

government **donor** dialogue

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A Joint Effort of the Donor Technical Secretariat
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Photo: The UK team: Anthony Smith, DFID Director, Sheila Bramley, Deputy Head of British Embassy, Maureen Braganza, Project Officer for Albania, Diane Brooks, Programme Manager for Balkan, Alpina Qirjazi, Programme Officer, Fraser Wilson, British Ambassador, Arben Qesku, Deputy Programme Manager for Albania (Photo/DfID Office in Albania)

New era in the UK's partnership with Albania

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) will end its bilateral aid programme to Albania on 31 March 2009. To mark this, and the closure of its Office in Albania, the UK Ambassador, Fraser Wilson hosted a reception in Tirana on 24 February 2009 with participation of Anthony Smith, the Director of Europe and Donor Relations Division for DFID, government officials, donor community and Civil Society. DFID has had a bilateral programme in Albania since 1993 and has spent over £35 million in the last 10 years. Ambassador Wilson said that it was an occasion to celebrate the success of the DFID programme. "Success of working in partnership. And success of Albania in the progress it has made," He said. He went on to say that this moved the UK's relationship onto a new level.

He said that the UK will continue to support Albania's development and progress with the European integration through UK involvement of multilateral institutions, particularly the EU, the UN, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and through other programmes managed by the UK Embassy and DfID in the UK, such as the Civil Society Challenge Fund. He also reiterated that the UK's political and moral support will remain as strong as ever and that DfID would continue to liaise closely with donors to ensure co-ordination, across their future activities. For further details see DfID's brochure UK – Albania: A Development Partnership Past Present Future that was launched at the reception (<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/Albania-Past-Present-Future.pdf>.)

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Photo: On 9 and 10 February 2009, the International Organization for Migration held a two-day Regional Workshop on Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination and International Collaboration in the Western Balkans. (Photo/ IOM Albania)

OSCE Chairperson lauds Albania for progress, notes challenges ahead

In her visit to Tirana, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, the Greek Foreign Minister, Dora Bakoyannis, said that Albania had played a constructive regional role, but that it must continue on its reform path and focus on improving its election process to achieve its Euro-Atlantic integration goals. "Albania has made tangible progress over the past 18 years, but many challenges lie ahead. Judicial reforms and the election process must meet OSCE standards," she said. In meetings with political parties, she stressed the need to further strengthen the protection of human rights, the rule of law and the fight against corruption. She welcomed the constructive political debate that has taken place in the country. "The positive climate of political consensus on major reforms in Albania has bolstered political stability," she said. "It is imperative to maintain this trend and continue to implement key reforms through consensus-building." She said that to continue its progress toward Euro-Atlantic integration, Albania needed to advance its reforms in legislation and the judiciary, as well as in areas including property, elections and administration, and it must work on parliamentary capacity-building, anti-trafficking and anti-corruption. During her visit, she met President Topi, Prime Minister Berisha, Foreign Minister Basha, Speaker Topalli, as well as the Chairs of all parliamentary political parties.

Regional Workshop on Labour Migration Policies

On 9 and 10 February 2009, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) held a two-day Regional Workshop on Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination and International Collaboration in the Western Balkans. Participants included officials from the Ministries of Labour, Interior, workers' and employers' organizations, IOM and ILO experts, donor and other international organizations in the region. The Workshop aimed at providing policy makers and practitioners with the tools to effectively manage labour migration from and to their countries, through familiarization on how effective policies and practices might be adapted or developed to suit specific migration situations. Concrete best practices were exchanged among delegations from Belgrade, Podgorica, Prishtina, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tirana, and Zagreb. International experts from countries of destination provided examples of interstate co-operation on labour migration as important aspects of labour policies. Also considered were the challenges

of providing protection to all migrant workers while ensuring sustainable and equitable labour market conditions in both origin and destination countries; the impact of irregular migration and the management of regular migration flows; and the role of consular representations in assessing labour migration trends and protecting migrant workers. The effects of the global financial downturn on migration were also discussed. Given that labour migration was an integral part of global economic, political and social life, it was agreed on the need for flexible and specific approaches to be taken. The Workshop was held through the Capacity Building, Information and Awareness Raising towards Promoting Orderly Migration in the Western Balkans project, funded by the European Commission and co-funded by the Swiss Federal Office for Migration, the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Italian Development Cooperation and the Governments of Liechtenstein and Hungary. The project is managed by the IOM regional office in Budapest and implemented by the IOM offices in the region in partnership with ILO.



