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UGEOVERSIGT (resumé)

<u>Kosova.</u> Se under: <u>Kosóva</u>. Sikkerhedsforholdene. Serbiske Beta skriver om en demonstration 08.06.2006 i Prishtina og om flytning af UNMIK-Politi og Kosovo Politi til Nordkosovo.

[08.06.2006] **SRSG har haft møde med Makedonske Politikere.** Han sagde - i dén forbindelse - at der var sket fremskridt mht opfyldelsen af 'standards'; han fremhæver PM Agim Çeku's positive rolle.

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[07.06.2006] Udtalelse om hændelser i forbindelse med et uannonceret besøg i Kosovo af General Ojdanic' Forsvarer-team.

[07.06.2006] SRSG welcomes signing of the signing of the Protocol on Voluntary and Sustainable Return between Pristina and Belgrade.

<u>Albanien.</u> Se under: <u>Albanien</u>. Den Danske UM, Dr Per Stig Møller, besøgte Albanien tirsdag 06.06.2006 - onsdag 07.07.2006.

Det Danske UM udsendte flg. pressemeddelelse: Udenrigsminister Per Stig Møller aflægger i dag og i morgen besøg i Albanien, hvor han vil føre politiske samtaler med sin albanske kollega samt den albanske premierminister og præsident. Besøget finder sted kun en uge før EU og Albanien undertegner en stabilitetsog samarbejdsaftale og dermed indleder et nyt kapitel i forholdet mellem Albanien og EU. I lyset heraf vil samtalerne naturligt fokusere på Albaniens ønske om tilnærmelse til EU og NATO og de mange udfordringer, som det albanske samfund står overfor i den forbindelse. Udenrigsministrene vil mødes i det nordlige Albanien i et område, der tidligere har modtaget dansk overgangsbistand. I dag udgør bistandssamarbejdet kun en mindre del af en bredere vifte af dansk-albansk samarbejde. Den danske bistand er i dag målrettet mod civilsamfundet og bidrager dermed til at skabe grundlag for udviklingen af et velfungerende og modent demokrati. [Mere om besøget i Nyhedsbrevet]

President Moisiu returned the Law on Public and Private Radio and Television to be reviewed.

Det Albanske Medieinstitut har udsendt nyhedsbrev for Maj 2006, her er bl.a. bemærkninger om den ny medielovgivning:

PM Berisha havde 02.06.2006 besøg af Skuespilleren Eliza Dushku, der er af Albansk-Dansk-Amerikansk afstamning.

Konference om Economic governance in the European Union, arrangeret af den Italienske Ambassade i Tirana. Speech held by the Governor of the Bank of Albania, Mr. Ardian Fullani

Amerikansk rapport om korruptionen i Albanien er udsendt. Den Amerikanske Ambassadør, Marcie Ries, udtaler at der i de seneste år er sket fremskridt, at man er nødt til at skabe stærkere konsensus om kampen mod korruptionen, og at der er en del der mangler at blive rettet op på. Rapporten hjælper til at refokusere på problemerne.

Amerikansk rapport om trafficking. "Albania is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Victims are trafficked to Greece and Italy, with many of these victims trafficked onward to the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany, and the Netherlands. Internal trafficking within Albania and re-trafficking of Albanian victims to other countries remained a problem in 2005. Reports of Roma and Egyptian children trafficked for forced labor or begging continued." Den Amerikanske Ambassade har udsendt flg.:

Serbien. Se under: <u>Serbien</u>. **Præsident Tadic har iflg Tanjug udtalt sig om de to veje Serbien kan gå**: Serbian President Boris Tadic has said that no one in Serbia "is indifferent toward the dismantling of a state, fifteen years after the first dismantling." In an interview to the Zagreb weekly Globus, Tadic said that Serbia faces two paths - a radical and a democratic one - and that the choice will fundamentally determine the nature and character of Serbian society in the future. "It would be a mistake if Serbia were to take the radical path, because it must take the path leading to the European Union, which is the only solution," Tadic said. Every person indicted for war crimes must be arrested, he said. The Serbian government, even if it had maintained different views at the beginning of its mandate, is now aware that Serbia must extradite Ratko Mladic, Tadic said. The Serbian president said that there are people in the Serbian political corps who is his political opponents, who had helped war criminals, and who glorify war crimes.

Serbien overtager (generelt) Serbien-Montenegro's »status«, herunder ift OSCE og IMF.

Samarbejdet mellem Serbien og ICTY / Haag. Den Serbiske Regering skriver under overskriften: Serbia is doing everything to successfully end cooperation with Hague tribunal.

Politiet slår ned på trafficking (vedr. »four Serbian citizens of Albanian nationality from Kosovo-Metohija«).

Montenegro. Se under: Montenegro. Parlamentet har erklæret Montenegro som selvstændig stat.

OSCE har (på anmodning af Montenegro) iværksat optagelsesprocedure.

Makedonien. Se under: <u>Makedonien</u>. **IMF Rapport om Makedoniens økonomi** Macedonian economic performance has started to improve. For more than a decade, economic growth was sluggish, in part the result of external shocks. However, in the last couple of years, growth has reached 4 percent or even higher, inflation has remained under control, the current account deficit has narrowed, international reserves have increased, and structural reforms have been initiated. To raise living standards more decisively toward European levels, the authorities now need to focus on sustaining and accelerating these achievements. As a first condition, this will require maintaining the country's hard-won macroeconomic stability. But for growth to accelerate and jobs to be created, this will need to be accompanied by more ambitious structural reforms: enhancing financial intermediation with sound banking supervision, improving the business climate and, underlying all these reforms, improving institutional quality. The Medium-Term Challenge: Achieving Rapid Sustained Growth

<u>Grækenland.</u> Se under: <u>Grækenland</u>. De fleste Immigranter er Albanere. The most characteristic aspect of Greece's wave of immigration is that 60 percent of migrants come from Albania. The latest count from the Immigration Policy Institute gives the following information on immigrants to Greece: – Some 83 percent of immigrants hail from Albania and other former Eastern bloc countries. Most of the immigrants from these lands come to Greece to seek employment (70 percent), while the rest come to be reunited with members of their family already living in Greece or to work in independent jobs.

<u>USA.</u> Se under: <u>USA</u>. Michael Hayden er sværget ind som DCIA.

INTERNATIONALE ORGANISATIONER m.v.

Opmærksomheden henledes på *Economic Reconstruction and Development in South East Europe*. Adressen er <u>www.seerecon.org</u>. Her kan man finde materiale om aktuelle møder og konferencer.

FN

VERDENSBANKEN, IMF M.FL.

Se under de enkelte lande / områder.

OSCE, Europarådet

Se under de enkelte lande / områder.

