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■ Photo: President of the Region Lombardia Roberto Formigoni, Prime Minister Sali Berisha, Mayor of the City of Milan Letizia Moratti, Italian Ambassador to Albania Saba D'Elia at the opening of the Italian-Albanian Economic Forum in Milan.

Italian-Albanian Economic Forum in Milan

The Italian-Albanian Economic Forum took place on 18 January 2011 in Milan to discuss trade relations between both countries. The event was organized by the Milan Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality of Milan, in conjunction with the Government and the Italian Embassy in Tirana, as well as with the participation of the Lombardia Region. The Albanian delegation, headed by Prime Minister, Sali Berisha, Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, Eno Bozdo, and President of the Union of Albanian Chambers of Commerce, Ilir Zhilla, was welcomed by Italian Minister of Economic Development, Paolo Romani, President of Lombardia Region, Roberto Formigoni, and Mayor of Milan, Letizia Moratti. The Forum, which attracted some 400 Albanian and Italian business people, was also the occasion for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Milan Chamber of Commerce and the Union of Albanian Chambers of Commerce. Italian Ambas-

sador in Albania, Saba D'Elia stressed that, as Albania's main trading partner, Italy was supporting Albania's admission to the EU. He said that the economic relations between both countries are also the result of the compatibility between the two production systems, both based on the economic potential of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). The Director of the Italian Development Cooperation in Albania, Aldo Sicignano presented the Private Sector Development Programme that aims at fostering commercial partnerships between Italian and Albanian SMEs. So far, consisting of a credit line and a guarantee fund in favour of Albanian businesses of up to 45 million Euros, the Programme, has funded 39 SME's investment projects, based on the purchase of Italian technology, contributing thus to further strengthening the development of the Albanian economy. According to the participants to the Programme, the success of the initiative is due to the reasonable

time-frame according to which the funding requests are accepted and fulfilled. This is one of the initiatives the Italian Development Co-operation is undertaking in its capacity as European Lead Donor for the private sector. A brochure presenting the Private Sector Development Programme was distributed. During the Forum, participants were informed about the important instruments the Italian Ministry of Economic Development has shaped to promote Italian businesses in the Western Balkans Region such as export credit, public venture capital fund and consultancy and support services in setting up investment initiatives. The speakers also gave full details on the opportunities coming from the SMEs financing facilities designed by the European Development Banks (BEI, CEB and EBRD) and the European Commission, notably the joint initiatives such as the [Western Balkans Investment Framework](#) and the European Fund for South-East Europe.

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■ "To stay ahead in an increasingly integrated world, Albania will require a more sophisticated strategy to create the foundation for long-term competitiveness and sustainability" said Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Bank Managing Director during her recent visit to Albania..."

The World Bank Managing Director visits Albania

World Bank Managing Director, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala paid a three-day visit to Albania from 9 to 11 January 2011, as part of her first trip to some Western Balkans countries. The aim was to stress the importance of Albania's new Growth Agenda as well as reiterate the Bank's support to the Government under the new Country Partnership Strategy. She expressed the Bank's solidarity with people affected by the recent floods in Shkodra and discussed possibilities for additional support to mitigate the risks of future floods. She met with Prime Minister Sali Berisha, key members of the Government, the Governor of the Bank of Albania, Ardian Fullani, leader of the opposition Edi Rama, and representatives of civil society and the private sector. The discussions during these meetings were centred on the progress in the implementation of the new Country Partnership Strategy and the challenges that Albania faces to resume high rates of growth in the post-crisis world. "To stay ahead in an increasingly integrated world," she said, "Albania will require a more sophisticated strategy to create the foundation for long-term competitiveness and sustainability. Some key elements of this strategy would be further reforms in education, skills creation, information and communications technologies, and the energy sector. It is also important to improve the enabling environment for businesses, including secure land property rights and the effective implemen-