Photo: OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis shakes hands with Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha during a CIO visit to Tirana, 9 February 2009. (OSCE/Antonios Doykas)

Negotiations for a Second Development Policy Operation

Negotiations for a proposed IBRD loan of 20 million USD for a Second Development Policy Operation (DPO2) were held between Government officials and the IBRD in IBRD's offices in Washington DC on 4-5 February 2009. The aim of the DPO series is to see sustainable economic growth by improving the investment climate for the private sector to foster fiscally sustainable and effective delivery of public services, and to improve governance and strengthening accountability mechanisms. These aims mirror those of the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), and are based on the National Strategy for Development and Integration, and consultations with stakeholders. The DPO series follows up on the reforms begun under the recent Poverty Reduction Support Credits, as well as reforms identified in the recent Financial Sector Assessment Programme, Public Expenditure and Institutional Review, and Social Insurance Review. Earlier actions included progress in or enactment of laws relating to territorial planning, health care, local borrowing and budget management, regulatory reform, a framework for corrective actions required to be taken by companies in the non-bank financial sector, pension administration reform, improved public investment management, and improved implementation of the civil service law. The negotiations ended with the signing of the minutes of the meeting between Deputy Minister of Finance, Sherefedin Shehu and Sanjay Kathuria from World Bank negotiating team.

National Conference on Personal Data Protection

As part of the 2.5 million Euros, EU-funded project Technical Assistance to the Government of Albania on the Modernisation of the Civil Registration and Address Systems, a major conference on Personal Data Protection was held on 4 February 2009 in Tirana. The event introduced the new independent institution in charge of the protection of personal data. The event was chaired by Flora Çabej, the Commissioner for the Protection of Data of the Republic of Albania and was



Photo: Negotiations for a proposed IBRD loan of 20 million for a Second Development Policy Operation (DPO2) held in Washington DC between Government officials and the IBRD on 4-5 February 2009, ended with the signing of the minutes of the meeting between Deputy Minister of Finance, Sherefedin Shehu and Sanjay Kathuria from World Bank negotiating team.

attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, Genc Pollo, the Minister of Justice, Enkelejd Alibeaj, Deputy Minister of Interior, Genc Strazimiri, the Head of the OSCE Presence, Ambassador Robert Bosch as well as from other donor community representatives. Mrs. Çabej said that the adoption of the new law and the creation of the Data Protection Commissioner were important events and will contribute to the fulfilment of the aims of the country in respect of the human rights. The Head of the Council of Europe Data Protection Unit, Sophie Meudal-Leenders, said that the Council of Europe will continue to support the Government with regards to an optimal functioning of the independent institution on protection of personal data and that is compliant with EU standards. Ambassador Bosch said that "data protection policy in Albania should pay attention to establishing an appropriate legal framework, raise awareness and inform the public about their rights and obligations and make sure that good intentions are put into practice." The EC is also planning to support the work of the Data Protection Commissioner and National Agency for Information Society (NAIS), to enhance the enforcement of data protection requirements and to facilitate access to public information and services and developing e-governance.