EU

NATO

ICTY - TRIBUNALET I HAAG

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Verserende sager vedr. Kosovo: Anklageskrifter og udskrifter af retsmøderne kan findes på: http://www.un.org/icty/cases-e/index-e.htm

ICTY vs Slobodan Milosevic, (IT-02-54). Sagen er afsluttet uden dom pga Milosevic' død 11.03.2006

ICTY vs Fatmir Limaj et al. (IT-03-66). Der er fældet dom, se nærmere i #284

ICTY vs Ramush **Haradinaj** (IT-04-84). Haradinaj er løsladt (på visse betingelser) indtil sagen skal for Retten.

BALKAN LANDE, LANDE VED ØSTLIGE MIDDELHAV

BALKAN GENERELT

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Udsnit af EU's Europakort 2004. [Udsnittet kan forstørres ved at klikke på det]. Kortet indgår i en præsentationsbrochure, der kan downloades som pdf fra: <u>http://europa.eu.int/comm/publications/booklets/eu_glance/20/da.pdf</u>.

KOSÓVA

Bynavne: Angives der to navne på samme lokalitet, er den Albanske nævnt først. Se oversigten på: http://bjoerna.dk/kosova/byer.htm • Rapporter fra FNs Generalsekretær • 040616 SG Kofi Annan udtaler at han agter at udpege Søren Jessen-Petersen som 5' SRSG. <u>Søren</u> Jessen-Petersen blev senere udpeget og tiltrådte i Kosóva 040816. • 0308 Harri Holkeri tiltrådte som 4' SRSG. Fratrådt 0406 af helbredsmæssige grunde. • 020214 Michael Steiner tiltrådte i Kosova som 3' SRSG og fratrådte i begyndelsen af 0307. • En biografi over 2' SRSG Hans Hækkerup kan læses på <u>Danske Politikere</u>. En anmeldelse af hans bog *»Kosovos mange ansigter«* indgår i *»*Albansk Almanak 2004« • Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government. • Kosova's Regering. • Webside vedr. 2004-valgene

Parlamentsvalget 2004, se: http://kosovoelections.org/eng/. Præsidenten - Ibrahim Rugóva - blev genvalgt efter valget af Parlamentet *the Assembly*; han døde 21.01.2006. Ny præsident er <u>Fatmir Sejdiu</u>

Sikkerhedsforholdene. Serbiske Beta skriver om en demonstration 08.06.2006 i Prishtina og om flytning af UNMIK-Politi og Kosovo Politi til Nordkosovo:

SECURITY MEASURES INCREASED IN KOSOVO

PRISTINA, June 7 (Beta)-UNMIK police commissioner Kai Vittrup said in Pristina on June 7 that the police had increased security measures due to the growing number of incidents and criminal activities.

"Some 500 UNMIK police officers will be deployed in northern Kosovo, who will together with an increased number of Kosovo Police Corps personnel ensure the safety of citizens in the region," Vittrup told a news conference.

Vittrup's deputy Seremet Ahmeti has confirmed that the Self-Determination movement announced a protest rally in front of the UNMIK headquarters in Pristina for June 8.

Ahmeti added that the police had prepared a special plan to maintain public order and peace, because, as he said, citizens have the right to protest.

Se BBC-artiklen: Kosovo Serbs to cut ties with UN på: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/5050792.stm



Pressemeddelelser fra UNMIK:

[08.06.2006] SRSG har haft møde med Makedonske Politikere. Han sagde - i dén forbindelse - at der var sket fremskridt mht opfyldelsen af 'standards'; han fremhæver PM Agim Çeku's positive rolle:

SRSG: Kosovo sooner rather than later will be conducive to regional stabilization

PRISTINA . The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo (SRSG) Soren Jessen-Petersen today visited Skopje where he met the Macedonian Prime Minister Vlado Bukovski. He later travelled to Tetovo to meet the President of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) and coalition partner in the Government, Ali Ahmeti.

The SRSG told his interlocutors that he has witnessed good progress in the political situation and standards implementation in Kosovo, particularly since Prime Minister Agim Ceku took office. However, whereas the Kosovo Albanian leadership is working hard to address the concerns of the Kosovo Serbs, the latter's continued non participation in the political processes in Kosovo makes it difficult to improve their condition. The SRSG exchanged views with the Macedonian leaders on the way forward in the context of the ongoing status negotiations and its significance from the regional perspective.

Addressing a joint press point with Prime Minister Bukovski after their meeting, the SRSG said, "The next six months are crucial for Kosovo and for the region. The Contact Group has made it very clear that any settlement for Kosovo must be acceptable to the majority in Kosovo. On the other hand, the Kosovo Albanians fully understand that they must make the status settlement acceptable also for the minorities."

"Kosovo needs clarity of status, the region needs clarity of status, and the region needs to move forward on its European future. To settle Kosovo sooner rather than later will be conducive to regional stabilization", he added.

Prime Minister Bukovski reaffirmed his government's commitment to continue playing a constructive role in supporting the ongoing process and stressed that it is important that the status settlement is reached before the end of this year.

The SRSG and the Prime Minister expressed their satisfaction with the excellent state of bilateral relations between Skopje and Pristina. The SRSG's scheduled trip to Tirana today, as also his planned meeting with the Macedonian President in Ohrid, had to be cancelled on account of inclement weather conditions.

[08.06.2006] UNMIK protesterer højlydt mod ICTY Anklager, Carla del Ponte. Hendes udtalelser vedr. UNMIKs og UNMIK-Politiets samarbejde med ICTY i forbindelse med Haradinaj-sagen er grundløse, skriver man:

PRISTINA – UNMIK totally rejects the assessment of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) regarding an alleged lack of cooperation by UNMIK with the ICTY, as stated in an annex to a report from the President of the ICTY to the UN Security Council.

Whereas the report of the President of the Tribunal expresses no concern whatsoever regarding UNMIK's cooperation with the ICTY, the Prosecutor makes some unfounded allegations against UNMIK regarding the ICTY case against former Prime Minister and AAK President Ramush Haradinaj. The Prosecutor has previously made similar allegations before the ICTY Chamber. On each occasion, the Chamber, both at the Trial level and the Appeals level, has overruled the ICTY Prosecutor and found that UNMIK's exercise of its oversight responsibilities had been fully satisfactory.

On 17 January 2006, the ICTY Trial Chamber issued a Decision noting that UNMIK's regular reports on compliance by Mr. Haradinaj with the conditions of his provisional release were in "full conformity" with the reporting requirements of the ICTY and found that UNMIK had exercised its reporting obligations "in a diligent and responsible manner".

As part of the working relationship, UNMIK routinely receives requests for assistance from the ICTY Office of the Prosecutor. UNMIK strives to respond promptly and completely to the best of its ability, with due regard to well-founded concerns for the protection of victims and witnesses, where such concerns may legitimately exist.

The UNMIK Police Commissioner has taken extensive measures to protect sensitive information and ensure that Police treatment of cases conforms to the highest law enforcement standards. In March 2006, he established an ICTY Unit within UNMIK Police that reports directly to the Police Commissioner.