tation and transparent enforcement of existing laws and regulations." She also visited the Porto Romano site in Durres, where environmental and health hazards from a former chemical plant are remediated with the assistance of the World Bank and the Dutch Government under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Cleanup Project. To date, 65% of the remediation works have been carried out and the cleanup of all sites is expected to be completed by May 2011. In the Udenisht commune (Pogradec), she visited a forested plot and fruit tree plantation, and met with beneficiaries of the Natural Resources Development Project, financed by the World Bank, the Global Environmental Facility and the Swedish Government. The investments in this commune account for 63% improvement of forestry and pastures and for 37% improvement of agricultural lands. As a result, 204 persons were employed in forestry improvement works, and 200 families have benefited so far. "The World Bank is very proud to team up with the Government and local communities for the implementation of these impressive projects, which in one place clean up and improve people's living conditions, and in another area generate employment at the local level," she said. The new World Bank Country Partnership Strategy, approved in July 2010, includes financing of up to 275 million USD from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and up to 120-150 million USD from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) over a four-year period. There are currently 15 active projects in the social sector, health, education, natural resources, water and energy, municipal

infrastructure, and public sector management that are helping Albania to achieve sustainable economic and social development and pave the way for European integration.

New EU Ambassador, Ettore Sequi presents his credentials to the President of the Republic

With the presentation of his credentials to President Bamir Topi, on 20 January 2011, Mr Ettore Sequi formally became the new European Union Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Albania. In the presentation ceremony of his credentials, Ambassador Sequi said "I feel particularly privileged to be appointed to this very important post in challenging times for Albania. Visa liberalisation was a real success for the Albanian people, but it is necessary to keep the momentum in Albania's efforts towards EU accession, and in particular to mobilise all the energies of the country to meet in due time the key priorities set in the Opinion of the European Commission". Mr Sequi was appointed the new Head of the EU Delegation to Albania in early September 2010 by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice-President, Baroness Catherine Ashton, in the frame of the first recruitment exercise for the new European External Action Service. Ambassador Sequi joined the Italian Foreign Service in 1985. In 1988 he served as a Consul of Italy in Tehran and later as a Counsellor to the Italian Permanent Representation to the UN in New York and Counsellor at the Cabinet of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs. From July 2000 to December 2004 he served as Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Italy in Tirana. Mr Sequi is coming to Albania after a challenging mission in Afghanistan, first as the Ambassador of Italy in Kabul, and later as the EU Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Decentralized Cooperation, tops International Conference Agenda

Representatives of Albanian and Italian Governments, international orga-



Photo: New EU Ambassador, Ettore Sequi during a press conference

nizations, local government authorities from Albania and the Balkans, private sector representatives as well as civil society and the media participated in a two-day international conference entitled *European integration, knowledge, innovations and democratic governance for development, - the strategic role of decentralized cooperation in economic development, service delivery and capacity building*, held in Tirana on 13 to 14 January 2011. The event was organized by the Ministry of Interior, UNDP's ART GOLD 2 Programme, the Italian Embassy and UN in Albania. The event was organized as part of the ART GOLD 2 Albania Programme, implemented by UNDP with the financial support of the Italian Government in partnership with the Albanian Ministry of Interior and other UN Agencies. The project aims to support national policies for local development as part of the pro-

cess of EU integration, with a particular focus on democratic governance. At the opening of the conference, the Italian Ambassador in Albania, Saba D'Elia stressed the role of the representatives of local communities in Albania and Europe, who are using the ART GOLD programme to develop a promising platform for decentralized co-operation. "The regions, municipalities and communes are working with determination and contributing jointly to implement development strategies through innovative and efficient project that contribute to sustainable local development", he said. The UN Resident Co-ordinator in Albania and UNDP Resident Representative, Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun said that "In recent years, Albania had taken a significant step forward in the area of regional development. A national policy on regional development is now in place and efforts are ongoing to deepen de-



Photo: International conference European integration, knowledge, innovations and democratic governance for development, - the strategic role of decentralized cooperation in economic development, service delivery and capacity building, held in Tirana on 13-14 January 2011

centralization reform and make the requisite institutional changes to respond to the opportunities presented by the anticipated EU candidate status." The event focused on the quality and governance of territorial development, the role of regional development agencies as tools of territorial, economic and social development. It highlighted the importance of training development professionals through territorial laboratories of local human development as part of International School of Millennium Development initiative. UNDP ARTGOLD2 Albania Programme was seen as one of the most effective tools available to the Government for promoting good governance and human development in the target regions. The launch of the Human Development Laboratories in the regions of Shkodra and Vlora, as part of the International School was also seen as an integral tool in the advancement of decentralized co-operation. All participants agreed on the role that local authorities and local social actors play in the EU integration process and expressed appreciation for UNDP's, UN agencies and donors efforts to prepare an operational framework, in agreement with the national policy orientations, in which all these international and decentralized cooperation actors can be able to harmonize their actions. The Government chaired and moderated the event with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Interior, Ferdinand Poni. The different panels were chaired by the Minister of European Integration Majlinda Bregu; Minister of Environment Fatmir Mediu and other government officials. Also a considerable number of representatives from the Albanian and the Balkans institutions, universities, local economic development agencies of Vlora and Shkodra, shared their experience gained over the past few years in Albania.