EBRD supports the development of the new law on corporate and municipal bonds

The EBRD is assisting the Albanian Financial Supervision Authority in developing a new law on Corporate and Municipal Bonds. The draft law has now been sent to the Government and the Assembly for review. In order to understand the impact of the new regulation within the national framework, anticipate and correct possible implementation problems, the EBRD co-ordinated the implementation of a regulatory impact analysis in order to assess the potential impact that the new law will have on the domestic market. The EBRD assessed the potential problems related to the letter of the law and its implementation; the costs that the issuers are likely to face in order to verify whether the bond issuance can be a competitive alternative to banking loans; the potential interest for banks to intervene in the procedure as an underwriter, the capacity of state and private institutions to implement the new framework and the need for implementing provisions. The drafting of the draft law is financed by the Government of Greece while the regulatory impact analysis is financed by the Government of Italy. (from Gian Piero Cigna - Principal Counsel, EBRD on the EBRD support of the EBRD on the development of the new law on corporate and municipal bonds)



Conference on the Swiss Experience in Supporting Decentralisation and Local Development in Shkodra Region

On 10 February 2009, the Ministry of Interior and the Swiss Cooperation in Albania held a conference on the Swiss experience in supporting decentralisation and local development in Shkodra region. Around 100 officials from local, regional and national authorities, civil society and donors participated in the meeting. Best practices concerning the Decentralisation and Local Development Programme implemented by Interco-operation with eight communes and municipalities were discussed. Switzerland has contributed 3 million Euros to support decentralisation and local governance process in the Shkodra region since 2006 through this programme. The project is implemented by Interco-operation, a Swiss NGO specialised in decentralisation issues. The project aims at strengthening local government in co-operation with citizens and NGOs, to plan, implement and monitor a comprehensive process of decentralisation and local development. Participants shared their experiences on participatory strategic planning, on fostering citizen participation, on improving public services and on exchange of good practice between donors.

Signing of Consultancy Contract in Shkodra: Water Supply and Environmental Protection Lake Shkodra

After a period of intensive co-operation



Photo: On 4 February 2009 Mr. Gjondrekaj, General Director of UK Shkodra, Engjell Gjondrekaj and Mr. Ehrlicher, representative of the consulting consortium Stucky-Dornier-Schneider signed the consulting contract for the project Water Supply and Environmental Protection Lake Shkodra

between the water company in UK Shkodra and three donors KfW, SECO and ADA, on 4 February 2009, Engjell Gjondrekaj, the General Director of UK Shkodra, and Frank Ehrlicher, a representative of the consulting consortium, Stucky-Dornier-Schneider, signed a consultancy contract for the project Water Supply and Environmental Protection Lake Shkodra, totalling some 15 million Euros to improve both water supply and the sanitation in the city of Shkodra and to protect the environment - especially along Lake Shkodra. The project is funded by Austria (1.9 million Euros) through the Austrian Development Agency, Switzerland (6 million Euros) through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and Germany (7.5 million Euros) through the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau who have been mandated by the other donors to manage the project. The joint-project

follows the ongoing co-operation with Albania in the water and sanitation sector, in which Germany has invested some 130 million Euros in the last 20 years. The distribution network is going to be rehabilitated in order to improve the efficiency in water production and to guarantee continuous water supplies. By enhancing staff and management capacities, the water company will be strengthened in order to increase its performance and so become a modern service provider. The planned extension of the sewerage network and the construction of two sewerage treatment plants will serve to improve the water quality of the ground water, protect Lake Shkodra as a natural resource and also make the region generally more attractive.

OSCE Presence funds training of maternity hospital nurses

On 3 February 2009, the Minister of Health, Anila Godo, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania, Ambassador Robert Bosch, and the Director of the Queen Geraldine University Hospital of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Halim Kosova, attended the hand-over ceremony of certificates to 27 nurses from across Albania, who attended a course on how to medically stabilize a child. The project was funded by the OSCE Presence by donating some 20,000 Euros. In his speech, Ambassador Bosch commended the Government for their efforts to



Photo: Conference on the Swiss Experience in Supporting Decentralisation and Local Development in Shkodra Region, held on 10 February 2009.

provide free birth control and for providing relevant information in rural areas, leading to a reduction of unwanted children and strain on women, as well as the Ministry, the Maternity Hospital and the Organization for the Support of Albania's Abandoned Babies - a US NGO for the continued efforts to take care of abandoned babies and provide desperate women with a solution for their despair.