UNMIK remains strongly committed to cooperation with the ICTY as required under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

[07.06.2006] Om hændelser i forbindelse med et uannonceret besøg i Kosovo af General Ojdanic' Forsvarer-team

SRSG announces findings of initial investigation into events at Krushe e Vogel/Mala Krusa on 25 May 2006

PRISTINA - Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo (SRSG) Søren Jessen-Petersen today announced that the UNMIK Department of Justice has reported its findings on the preliminary investigation into the events of 25 May 2006, when a visit by the defence team of General Ojdanic to Krushe e Vogel/Mala Krusa led to confrontations between police and villagers in which a number of persons sustained injuries.

The SRSG said: "The key finding of the preliminary investigation is that a number of mistakes were made in the process of approving and planning this visit. Not enough was done to ensure that all aspects of the visit, including security and political factors, were properly assessed and evaluated. In particular, the operational planning was made on the basis of inadequate information on the sensitivity of the visit and the history of the village. As a result of this, the visit was arranged without prior preparation of the villagers, including the necessary explanation and information about its purpose.

The unannounced visit caused considerable suspicion, anxiety and misunderstanding among the villagers. In those circumstances, the explosive response provoked by the visit is understandable. At the same time it is highly regrettable that any violence resulted. The investigation has confirmed that it was necessary for the police to use reasonable means to enable the convoy to be evacuated safely. But I have no doubt that all of this could have been avoided if only adequate preparation for the visit, including a full explanation for the villagers, had taken place." The SRSG stressed that these are only the preliminary findings. "We will need to carry out further investigation to ensure that we learn the lessons from this unfortunate incident and avoid any repetition" he said.

The SRSG has instructed his Principal Deputy and the Police Commissioner to go back to the village this week to share the results of the investigation with the villagers.

Jf. tidligere pressemeddelelse:

[25.05.2006] SRSG condemns incident in a village of Prizren municipality

PRISTINA – Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo (SRSG) Søren Jessen-Petersen has strongly condemned the incident in the village of Krushe e Vogel/Mala Krusa in Prizren Municipality today, where two Serbian members of a defence team accredited to the ICTY and escorted by Police, were attacked by villagers.

"I am outraged and disappointed at this incident. It is important for the people of Kosovo to understand that their quest for justice can only be achieved through the course of justice, not by extra-judicial means. This requires, first and foremost, that there should be respect for the rule of law," the SRSG said.

"I understand that there will always be emotions involved in such situations. However, actions like this work against the future that we all want for Kosovo. As Kosovo goes through the status process, this is the time when all its people have to define the parameters for a democratic, multi-ethnic and rule of law based society. At this crucial time, their every action has a bearing on the future of Kosovo," he added.

According to an UNMIK Police report, at approximately 10:00 hours today in the village of Krushe e Vogel/Mala Krusa, a group of villagers blocked the road in front of a convoy of UNMIK Police officers supported by one KPS Regional Operations Support Unit (ROSU) that was escorting the two members of the defence team.

Police officers attempted to clear the road peacefully, but the citizens responded by throwing rocks at the Police and the convoy. Three Police officers and one language assistant were injured in the attack. Police then had to clear the crowd, unfortunately resulting in injuries to a number of citizens who received medical treatment from an ambulance at the scene.

UNMIK Police Commissioner Kai Vittrup has initiated an investigation of the incident and action taken by the Police. In this connection, the Police Commissioner will also meet with villagers following their request.

[07.06.2006] SRSG welcomes signing of the signing of the Protocol on Voluntary and Sustainable Return between Pristina and Belgrade.

PRISTINA – Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo (SRSG) Søren Jessen-Petersen welcomed the signing of the Protocol on Voluntary and Sustainable Return between Pristina and Belgrade. The Protocol was signed today by the SRSG, the Head of the Pristina Delegation of the Direct Dialogue Working Group, Dardan Gashi, and the Head of the Belgrade Delegation of the Direct Dialogue Working Group, Milorad Todorovic, as part of ongoing efforts to intensify the return process.

On this occasion, the SRSG said: "Today's signing of the Protocol by Pristina and Belgrade is an important moment. It shows that we are all committed to put the rights of the displaced persons on the forefront."

The Protocol seeks to improve the conditions for return and enhance capacity for implementation of the return process through provisions that range from providing access to basic services for the returnees to promoting integration of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The Protocol acknowledges that successful return of IDPs is based on three elements: ensuring safety of returnees; returning property to the displaced and rebuilding their houses; and creating an environment that sustains returns.

"The Protocol confirms that in spite of differences on various issues, there is a will to cooperate to end the situation of displacement while duly respecting the right of the internally displaced to return to their homes and to freely choose their places of residence," said the SRSG.

Ugerapport fra Dansk KFOR. Hærens Operative Kommando skriver (på http://www.hok.dk/):

Danske KFOR-soldater deler ud

Uge 22 i Kosovo. I den seneste tid har KFOR-bataljonen fordelt støvler til det lokale "beredskabskorps", bygget en legeplads og doneret feltrationer til fattige

06-06-2006 kl. 15:48

Redigeret af kaptajn Thomas H. Sigvardt, næstkommanderende for Administrationssektionen samt Presse- & Informationsofficer.

Der er næsten ingen grænser for mangfoldigheden af de opgaver, bataljonen udfører i og for det lokale samfund.

I den seneste tid har bataljonen fordelt støvler til det lokale "beredskabskorps", bygget en legeplads og doneret feltrationer til fattige familier via en NGO (Non Governmental Organizations), der arbejder i bataljonens ansvarsområde.

I forbindelse med at forsvaret har fået nye støvler, har bataljonen fået overdraget opgaven at fordele de "gamle" støvler til det lokale samfund. Valget er faldet på den lokale enhed, der bedst kan sammenlignes med det hjemlige beredskabskorps. Støvlerne - ca. 500 par - blev fordelt ligeligt mellem de to enheder, der er placeret i nærområdet.

Bataljonens ingeniører har også været på arbejde. De har bygget en legeplads med gynger og vipper. Disse legeredskaber er blevet opstillet i en lille by ved navn Zubin Potok.

Endelig har bataljonen givet feltrationer til organisationen "Mother Teresa". Disse feltrationer er blevet erstattet, fordi udløbsdatoen ville være overskredet i løbet af den nærmeste fremtid.

"Mother Teresa", der tidligere har hjulpet bataljonen med at fordele udskiftede feltrationer, er en af de organisationer, der har et godt kendskab til, hvor der er størst behov for hjælp. Det betyder at rationerne bliver fordelt til de fattigste familier i det område, bataljonen arbejder i.

Afvekslende uge for LMT 5

For Liaison Monitering Team 5 har ugen budt på en lang række forskellige talsmandsmøder, byrådsmøde og sikkerhedsmøde, samt åbning af vores lokalkontor i Skenderaj.

Da flere af vores folk er taget på leave, er hverdagen blevet mere travl for de tilbageværende. I den forgangne uge er tre taget af sted og en kommet tilbage. Men vi har dog haft tid til at færdiggøre vores "Blå Bog". Resultatet af den kan læses, når Hold 14 er færdige med missionen og vendt retur til Danmark.