IPS Support Group holds its first meeting for 2011

The meeting of the Integrated Planning System (IPS) Support Group was held on 25 January 2011 in the Council of Ministers. Representatives from Ministries of Finance and European Integration, DSDC, Department of Public Administration, and donors contributing to the IPS Multi-Donor Trust Fund



Photo: Meeting of the IPS Support Group, held on 25 January 2011

took part in the meeting that was co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of Finance, Nezir Haldeda and the Director of DSDC, Valbona Kuko. The agenda included discussion about the IPS overall progress and activities, focusing on the progress with the implementation of IPS Multi-Donor Trust Fund and the next steps. Implementation of the IPS Trust Fund has been extended until September 2011 with a support funding worth 5.5 Million Euros that has made possible the continuation of the development and testing of the Albanian Finance Management Information Systems (AFMIS), as well as the NSDI mid-term assessment evaluation and review, and training of the Government officials. The meeting saw the Government request for an IPS Trust Fund follow up beyond 2011. Donors were encouraged to see an increase in progress made since last meeting held in May 2010 and even greater relations with government institutions. They expressed willingness to continue supporting the implementation of the IPS.

Meeting of the Sector Working Group on Public Procurement

The Sector Working Group on Public Procurement met on 27 January 2011. Representatives from the Public Procurement Agency (PPA), DSDC, Ministries of Finance and European Integration, and donors contributing to development of public procurement took part in the meeting. Chaired by the Director of Public Procurement Agency,

Klodiana Cankja, the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the main recommendations and the matrix of areas for improvements resulted from the Procurement Assessment Report that was finalized in July 2010, and to discuss next steps. The recommendations on strengthening the public procurement system focus on elements such as capacity development, development of an Internal Control Framework and modernization of internal and external audit. The Director of Juridical, Monitoring and Publication Department at the PPA, Reida Kashta went through the assessment's recommendations and gave a description of the support that is being received by different donors toward fulfilment of these recommendations. USAID through the Millennium Challenge Corporation Threshold Agreement project, has been supporting the Government reforms in public procurement. The World Bank is funding a full-scope system audit of the e-GP platform, to take stock of recent updates to implement the recommendations resulting from a previous audit performed with the support of USAID in 2008. Through the Twinning Programme, the EU has been supporting the strengthening and modernization of the internal and external audit functions, and has recently started a new phase of supporting the improvement of the public procurement system through the IPA 2008 twinning project *Support for the Strengthening of the Albanian Public Procurement, Concessions and Public Auctions Systems with EU standards*. While EBRD is financing Support to Utilities Public Procurement Reform, Project.

EU launches the project Population and Housing Census 2011

2011 Census on Population and Housing will be a great and important challenge for Albania. Albania's path towards the EU is one of the reasons for Delegation of European Union to pay highest attention to availability of high-quality statistics. There is continuous attention in the EU to all the issues, and they are heavily assisting Albania to ensure accuracy and reliability of statistical data, to ensure comparability, and to ensure responsible use of this data. Support for INSTAT in carrying out the *Population and Housing CENSUS* according to EU and International standards and recommendations, and to increase capacity in the processing, analysis and dissemination of the Census data are the main objectives of the 8 Million Euros project funded by the EU under IPA National 2009. To mark the start of the project, Population and Housing Census 2011, a launch ceremony was held at the Offices of the Delegation of the European Union on 13 January 2011. The ceremony was attended by INSTAT General Director, Ines Nurja and INSTAT relevant officials, by DEU officials, including Head of Operations II, Francois Begeot and Programme Manager, Xheni Sinakoli as well as by the project team. During the launch ceremony, Francois Begeot, stressed the important financial support given over the last years to INSTAT. He mentioned the 2.85 million Euros under the IPA 2007 programme covering National Accounts, economic and business census, and some 8 million Euros under the IPA 2009 programme to support the Population and Housing Census. He insisted on the need for INSTAT to be well prepared before the census field operations. "A good preparation is key for the success of the census" he said. INSTAT General Director, Ines Nurja said that the main areas for which support was needed from this project were: Census logistics, questionnaires, and Census data processing. INSTAT Census team provided an overview of the Census preparatory activities undertaken by INSTAT since 2008 and stressed the work that is required in the field of census management, methodology and logistics, the timetable and the budget