Italy finances the first courses for blood donors in Albania

On 20 February 2009, a programme, financed by the Italian Directorate General for the Countries of Europe, was launched to encourage the public to voluntarily donate blood, in line with the National Strategy for Safe Blood Transfusion. The inauguration of the programme was held at the University the Lady of Good Council in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Health, Arben Ivanaj, and the Italian Deputy Ambassador, Francesco De Luigi. The workshops aimed to raise public awareness about the science of blood donation and to make people aware of the importance of safe blood transfusions. The aim was to ensure the easily accessible and adequate supply of safe and quality blood collected from regular blood donors in well equipped premises and to ensure that every transfusion is performed under the supervision of trained staff.

Graduation for the first diploma issued by the University the Lady of Good council

On 13 February 2009, the first 98 graduates finished the first cycle of study – an



Photo: Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania, Ambassador Robert Bosch, visits the centre for abandoned infants at the Tirana maternity hospital, which the Presence has supported since 2000 with some 20,000 euros, Tirana, 3 February 2009. (OSCE/Joana Karapataqi)

undergraduate programme – at the University the Lady of Good Council. They received joint diplomas from the University the Lady of Good Council and the State Italian Universities. These are not only the first diplomas issued by Italian Universities to Albanian students in Albania but also the first Albanian diplomas recognized by the EU. The programmes in Economics and Business Administration, Political Science and International Relations, and the Physical Therapy and Nursing Study were implemented with two Italian Universities of Bari and Tor Vergata in Rome. This is seen as an important tool in the implementation of the Bologna Process. About 450 professors from the Italian universities offered their contribution and expertise in implementing these academic programs during 2007/8, assuring Italian Academic quality along all the academic process.

Photo: Italian Consul of Piemonte to Albania Gianni Firera, Italian Red Cross Responsible for the Balkans Maria Teresa Letta and others speakers of the Conference (Photo/Italian Development Cooperation)



Italian-Albanian Programme for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises

As part of the Italian funded project for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Italy sponsored eight seminars aimed at increasing knowledge of the recently launched Credit Line in favour of Albanian SMEs. The workshops were held in Lushnja, Shkodra, Kruja, Durrës, Berat, Korca, Vlora and Saranda. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy and Albinvest, and supported by Italy, also held a Donor's Forum for the Strategic Programme Implementation, 2007-2009, presenting the Italian SME Programme and IPA 2007 Supporting SME's to become more competitive in EU market project results. "Entrepreneurship is one of the most important drivers of local economic development", said Laura Grezda, the Project Management Unit Executive Director for the Italian SME Programme, New firm formation and the activities of small and medium-sized enterprises will help drive job creation and economic growth through accelerating innovation and promoting the full use of human, financial and other resources.



Discussion on the rule of law and European integration” with the UK Ambassador

In the framework of the public lectures held under the EC-funded project Support to the EU Info Points Network in University Towns in Albania, aimed at enhancing the public's knowledge of the EU and how it works, on 12 February 2009 the UK Ambassador, Fraser Wilson, spoke to a group of students and staff at Shkodra University. The speech was entitled The Rule of Law and Albania's European Integration. Ambassador Wilson said that “Strengthening the rule of law in Albania will benefit Europe, and this will be a strong argument for Albania's further integration into the EU. He went on to say that “Much progress remains to be made in establishing a strong rule of law in Albania. The United Kingdom, and others, are ready, willing and able to assist Albania with the reform process that lies ahead. This will not be without pain. Long-established practices will need to be challenged. But the rewards for the many will far outweigh the sacrifices, in terms of the vested personal interests of the few, that will have to be made. This will help to bring Albania to Europe, and Europe to Albania”. Speeches were also given by Thomas Von Handel, the Head of the Political, Economic and Information Section of the EC Delegation to Albania and Ditmir Bushati of the European Movement who are locally implementing the project.