Torsdag havde vi en forbindelsesbefalingsmand fra LMT 4 med i vores ansvarsområde. Vedkommende syntes, det var spændende at se et andet område end det sædvanlige, og for os andre var det spændende at fremvise vores område og udbrede vores viden.

Vi har ligeledes haft besøg af to soldater fra hold 15, chefen for CIMIC (Civilian Military Cooperation) og LMT 4. De har været i KOSOVO for at rekognoscere forud for deres mission i perioden august 2006 – februar 2007.

Inden Sandy tog på leave, fejrede vi hendes fødselsdag. Hun inviterede hele teamet på middag på restaurant EXE. En rigtig flot restaurant, ikke specielt dyr, hvor maden er rigtig god.

Teamet havde ved den lejlighed samlet sammen til en parfume og en vandmelon.

Store skiftedag.

Ugen i operationssektionen er gået meget roligt. Task Forcen, som er Bataljonens foresatte myndighed, er skiftet, og som følge heraf har vi haft en rolig periode.

Vi anvender denne periode til at gå gennem gamle planer og justere ved behov.

Situationen skifter hele tiden, og derfor er der konstant et behov for at ændre eller tilrette i plankomplekset.

Bataljonen stillede med et æreskommando til paraden den 2. juni bestående af to delinger med repræsentanter fra den estiske, den franske og den danske underafdeling.

Det kræver lidt indøvelse at gennemføre eksercits til franske kommandoer, men med lidt øvelse lykkedes det.

Paraden blev gennemført som det synlige tegn på, at overgangen til en ny Task Force er tilendebragt.

Vejret er skiftet i en grad, så vi føler med jer i Danmark. Vi har 14 -18 grader og bygevejr, hvilket der ikke stod noget om i rejsebrochuren, da vi købte rejsen til Kosovo!

Sidste uge bragte vi et billede af officererne i operationssektionen. Og da der ikke skal gøres

forskel er her er et billede af operationsbefalingsmanden og vores to kontorhjælpere, der ikke var med på billedet fra sidste uge.

Travl uge for stabskompagniet.

Stabskompagniet har endelig fået tildelt alle soldater deres missionsmedalje. Medaljen er et godt synligt bevis på, at missionen er godt begyndt, og at der ikke går mange uger, før vi begynder at klargøre til ankomst af de første fra hold 15. Mange chefer og førere har allerede nu kontakt hjem til deres afløser, og vi kæmper alle en kamp for, at de bliver så godt udrustet både med uddannelser og materiel, så overdragelsen kan forløbe så smertefrit så muligt.

Ugen bød også på 2 koncerter med et band fra Estland, hvor vi havde arbejde i forbindelse med indkvartering af bandet, opstilling af udendørsscenen og messen klargjorde til indendørskoncert.

Udendørskoncerten krævede en del arbejde fra især CAMP sektionen, som opstillede scene, borde og stole, og ikke mindst et stort telt, hvor messerne kunne sælge ud af de våde varer. Koncerten i Gimle blev en bragende succes, og selv om de fleste sange var på et sprog, de fleste af os ikke havde kendskab til, så fangede musikken alligevel mange.

Ellers er ugen gået med at klargøre til den anden DANCON march. Teltene er stillet op på paradepladsen. Gæsterne blev indkvarteret, og alle ventede spændt på, hvordan vejret ville arte sig denne gang, da vi havde en våd oplevelse ved sidste afholdelse.

Marchtræningen bliver ikke forsømt i missionsområdet, for med 3 DANCON marcher og 2 NSE marcher, så er der rig mulighed for at få nogle kilometer i benene; især når der gennemføres træning op til marcherne.

Forberedelse til DANCON marchen.

Ugen i administrationssektionen er primært gået med forberedelse til den anden DANCON march, der afvikles søndag den 4. juni. Der skal forberedes diplomer med navne på deltagerne, og der skal laves et registreringsnummer til hver enkelt deltager, således at soldaten kan bevise sin bedrift ved marchens afslutning og dermed modtage medalje og diplom.

Det var måske ikke så stort et arbejde, hvis deltagerantallet var et par hundrede, men når vi nærmer os 1200 soldater fra 21 forskellige nationer, ja så kræver det nogle timer bag computeren.

Vi har netop afsluttet inputtene til hold 14's "Blå Bog". Da de fleste input til denne kommer fra de hændelser som gør, at man trækker på smilebåndene, ja så kan I nok godt regne, ud, at det var en hyggelig eftermiddag med mange grin, da vi skulle bestemme os for, hvad der skulle stå ud for den enkelte person.

Vores sektionschef er taget hjem på leave igen, måske fordi han var træt af det dårlige vejr. Det kunne selvfølgelig også være fordi at han savnede sin familie, nøjagtig ligesom alle vi andre hernede. Vi nåede dog at få taget et sektionsbillede inden han tog af sted, et billede der skal bruges i forbindelse med udfærdigelsen af blå bog. Vi mangler dog vores velfærdsbefalingsmand, der er på leave for tiden.

ØST KOSÓVA / PRESEVO-DALEN / SYD-SERBIEN

For nemheds skyld bruges betegnelsen Øst Kosóva / Presevo-dalen om det omstridte område med byerne: Presheva, Medvegja og Bujanoci (Albansk stavemåde). Ca. 75 % af befolkningen skønnes at være etniske Albanere - måske omkring 70.000. En modstandsgruppe har tidligere været i funktion, men synes nu at være »lukket ned«. Gruppen kaldtes i forkortet form **UCPMB** (som står for noget i retning af: Ushtria Clirimtare e Presheva, Medvegja dhe Bujanoci; på Engelsk: Liberation Army of Presheva, Medvegja and Bujanoci). Gruppen sagde at den **intet** havde at gøre med Kosova's UCK, og at den var en lokal gruppe.

ALBANIEN



Klik på kortet, hvis du vil have det forstørret / click http://bjoerna.dk/kort/Albanien.gif to enlarge it

Info fra Albaniens Statistik: <u>Befolkningstal:</u> 3,1 Mio (1.1.2004). <u>GDP</u> (Gross Domestic Product): 630 Mia Lek (2002, current prices); <u>GDP-structure:</u> Agriculture: 26 %, Industry 10-11 %, Construction: 7-8 %, Services: 55-56 %. <u>Export:</u> 54 mia lek (2003) [heraf til Danmark: 23 mio lek; størrelsesorden 1,2 mio kr], <u>Import:</u> 226 mia lek (2003) [Heraf fra Danmark: 855 mio lek; størrelsesorden: 45-50 mio kr], <u>Tradedeficit:</u> 171 mia lek (2003). Største import fra Italien (75 mia lek) og Grækenland (45 mia lek), største eksport til Italien (40 mia lek). <u>Unemployment:</u> 14-15 % (2004-III)



Det Engelske Udenrigsministeriums 'Country Advice' til rejsende kan findes på adressen: http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front? pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618385522. Det Danske UM har pt ingen rejsevejledning, men henviser til det Engelske UM. Den Norske Ambassade kan findes på: http://www.norvegji.org/. Det Amerikanske UM har Juni 2004 offentliggjort en 'Background Note' om Albanien: http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3235.htm

Mother Teresa: http://bjoerna.dk/albanien/Teresa.htm.

