the ...