Photo: View from Pestalozzi Children's Village Trogen/Appenzell, where 58 children from Gërdec will spend holidays in July and August 2009 (photo/ Swiss Development Cooperation)

58 children from Gërdec are invited by Swisscor to have holidays in Switzerland

From 24-27 February 2009, an assessment-mission from Swisscor met with children from the Gërdec area who are going to spend their holidays in Switzerland. 52 underprivileged children as well as six disabled children from Tirana were invited (along with 12 accompanying teachers) to spend their holidays in the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Troge in eastern Switzerland from 28 July to 11 August 2009. This Mission was received by the Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Halit Shamata and DSDC Director of the Aid Co-ordination Unit, Valbona Kuko who expressed appreciation for this initiative. The Swisscor Foundation (www.swisscor.ch) each year holds a holiday camp in Switzerland with medical care thus welcoming underprivileged children, disabled or abandoned, boys and girls between 9 and 14 years old, victims of war or crisis in their country. This will be the third time that Albanian children have been invited. 20 children from the association Spreccatal in Bosnia-Herzegovina will also participate in the camp. By attending a broad range of activities with focus on multiculturalism, children from the South Eastern Europe

will get to know one another better and build up friendship.

Sub Sector Working Group on Vocational Education Training: first meeting takes place

The Sub Sector Working Group on VET held its first meeting on 5 February 2009 in the offices of the Ministry of Education and Science. The meeting was jointly organized by the Ministries of Education and Science, Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in co-operation with the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination, the Swiss Development Cooperation (in its role as 'donor focal point') and the Donor Technical Secretariat. In his opening remarks, the Deputy Minister for Education and Science, Halit Shamata presented the priorities for vocational education. The Deputy Minister for Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Kastriot Sulka, focused on the problems in vocational training sector in terms of the legal framework and the co-ordination of projects. Daniel Züst, from the Swiss Cooperation, presented the Terms of reference, the rules and procedures of the Sector Working Group, whereas Nevila Xhindi from DSDC gave an overview of the



Photo: Meeting of VET sub-SWG held on 5 February 2009 (photo/DSDC)

donor projects in this area. Participants agreed that next meeting shall take place on 6 or 7 May 2009. The finalisation of the discussion for ToRs and other issues of common interest will be on its agenda.

One UN Programme Albania

The Joint Executive Committee of One UN Programme meeting was held on 18 February 2009 with the aim of endorsing the One UN Programme 2009 Work Plan and to decide on first allocation of One UN Coherence funds in 2009 under the One UN Programme. The meeting was co-chaired by Director of Aid Coordination Unit, Mrs. Valbona Kuko and the UN Resident Co-ordinator, Mrs. Gülden Türköz-Cosslett. The Joint Executive Committee of One UN Programme is the body directly responsible for the efficient execution of the programme.

EU sponsored seminar brings experts to discuss solutions to Albania's property issue

On 5 February 2009, Government officials, donor agencies and international property experts in Tirana participated in an EU sponsored seminar entitled Freehold Property Rights on the land: possible instruments and solutions for governments to reduce costs of transaction from FDI perspective. The event aimed at finding solutions for the issues relating

to property registration, restitution and compensation, and legalisation. The forum discussed the issue as it related to foreign direct investment and aimed to find tools to ensure investors' property rights against multiple registration, fraud and possible claim on land. It was noted that the need for facilitating an environment favourable to business growth was not only a requirement of the European Partnership, but also a precondition for Albania's own economic future. Referring to the significance of the issue of property rights, the Head of the EC Delegation to Albania, Ambassador Helmuth Lohan said that "The strengthening of property rights and a solution to the pending restitution, compensation and legalisation issues are clearly fundamental to Albania's general welfare. Clear property titles and legal security are essential prerequisites for a prosperous development of the country, the attraction of foreign direct investment, social peace as well as for the country's European integration process."