Photo: EU Delegation Head of Operations II, Francois Begeot, Programme Manager, Xheni Sinakoli and INSTAT Director, Ines Nurja during the launch ceremony of the project Population and Housing Census 2011

for the census operation, preparation of training materials and establishment of a strategy for the dissemination of Census data. The project team presented the main project components, the action plan and the proposed approach for the implementation of the project. The need for INSTAT to co-ordinate with all donors in order to optimize technicalities and resources was emphasised. The EU-funded projects being implemented to assist statistics and the census amount to almost 10.85 million Euros (8 Million Euros through IPA 2009 and 2.85 million Euros through IPA National 2007). This assistance is contributing to more accurate, reliable and comparable statistics in the area of population, housing, business, and agriculture. IPA 2009 includes a service contract, one supply contract and a direct grant to INSTAT. The Service Contract will be implemented by ICON Institute in co-operation with CIRPS – Sapienza University of Rome and it will support INSTAT in: preparing the Population and Housing Census according to European and International Standards and recommendations; carrying out the general enumeration; increasing its capacity in the processing, analysis and dissemination of the Census data. The direct grant will be managed by INSTAT and its specific objectives are: to support the preparation, organisation and management of fieldwork operations for the 2011 Albanian population and housing census, including payment of field staff, payment of data entry operators and supervisors, provision of per diems for enumerators attending training activities; to support the establishment and

functioning of census offices in Regions and Districts; and to support printing of census materials and their deliver to INSTAT regional offices and local census offices. Albania also benefits from multi beneficiary IPA regional programme, IPA 2007-2009, with 12.4 million Euros covering all candidate and potential candidate countries.

Switzerland Supports Successful Completion of Dam Safety Feasibility Study in Albania

As the first donor to support Albania in the development of a functioning and sustainable electricity sector since 1992, Switzerland, is highly valued by the authorities, donors and the population. A showcase is the successful conduction of the Dam Safety Feasibility Study on the Drin and Mat Rivers Cascades, funded by Switzerland with some 1 million Euros. Based on this study, the dam safety programme has been designed in co-ordination with Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy and Albania Energy Corporation (KESH) as a multi-donor programme, with a total amount of 84 million Euros, consisting of independent, logical investment packages to be financed by World Bank: 42 million Euros, KfW: 20 million Euros, EBRD: 10 million Euros, Switzerland: 4.3 million Euros as well as KESH contribution with 7.6 million Euros. Switzerland aims at raising the safety of all dams to European standards in order to protect the people who are living downstream

of the dams as well as to guarantee a sustainable hydropower production, which is crucial for power supplies.

By raising the safety of its dams to European standards, Albania strengthens its integration into South East European Energy Community as a strategic player. An Independent Evaluation, conducted in 2010, valued highly the impact of four completed Swiss energy projects. This Swiss contribution to the energy sector, with some 24 million Euros brought three results: (i) Effectiveness of impact, through power transmission and distribution rehabilitation project, was assessed for contributing to savings of around 700 million Euros per year, while rehabilitation of Fierza hydropower plant was worth 87 million Euros annually in KESH electricity revenues. (ii) Better energy supply reliability as blackouts avoided in winter 2009-2010 due to critical imports project; one third of the population did not face any significant outages in Durrës and Tirana areas with completion of new electrical substation. (iii) Improved reliability of energy generation with rehabilitation of Fierza hydropower plant: number of forced outages hours declined sharply from 8.6 in 2001 to 2.5 in 2008, while efficiency of water use improved 3-4% and lifespan of turbines extended up to 25 years.