Parlamentsvalget i 2005 [Præsidenten vælges af Parlamentet for 5 år, næste gang i 2007]: Se nærmere i: http://bjoerna.net/sidste-nyt/265.htm



UM, Dr Per Stig Møller, UM Besnik Mustafaj og Parlamentsmedlemmet for Burrel, Qemal Minxhozi, tidl. Chargé d'affaires på den Albanske Ambassade i København. Foto: MFA [Billedet kan forstørres ved at klikke på det]

Den Danske UM, Dr Per Stig Møller, besøgte Albanien tirsdag 06.06.2006 - onsdag 07.07.2006.

Det Danske UM udsendte flg. pressemeddelelse:

UDENRIGSMINISTEREN BESØGER ALBANIEN

Udenrigsminister Per Stig Møller aflægger i dag og i morgen besøg i Albanien, hvor han vil føre politiske samtaler med sin albanske kollega samt den albanske premierminister og præsident.

Besøget finder sted kun en uge før EU og Albanien undertegner en stabilitets- og samarbejdsaftale og dermed indleder et nyt kapitel i forholdet mellem Albanien og EU. I lyset heraf vil samtalerne naturligt fokusere på Albaniens ønske om tilnærmelse til EU og NATO og de mange udfordringer, som det albanske samfund står overfor i den forbindelse.

Udenrigsministrene vil mødes i det nordlige Albanien i et område, der tidligere har modtaget dansk overgangsbistand. I dag udgør bistandssamarbejdet kun en mindre del af en bredere vifte af dansk-albansk samarbejde. Den danske bistand er i dag målrettet mod civilsamfundet og bidrager dermed til at skabe grundlag for udviklingen af et velfungerende og modent demokrati. **UMs side om Naboskabsprogrammet** (som Albanien er omfattet af): http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Udviklingspolitik/LandeOgRegioner/Naboskabsprogrammet/

Se endvidere: http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Udviklingspolitik/LandeOgRegioner/Naboskabsprogrammet/Landeindsatse

http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Udviklingspolitik/LandeOgRegioner/Naboskabsprogrammet/Programmer/St

http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Udviklingspolitik/LandeOgRegioner/Naboskabsprogrammet/Programmer/M

http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Udenrigspolitik/Landefakta/LandefaktaEuropa/LandefaktaAlbanien.htm

Materiale om de tidl. danske udviklingsprojekter i Albanien, se: Miqësia / Dansk-Albansk Forenings erfaringsprojekt: <u>http://miqesia.dk/erfaring/</u>.

Situationen efter valget i 2005. Forholdene i Burrel-området: Se Bjørn Andersen: »To skridt frem? Albanien i en brydningstid« på: <u>http://bjoerna.net/to-skridt-frem/</u>.

Om besøget hos Præsidenten skriver dennes kontor:



Billedet kan forstørres

President Moisiu met with the Danish Foreign Minister, Per Stig Moller.

June 7, 2006

The President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu received today in a meeting the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Per Stig Moller who is conducting an official visit in our country.

During the talks it was discussed about aspects of the bilateral relations and further cooperation and also about actual developments in the Balkans by focusing particularly on the solution of the issue of Kosova.

President Moisiu expressed his consideration for the continuous support that the Danish state has given towards the strengthening and consolidation of our democratic institutions by pointing out the Danish assistance to the Albanian Atlantic Association and the Ombudsman Institution.

Mr. Moisiu emphasized the considerable steps taken by the Albanian state to meet within a short period of time the standards which will make Albania part of the great European family and asked the support of Denmark for integration in NATO and European Union by stressing the need of the quick ratification of the Association-Stabilization Agreement, on which Mr. Moller promised support.

Regarding the issue of Kosova, the Head of state re-emphasized that its solution is connected to the stability of the Balkans and that is why it must come as soon as possible in order to also neutralize the possible extremism in this region. President Moisiu praised once again the decision of the United Nations Security Council on the solution of the status of Kosova by this year and also repeating the stand that the solution must be peaceful and democratic and that the status must generate peace and stability and also it is very important for this to respect all the minorities in Kosova.

On his part, the Danish Foreign Minister, Moller pointed out that Denmark will continue to offer its assistance regarding issue of the media and civil society and will support our country in its integration path to the Euro-Atlantic structures.

Det Albanske UM (MFA) skriver:







Fra UM Per Stig Møller's besøg i Burrel. Fotos: MFA [Billederne kan forstørres ved at klikke på dem]. Tv for UM Besnik Mustafaj skimtes <u>den Albanske Chargé d'affaires i København, Harilla Goga</u>. Den Danske Chargé d'affaires i Tirana, Finn Theilgaard, kan ikke ses på de aktuelle billeder; nedenfor et billede fra et besøg hos Besnik Mustafaj tidligere på året (foto: MFA):



The Foreign Minister Mustafaj met his Danish counterpart Mr. Per Stig Moller

During his 2-day visit in Albania, the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Per Stig Moller, was received in the Albanian town of Burrel by his Albanian counterpart Mr. Besnik Mustafaj. During the meeting, they discussed about bilateral cooperation, integration process of Albania into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures, recent developments in the region, in Kosova and Montenegro in particular.

Minister Mustafaj praised the support offered by Denmark to Albania for the establishment of democracy and expressed the wish and willingness of the Albanian government to continue and identify other directions of cooperation in this new situation of the Albanian society, i.e. the consolidation of the democratic system. Both ministers appraised the good level of relations

between the two countries and emphasized the need to foster their economic dimension.

The Albanian Foreign Minister underlined the importance of the signature of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with EU on June 12, 2006 for Albania. In this context, he asked for the Danish support for its ratification. The Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, assured his Albanian counterpart for the support of Denmark to the integration process of Albania into the Euro-Atlantic structures. He commended the Albanian position towards the developments in the region and expressed the thankfulness of the Danish government for the position of Albania concerning the events following the publication of the cartoons on Prophet Mohammed.

As to the Kosova issue, Minister Mustafaj underlined the necessity for a rapid solution of its status, expressing his conviction that an independent and democratic Kosova, oriented towards Euro-Atlantic integration, will be a factor of peace and stability in the region.

<u>Præsident Moisiu</u>'s aktiviteter [Billederne i denne sektion kan som regel forstørres ved at klikke på dem (mens man er på nettet)]

Der har været uro om medielovgivningen. Præsidentens kontor skriver:

President Moisiu returned the Law on Public and Private Radio and Television to be reviewed. June 6, 2006

The President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu through the decree numbered 4894, dated June 6, 2006 returned once again to the Assembly to be reviewed the Law numbered 9531, dated May 11, 2006 "For some amendments and changes in the Law numbered 8410, dated September 30, 1998 'On the Public and Private Radio Television in the Republic of Albania,' amended."