The first meeting of Sector Working Group on Statistics

The Sector Working Group on Statistics was held on 16 February 2009 in Tirana. The meeting gathered donor representatives, DSDC coordinators and INSTAT experts. Linda Gjermani from SIDA as the donor focal point for the sector opened

Tempus Programme dedicates 1 million Euros for projects in higher education

During the Tempus National Information Day, officials from the European Commission, the Ministry of Education and Science, academics, as well as students gathered on 20 February 2009 in Tirana to introduce the newest call for Tempus projects for 2009. The Tempus Programme (a pan European mobility scheme for university studies) aims at aligning higher education standards with those in the EU. The Tempus budget foreseen for Albania is some 1 Million Euros. As a result of the Programme, there are currently 9 projects in Albania, seven of which were the result of the 2008 call for proposals. Participants discussed their experiences and benefits of the Programme. Martine Deré, from the European Commission presented the new call as well as the Erasmus Mundus Co-operation Window. Stressing the importance of the programme, Thomas von Handel, said that "All state universities and practically all faculties have participated in Tempus. They have managed to open up the field of studies to the priorities that the higher education system faced as a whole. Teaching methods have changed and the programme has worked enormously on capacity building. New degrees have been developed. The programme has had a great impact on the overall quality of the higher education". Albania is an eligible country for the Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window for the Western Balkans, which provides another 8.5 million Euros to the region.



Photo: Meeting of Statistics SWG held on 16 February 2009 (photo/DSDC)

the meeting. The DSDC co-ordinator, Nevila Xhindi, gave a presentation of donor projects that were assisting INSTAT in producing data. It was agreed that preparing for the 2011 Census was a major priorities. Two other presentations from INSTAT experts focused on the improvement of IT infrastructure on statistics sector as an important tool for gathering integral data, and on social and economic data. INSTAT Director, Ines Nurja, said that the Government will finance 20% of the Census project and that the EC was going to be the main donor supporting this issue.

Fourth Meeting of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Project



From 23 to 25 February 2009, the UNODC Regional Programme Office for South East Europe held in Tirana the fourth meeting of the Project Enhancing Operational Capacity to Investigate and Disrupt Human Trafficking Activities in the Western Balkans, funded by the Governments of Germany and the UK. The meeting was opened by the UNODC Regional Programme Co-ordinator for South Eastern Europe, Carla Ciavarella, with the presence of Iva Zajmi, the Deputy Minister of Interior and Anti-Human Trafficking

National Co-ordinator, Sheila Bramley, the Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the UK in Albania, Rainer Harms, Liaison Officer, from the Government of Germany. The aim was to strengthen the law enforcement co-operation of Western Balkan countries in the fight against human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Representatives of both the law enforcement and judiciary from each country in the region participating along with representatives of third countries' national institutions and representatives of relevant International Organizations. UNODC staff highlighted their work in the area of anti-human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, and the tools they had developed in strengthening regional cooperation, such as the mutual legal assistance and extradition requests writer tools. The meeting was also an occasion to present the UNODC Global

Report on Trafficking in Persons that was launched on 12 February 2009 in New York. The study was conducted as part of the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. Based on data gathered from 155 countries, the report offered the first global assessment of the scope of human trafficking and what is being done to combat it. At the end of the meeting, a set of recommendations were produced with the aim of strengthening law enforcement and judicial co-operation in the region, through the enhanced use of mutual legal assistance instruments. As the custodian of the Convention on Trans-national Organized Crime and its protocols, UNODC's primary goal is to promote global adherence to such legal instruments and to assist nation states in their efforts to effectively implement them.