Albanian regions find project partners in Croatia and Slovenia

Officials from the Lezha and Shkodra regions, which have approved their regional development strategies have been on a study visit to Slovenia to learn about funding and implementa-



Photo: Fierza hydropower plant and its dam on Drin River cascade

tion of EU projects for regional development. The delegation consisting of leading staff of the Qark administration, the President of the Lezha region, Bardh Rica, as well as university professors and NGO activists of the region was supported by GIZ's Economic Development and Employment Promotion Programme. The delegation met with the Slovenian Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy, the Regional Development Agencies of the Ljubljana Urban Region and of the Notranjsko-Kraška planning region and the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Slovenia/Italy CBC programme. They also visited various EU-financed projects, such as the Arms Museum in Pivka funded from the European Regional Development Fund. As an outcome of this study tour, the regional administration will join the city of Rijeka in writing proposals for projects on industrial heritage and social mobility, and look for Slovenian partner institutions for an IPA Adriatic project on cultural heritage

in the Shkodra-Lezha region. GIZ was formed on 1 January 2011 bringing together the expertise of the Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED) *gGmbH* (German Development Service), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) *GmbH* (German Technical Cooperation) and Inwent – Capacity Building International, Germany.

Finland supports Albania through Delivering as One UN

On 11 January 2011, Finland became the latest donor to support the One UN Programme in Albania with a contribution of 300,000 Euros. Finnish support will go to the Coherence Fund, a non-earmarked, multi-year funding pool that enhances the efficiency of the UN in Albania by streamlining and increasing the harmonization and predictability of resource flows. Led by the Government and building on the strengths of 14 participating agencies, the One UN Programme supports national priorities in five areas: more transparent and accountable governance; greater inclusive participation in public policy and decision-making; increased and more equitable access to quality basic services; regional development to reduce disparities; and environmentally sustainable development. Finland plans to invest 38 million Euros in development in the Western Balkans from 2009 – 2013. Finnish development co-operation aims at eradicating poverty and promoting economically, socially and ecologically sustainable development in line with



Photo: Officials from the Lezha and Shkodra regions during the study visit to Slovenia to learn about funding and implementation of EU projects for regional development.

the UN Millennium Development Goals. Support to the Western Balkans is built around the interlinking themes of stability and security, aid for trade, the environment and social sustainability.

Ministry of Justice discusses the Justice Strategy with donors

“Justice Strategy gives a real contribution to strengthening, functioning and enforcing the rule of law and respecting human rights” These were the opening remarks of the Minister of Justice, Bujar Nishani during the consultation meeting of the draft strategy of Justice with donors, contributing to the strengthening of national institutions of justice that was held on 24 January 2011. “This strategy follows the priorities of the Albanian government in the context of integration in the European family,” he said. The strategy underlines very important objectives such as creation of an independent, impartial judicial system, in which human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, reflecting reliability and transparency, in order to ensure the access of citizens and increase their trust in the justice system. He thanked donors for their continuous support in the consolidation of the rule of law. Drafting, consultation and decision making by all stakeholders operating in the justice sector aims at finalizing a consolidated policy document that guarantees continuous development of the roles and coordination of all stakeholders in the judicial system. The Ministry of Justice has drafted the Cross-cutting Strategy of Justice dur-



Photo: Ministry of Justice discusses the Justice Strategy with donors

ing last year. The process included collection of information, problem identification, identification of vision, priorities and strategic objectives to turn the strategy into an applicable comprehensive document. The recommendations given in this round table will be reflected in the Action Plan.

PAMECA trains Government representatives on maritime issues

A group of experts, representatives of agencies – stakeholders in maritime issues attended on 24 to 28 January 2011 a training course for the preparation of trainers to further deliver training on maritime issues to all employees of relevant maritime agencies. The training course focused on providing the future local maritime trainers with training techniques in line with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) standards and STCW – 95 Convention

requirements. The attendees, representatives of the Coast Guard; Border Police; Customs; Maritime Administration and Fishery Inspectorate were also introduced with IMO structures functioning. This training on instructor training was organized by the Border & Migration Directorate with PAMECA III assistance and was delivered by an expert contracted by PAMECA III, Rodrigo Garcia. Participants said that a combination of theory and exercises with the explanation of the practical issues coming up during the activities of all those maritime interest groups was valuable.