In the assessment of the President of the Republic, the law in question holds a special importance for the fulfilment of aspiration to reform the activity of public and private radio television in the Republic of Albania. However, regardless the appreciation of the work done to draft this law and of the significance of the problem it attempts to solve, the President of the republic judged to return it once again to be reviewed by Assembly in order for the solutions offered in the law to be as close as possible to the standards and principals in the Constitution of the Republic of Albania.

The primary reason for the return of the law is connected to the assessment done by the President to the Article 7 of the Law in report to the Constitution. According to the Article 7 of the Law, the physical and judicial persons that own shares in a radio or television company, are not allowed to take part in procurements with public funds, or in companies financed by the state and also are not permitted to participate in the privatization process of public property. This disposition, in the judgement of the President of the Republic threatens some fundamentally constitutional rights such as to freely exercise the economic right, the equality of the individual and guaranteeing of private property, foreseen in the Articles 11, 18 and 41 of the Constitution.

The Constitution allows restrictions by law of the economic activity, but only for important public reasons. In the relation accompanying the Law, has not been presented any reason of this character which might justify these restriction of constitutional freedoms. If being a shareholder in a radio or television company would be considered as facilitation in the privatization process, or winning the tenders with public funding, then this should be a consequence of a concrete study. The restriction of human rights must be done based on a study and concrete analyses, which can argue the proportionality or ratio between the situation that dictated the need for these restrictions and the very restrictions proposed. The a priori conclusions that the audio visual media have profited in the processes of public bids, or in the privatization of public property by using its power, a priori can bring to the conclusion that also the written media has had or have the same influence as the audio visual one. These a priori conclusions create an open inequality not only among the subjects which are regulated by law and the others, but also among the subjects of the same kind. Hence, through the passing of this law, a part of media owners and shareholders are permitted to take part in the privatizations' process or public bids, while another part is not permitted. In the assessment of the President of the Republic, this is discrimination in front of the law, which is not allowed by the Article 18 of the Constitution.

Regarding the media statements about the return of the Law on the Medias by President Moisiu.

June 7, 2006

Regarding the media statements by some individuals on the decision of the President for the return to be reviewed once again in the Assembly of the Law numbered 9531, dated May 11, 2006 "For some amendments and changes in the Law numbered 8410, dated September 30, 1998 'For the public and private radio and television in the Republic of Albania,' amended," the Spokesperson of the President is authorized to state:

The decision of the President is based on his constitutional rights and obligations. The legal argument for the return of the law is the result of this constitutional stand and comes after consultations with the specialized local and international institutions in the media field and also with jurists who are experts on constitutional issues.

On this occasion, the President cannot but publicly express the deep sorrow about the statements in the form of blackmail and verbal accusations, which are far away from facts and civil and institutional ethics made by individuals, who because of the function or public status, should be transmitters of ethics, civility and legal culture.

Det Albanske Medieinstitut har udsendt nyhedsbrev for Maj 2006, her er bl.a. bemærkninger om den ny medielovgivning:

AMENDMENTS TO LAW ON BROADCASTING APPROVED BY THE PARLIAMENT

The amendments to the law on broadcasting, related to the change of formula for members of the regulatory authority on electronic media and the Steering Council of public broadcaster passed in the Parliament on May 12. The amendments in question propose to change the formula and composition of the regulatory authority on electronic media and that of the highest governing body of the public broadcaster, on the grounds that these bodies have been so far inefficient and politicized. The final changes to the bill included the nomination of candidates to the regulatory authority from interest groups such as the associations of electronic media, print media associations, electric engineering associations, Chamber of Lawyers, and one from the parliamentary groups. The same groups would also nominate members for the Steering Council of the public broadcaster. This right also belonged to human and children rights NGOs and the National Cinematography Center. The nominations should be no less than two and no more than three for each member, and should pass in a consensual way by the Parliamentary Media Commission.

The formula for the Steering Council of public broadcaster is similar, except that seven members will be elected, and there is also a representative of the government and one from the faculty staff of the University of Tirana. In the meantime, the Parliament has suspended the members of both the regulatory authority and Steering Council, while the law pends to be decreed by the President. The law passed without the voting of the opposition, which proposed a formula that was based on political bipartisanship in both bodies.

In addition, a new amendment was passed on this law, which excludes the owners of television companies from public tenders. The so-called Lesi amendment has been pending in the parliament for more than a year, and its main aim is to eliminate any possible relation between public tenders for media owners and favorable media coverage on the government by the respective media. This amendment is expected to apply for print media, as well, after a new discussion and voting.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL TELEVISION

A regional conference on the topic "Digital television in Central and Eastern Europe: policies, development, and public debate," took place in Tirana on May 26-27. Participants included media experts, researchers, and regulatory authorities' representatives from countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as from some West European countries. The aim of the conference was to discuss the main issues of switchover to digital television, its advantages and problems, the impact on general public, and state intervention in this field. Some of the

main topics addressed in the course of the event were the distribution of media content in the digital era, the public debate on digital switchover, legal regulation versus competitive market, the technical infrastructure an an opportunity and threat for competition, as well as the impact of digital switchover on the media landscape. The discussions evolved around the way digital switchover will affect the public and the media scene, accessibility of content, diversity of services, the new emerging business models, government policies, European experience, etc. In addition to distinguished speakers, researchers from each of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe that were present, introduced the situation of digital television development, as well as ongoing policies and public debate in their countries. This conference was organized by the Albanian Media Institute in the framework of activities of the South East Network for Professionalization of the Media (SEEENPM.)

WORKSHOP ON TESTING ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAW

A workshop on testing access to information law in assisting reporters took place at the Albanian Media Institute on May 17-18, with the participation of eight journalists from mainstream print media. This workshop marked the start of a new project called "The role of Albanian Media in improving implementation of access to information law." The aim of the workshop was to introduce journalists to this law and ways of receiving official information, as well as the reaction of state institutions in meeting these requests for information. This information will be tested in practice, since the participants have filed requests on information in different areas. The first lecturer, Arben Ristani, from Citizens' Advocacy Office, explained with practical examples the essence of the law and how it can be used by journalists and the general public for a more in-depth and transparent reporting. Giving practical examples, the lecturer addressed the weaknesses and strength of the implementation of the law in everyday life, including the bodies that ensure this implementation: administrative complaint, court complaint, etc. Ristani also provided a brief history of this law from other countries' experience. Artur Lazebeu, spokesperson at the Ombudsman's Office, briefed the participants on the work of the Ombudsman's Office in raising awareness on the law and monitoring its implementation in practice. He also presented the main complaints received by the people in the office, and the procedure they followed in each of the cases.