Photo: The fourth meeting of the Project Enhancing Operational Capacity to Investigate and Disrupt Human Trafficking Activities in the Western Balkans, held in Tirana from 23 to 25 February 2009 by the UNODC Regional Programme Office for South East Europe (photo/UNODC Albania)



In-country Missions

IMF

An IMF staff visit headed by Gerwin Bell Mission Chief for Albania is scheduled to take place in Tirana April 1-7 2009. The Mission will meet with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Governor of the Bank of Albania and other key officials. Discussions will focus on the possible impact of the global crisis on Albania and the adequate policy responses needed to mitigate the economic slowdown, including 2009 budget policy, monetary and exchange rate policies, and measures to maintain financial stability. The IMF Executive Director for Albania, Arrigo Sadun, will join the discussions on 6 to 7 April 2009. A joint press conference will be held on 7 April 2009.

UNODC consults on a programme on promoting rule of law and human security

On 9 February 2009, the UNODC conducted a mission to Tirana to present the draft Regional Programme Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in South Eastern Europe (2009-2011). The Programme's aim is to respond to evolving human security threats and to promote the rule of law. The knowledge base for the development of a Programme derives from a report Crime and its impact on the Balkans and affected countries launched in May 2008. The report was shaped following consultations with countries in the region. The aim behind the recent mission was to gain clearer idea of the needs of these countries, including Albania. During the meetings held in Tirana, the UNODC stressed the importance of such meetings in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The considerations relevant for the region were seen to be to ensure the adoption and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks in line with the international standards, to focus on internal co-ordination and integration among national partners and to discuss regional cooperation and integration cross border.

UNODC assesses Albanian laws with UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime

As part of the implementation of the Project

on Strengthening of Enhanced Border Control Capacities and Criminal Justice Response to Fight Illicit Trafficking and Organized Crime in Albania, a UNODC legal mission from Vienna visited Tirana on 11 to 13 February 2009 to review the progress made and advise on the reforms to be undertaken in the implementation of UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. The Mission reviewed and are in the process of preparing a report analyzing their findings, including the perceived deficiencies, current UNODC recommendations and the best international practices in the light of the UN Convention.

World Bank

A World Bank Mission for the Multi Donor Trust Fund, Capacity Building Support to the Integrated Planning System took place from 16 to 25 February 2009. Its aim was to help accelerate the implementation of Trust Funds activities, to discuss with the Ministry of Finance possible solutions over the implementation of the modernization of the treasury system and to discuss the Debt Management subcomponent.

A World Bank Mission for the Albania Avian Influenza Control and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project visited

from 16 to 21 February 2009. Its aim was to: assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the project components; assess the effectiveness of the implementation arrangements; evaluate the activities of the main stakeholders in government and the support provided by project staff, and assess inter-agency co-ordination between government ministries and donor agencies, and identify problems related to the project

A World Bank Mission for the Propose Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project took place on 11 February 2009. The aim was to follow up with the Ministry of Interior the conditions of the effectiveness so that these conditions will be met by the deadline of February 27 2009.

A World Bank Mission for the Technical Assistance to the Bank of Albania on Microfinance visited from 1 to 7 February 2009. Its aim was to assist the Bank to prepare microfinance regulations and a supervision framework and manual for microfinance institutions, credit unions and savings and credit associations. The Mission assisted the Bank to finalize the current draft microfinance regulations and to prepare an appropriate supervision framework for MFIs, taking into account their status as non-deposit-taking institutions. ■

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As of October 2008, the UNDP is the current Chair of the Donor Technical Secretariat.

Any comments regarding Government-Donor Dialogue (both positive and negative) are strongly encouraged – and we promise to print all such comments received!

Want to contribute?

If you would like to contribute, send your text to the Donor Technical Secretariat (DTS) Office (nevila.como@aidharmonisation.org.al) by the 1st of every month. An ideal word count for submissions is around 100 words.

Frequency

Each edition will be sent to you on the 15th of every month.

Who are the donors in Albania?

There are over 40 donors operating in Albania. To find out who they are please click [here](#).

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