EU supports the upgrade of border services to EU standards

On 20 January 2011, the EU Training package for border services, was handed over to the State Police and Custom services. This package was prepared as part of the EU-funded project of assistance to the Albanian Police “PAMECA” and has been rolled out by the project to all border control services in the form of a “train the trainers” programme now part of the training curricula of the border services. It improves the services delivered at the borders and supports the fight against organised crime, corruption and illegal migration. Strengthening border controls is a key tool in the fight against organised crime, corruption and illegal migration. After two years of border control training in the light of EU standards, the PAMECA project handovers the final Training package including European and Albanian Best practices, training modules in car thefts, risk analysis,



Photo: Training course for the preparation of trainers to further deliver training on maritime issues, organised by PAMECA III

Schengen *aquis*, etc. This training has already been delivered at all border crossing points and part of the permanent training programme for border services. The project has trained trainers of the Border and Migration Police and Customs Administration. The training curricula developed and delivered by the project supports the implementation of the Schengen *aquis* in the area as well as the implementation of the Integrated Border Management Strategy and its Action Plan. During the hand-over ceremony, the First Secretary of the EU Delegation to Albania, Anil Singh said that "the fight against organized crime and corruption, and sound border management remain key issues for the Enlargement agenda, and for the establishment of an area of justice, freedom and liberty. Sound management of borders will also improve the protection of fundamental freedoms". The total cost of the PAMECA project is over 6 million Euros. Its implementation has begun in mid-2008. An important component of this project is the support in the area of Border Management. The project is implemented by the UK in partnership with Austria.

Training course on the impact of climate changes on health



Photo: Mchal Krzyszanovski giving the training course on the impact of climate changes on health

As part of the project Protect health from Climate Change implemented by the Ministry of Health with WHO support through a fund from the German Ministry of Environment, a training course was organized on the impact on health of climate changes from 26 January to 4 February 2011. The event was supported by the Ministry of Health and WHO. The main aim was the development of capacities for the drafting of the national strategy on climate change and health impact as well as enabling public health workers in promoting healthy behaviours vis-à-vis climate change.

In-country Missions

A World Bank Mission on Western Balkans Programmatic Poverty Assessment took place from 6 to 11 January 2011.

The aims were to: (i) discuss with IN-STAT future areas for co-operation, including the conclusion of capacity building activities related to the processing of rural income data; (ii) discuss with other donors future co-operation around a new Gender monitoring activity to be conducted regularly by the World Bank; and (iii) follow up on the Economic Governance in the Water and Energy sector conducted jointly with the UNDP.

A World Bank Financial Management and Disbursement Workshop was organised from 19 to 21 January 2011.

A Joint Financial Management and Disbursement Workshop were conducted by Bank's team comprising of Bank financial management and disbursements from 19 – 21 January 2011 in Tirana. All financial experts implementing Bank-financed projects in Albania and Kosovo were invited to attend. Senior Financial Management Specialist, Ida Njeri Muhoho, conducted the financial

management supervision of the Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project, Health System and Modernization Project, and Albania Lake Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management Project, to assess continued adequacy of financial management arrangements in place for project implementation.

A World Bank Mission on Albania Power Sector Energy Portfolio took place from 24 to 28 January 2011.

The following projects were supervised during the mentioned period (Albania Power Sector Projects (PS-GRP - Vlora TPP Project, ECSSSE APL2 - Transmission Project, ECSEE APL5 - Dam Safety Project and Distribution Privatization - Partial Risk Guarantee). The main aims were to (i) review implementation progress on the above energy portfolio; (ii) discuss further steps and arrangements for Additional Financing requested by the Minister of Finance on January 12, 2011; and (iii) participate in the Sector's Donors/Lenders Meeting on January 26-27, 2011. Other issues during the mission include: i) finalization by Government of the restructuring process, including countersignature of legal amendments, for the ECSEE-APL2, ii) assessment of the overall funding arrangements for the ECSEE-APL5 project, and iii) participation in project donors workshop organized by KESH on January 24-25, 2011.

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As of 15 December 2010 the World Bank took over as the Chair of the Donor Technical Secretariat from the Swiss Cooperation Office.

All comments regarding Government-Donor Dialogue are warmly welcomed!

Want to contribute?

If you would like to contribute, send your text to the Donor Technical Secretariat (DTS) Office (nevila.como@aidharmonisation.org.al) or the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination (DSDC) (arselma.kabashi@km.gov.al) by the 5th of every month. An ideal word count for submissions is around 100 words.

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