Third speaker was Lutfi Dervishi, well-known journalist, who spoke on the manner of implementation of the law in everyday reporting, especially in the context of investigative stories. Bringing specific cases, he instructed the participants on drafting a request for information and following the steps to construct an investigative story with the information gathered. Afterwards, the participants discussed and determined story ideas for investigative reporting that would include requesting information from state institutions. The filing of these requests and the ensuing procedures will constitute a test both on journalist's application of the law in investigating, as well as on the authorities' implementation of the law. The workshop was organized by Albanian Media Institute, with the support of National Endowment for Democracy.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR GREEK MINORITY NEWSPAPERS

A training course on managing a local minority newspaper was organized in Gjirokastra on May 4-6, with the participation of 12 editors, directors, and managers of Greek minority newspapers, located in Gjirokastra and Saranda. This training responded to a needs assessment survey carried out last year among minority media outlets, where management training ranked among the top priorities. Trainer Iris Luarasi, professor at the Department of Journalism, University of Tirana, explained the role of manager, what makes a good manager, and definition of the mission statement of an organization. Marketing strategies, tactics, and action plans were other topics. The participants were introduced to more practical and specific steps of their work, such as conducting an efficient meeting, main keypoints in conducting staff meetings and developing strategic planning. In the last day the participants were introduced to the notion of benchmarking and to SWOT analysis, which they practiced by dividing in workgroups. This course was organized by the Albanian Media Institute, with the support of Swedish Helsinki Committee.

IMPROVING REPORTING ON THE BALKANS

A two-day training course started on May 31 marked the start of the project "Improving international affairs reporting in Albanian media." The project will include a series of courses on different topics in international affairs. The project started with introduction of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Tirana, His Excellency Mr. Hans Peter Annen. The topic

of the first course was related to reporting on the Balkans and their process of integration in the EU. First speaker was Ilir Meta, ex-Prime Minister and currently head of the Socialist Movement for Integration. In his lecture he briefed the 15 participants on the recent history of relations with neighboring countries, with an emphasis in the context of developments in Serbia and Kosovo. Stressing the fragile balance of these relations, the lecturer also addressed the EU policies on integration of the Balkan countries, concluding that Albania was lagging behind the other countries in this process. He explained the outcome of the summits in Thessaloniki and Strasbourg and their impact in integration, which is also slowed down by other factors, such as events after 9/11, energy problems, relations with Russia, etc. Finally, he tackled the issue of the unresolved status of Kosovo and that of Bosnia, which have their own impact in EU integration.

Second speaker was Rexhep Mejdani, ex-President of Albania, who provided a history of the Balkans and his view on the prospective that awaits the peninsula. His overview of the history included the notion of the nation state since the Treaty of Westphalia, the rise of nation states, explaining the main elements that hold together this entity, such as language, religion, ethnicity, and culture. In his lecture Mejdani distinguished positive patriotism from nationalistic chauvinism, providing different concepts of the nation. Then he explained the process of establishment of Balkan states after the dismantling of the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires, following with the death of Jugoslavia and its impact on the Balkans to our present day. The lecturer then discussed with the participants the ramifications of the distant and recent history in the future status of the peninsula. This course was organized by the Albanian Media Institute, with the support of Media-Im-Pakt, a part of the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations, IFA, Germany.

COMPUTER ASSISTED REPORTING AND ONLINE JOURNALISM TRAINING

A training course on Computer Assisted Reporting and online journalism took place at the Albanian Media Institute on May 2-6, with the participation of 15 journalists from print and electronic media, both from mainstream and local ones. The course aimed to introduce journalists to the main principles and skills of computer assisted reporting, as well as provide them with the basic knowledge in online journalism. Trainer Mitrulla Thodhori, IT expert, presented the participants to CAR methodology, its present development, and the main tools used in this regard, mainly using Internet efficiently as an information source in reporting. In her lecture she focused on search engines in Enternet and their specific features, catalogues and databasis, the diverse search strategies, and the practical usage of Internet in today's reporting. Other topics included advanced usage of MS Office packange and e-mail, working with tables and collection and selection of data, charts, etc. Introducing journalists to the main websites of interest to journalist, the trainer provided practical examples for the participants. Finally, participants were introduced to and tested online journalism and its main elements. This training course is part of an extensive project on professional skills training for journalists, organized by Albanian Media Institute with the support of Network Media Program.

MEETING WITH ANALYSTS ON CODE OF ETHICS AND PRESS COUNCIL

A meeting with the most distinguished analysts of Albanian media took place on May 19, in order to discuss the recent changes to the Code of Ethics of Albanian journalists and the possibility of establishing a press council or some form of self-regulatory mechanism. The new version of the Code was presented after reflecting changes suggested by three previous meetings with journalists, editors, and media owners and managers. Also, a brief presentation of a draft statute of a self-regulatory mechanism was made, including the potential manners of organization, its funding method, the governing council, the members, etc. Afterwards, the participants expressed their opinions on the potential plan to establish a self-regulatory mechanism. These ideas will be reflected in a final meeting with the participation of all stakeholders in this area. This meeting was organized by the Albanian Media Institute, with the support of Casals & Associates, USAID, and OSCE.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING TRAINING COURSE

A training course on investigative journalism took place at the Albanian Media Institute on May 8-12, with the participation of 15 journalists from print and electronic media, both from mainstream and local ones. The topics addressed in the lecture of journalist Lutfi Dervishi were related to the investigative role of the journalist, presenting different methods of gathering information. He also provided a brief history of investigative journalism, bringing practical examples both from Albania and abroad. Further on, the lectures continued with instruction on

how to draft and follow an investigative story, including both advantages and risks of this genre of journalism. Part of the lectures involved an introduction to the Law on Access to Information and how it helps investigative journalists, as well as a brief introduction to the code of investigative reporting. Finally, the trainer addressed the topic of computer assisted investigative reporting, safe sources of information, using databases and search engines, etc. The course was a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical examples, enabling the participants to test the knowledge they gained. This training course is part of an extensive project on professional skills training for journalists, organized by Albanian Media Institute with the support of Network Media Program.

COURSE ON CORRUPTION REPORTING

A training on reporting on corruption was held at the Albanian Media Institute on May 29-31, with the participation of print and electronic Tirana-based media journalists. Given the pervasive phenomenon that corruption constitutes in Albanian life, public debate, and hence media coverage, the course introduced journalists with information on the main areas of corruption and on different angles of reporting on it. Lecturers were Artan Hoxha, from Institute of Contemporary Studies, Fatbardh Kadilli, adviser to the Council of Ministers on anti-corruption policies, and Blendi Kajsiu, analyst. The speakers presented the participants with the main trends of corruption in the country, the most recent international reports on the situation, the government efforts and plans to stall this phenomenon, the different angles and phenomena that media coverage can cover in this respect, etc. This training was organized by the Albanian Media Institute with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Tirana.

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM TRAINING

A training course on investigative journalism was organized at the Albanian Media Institute on May 22-24, with the participation of 15 journalists, five of whom were from local media. The course aimed at training journalists in the main investigative methods, tools, and skills. In this regard, some of the main issues addressed were the concept of an investigative story and its planning, the differentiation of sources of information, interviewing techniques, ethical dilemmas in writing a story, etc. Another topic the participants were introduced to was the law on access to information and its use in practice when writing an investigative report, filing requests and searching for information. In addition, trainer Lutfi Dervishi also tackled the law on information classified as state secret, its main provisions and their impact in reporting when asking information from the authorities. This training course was organized by Albanian Media Institute, with the support of National Endowment for Democracy.

WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING

A workshop titled "Messages on Migration and Counter Trafficking" took place in Tirana on 18-19 May, with the participation of media outlets, journalists, government representatives, civil society activists, etc. This workshop was organized after a needs assessment survey and aimed to discuss the first steps needed in launching a public information strategy and get the media on board as a partner on disseminating the ideas behind these issues. The importance of this topic was addressed in the opening words by His Excellency Mr. Richard Jones, Ambassador of United Kingdom in Tirana, Mr. Maurizio Bussati, Head of Mission, IOM Tirana, and Ms. Iva Zajmi, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Albania. The main speakers included International Organization on Migration staff, who tackled the main points in the area based on their experience in the country and abroad. The participants then worked in different groups in order to determine the best steps and procedures to be taken in drafting and disseminating a public information campaign. This activity was organized by IOM and Albanian Media Institute, with the support of British Embassy in Tirana.

PM Sali Berisha's aktiviteter: [Billederne i denne sektion kan som regel forstørres ved at klikke på dem (mens man er på nettet)]



PM Berisha havde 02.06.2006 besøg af Skuespilleren Eliza Dushku, der er af Albansk-Dansk-Amerikansk afstamning. Om Eliza Dushku kan ses nærmere på Engelsk Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliza_Dushku.

Konference om Economic governance in the European Union, arrangeret af den Italienske Ambassade i Tirana

BANK OF ALBANIA - FOREIGN RELATIONS, EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Speech held by the Governor of the Bank of Albania, Mr. Ardian Fullani

at the conference - Economic governance in the European Union - organized by the Italian Embassy in Tirana - june 5, 2006

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to be here today to share some thoughts on governance issues related in particular to central banking.

The environment in which central banks and financial market authorities operate has undergone major changes in the past decades. Globalisation and progress of information and communication technology mean new challenges in achieving their objectives. To overcome these challenges, the central banks need to rethink their strategies and restructure accordingly in order to succeed and preserve their sound reputation in this changing environment.

This process would consist in: changes of the legal framework, - organisational restructuring, which may include changes in the way the bank is governed by the board and committees; - improvements in accounting practices, supervisory and human resources standards; - and several other changes.

Albania in the last decade has become part of this wind of change and in meantime we have recognised the importance of good governance for central banks and supervisory agencies. Having realised this need, the Bank of Albania has taken the appropriated steps to restructure. So, we are aiming to move to a more formal inflation targeting over the medium term. Accordingly, we have initiated steps to improve our governance structure and strengthen our analytical capacities. On the governance matters, the open forum that took place last year with top experts from all around the world touched upon many issues regarding the implementation of inflation targeting. However, as pointed out by many of these experts the appropriate model of internal governance is far from being a precise formula. The lecture of Ms. Lucia Quaglia today will touch on this point and help us understand how some institutions are implementing good governance, and consider lessons to be drawn from international comparisons.

Furthermore, let me spend a few more words also about the second important objective of our bank, the banking system stability. A lot of work has been done to encourage the development and consolidation of a sound banking and financial system. I could mention here a few recent measures supported by our bank like: the setting up of a credit information bureau, the analytical development of the deposit insurance scheme, improvement of the bankruptcy framework and collateral enforcement, and strengthening of bank regulation and supervision, which will also assist the Government's anti-money laundering efforts. The international organisation in particular IMF is providing precious technical assistance to the Bank of Albania to support the implementation of the institutional development program for banking supervision developed by the Bank of Albania. In the wake of the privatisation of the largest bank, the financial sector in Albania is finally showing welcome dynamism and the BoA is stepping up prudential vigilance.

As for the globalization issue, Bank of Albania is committed towards institutionalizing the cooperation between central banks in the region. Judging from the meetings organized so far with some of the regional banking authorities, this initiative is progressing well. However, I believe there is scope to enhance regional cooperation further, which would enable us to exchange experiences in the field of banking supervision and best governance practices in the Southeastern Europe which I understand, is also part of Ms. Quaglia's future research agenda.

Let me conclude by wishing you a productive day.

Thank you.

Amerikansk rapport om korruptionen i Albanien er udsendt. Den Amerikanske Ambassadør, Marcie Ries, udtaler at der i de seneste år er sket fremskridt, at man er nødt til at skabe stærkere konsensus om kampen mod korruptionen, og at der er en del der mangler at blive rettet op på. Rapporten hjælper til at refokusere på problemerne:

Remarks by U.S. Ambassador Marcie B. Ries

Release of Survey "Corruption in Albania: Perception and Experience 2005"

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Press:

It's a privilege to be here for the release of this corruption perception survey. As you've already seen and heard, this survey – the expanded follow-up to the 2004 edition -- is an impressive collaborative and professional effort.

This survey is based on interviews with 3,000 Albanians from 10 cities and all walks of life. It is funded by USAID and backed by U.S. experts. It is the largest, most comprehensive survey of its kind ever carried out here in Albania.

So let me add my voice to Harry's in congratulating the Rule of Law project, and especially IDRA, for their extraordinary work and for the presentation we've just seen. I'd urge all of you to read this report in full. You will all have the opportunity to hear directly from the experts in just a minute on the survey findings. My remarks will focus on the role of surveys in democratic governance.

This particular survey is by no means unique. Similar surveys are an important part of democratic societies. So, why are surveys important? They are important because they help all democratic institutions – by this I mean national governments, political parties, members of parliament, local governments, civil servants, police and judiciary to be more responsible and accountable to the citizens.

Good governance depends, among other factors, on accountability – it is especially so in a democratic society – the mutual exchange of responsibilities between citizens and officials, which is a core value of democracy. Apart from elections, surveys are one of democracy's most common avenues for citizen feedback.

Although surveys are still relatively new here in Albania and some people may still feel skeptical about their value, they are becoming more commonplace, and we think this is a good thing, because a survey is basically a very useful tool.

Bribery and other illicit transactions usually take place outside public scrutiny; they are very, very hard to measure. But empirical tools like surveys can help citizens and their representatives better understand the scope of the problem and – this is important – formulate effective responses.

In Albania what we've seen over the last few years is encouraging:

We've seen public support build for action against corruption. We've seen more aggressiveness and sophistication of news media in reporting corrupt practices. We've seen organizations and officials formulate sensible policies; many of which are now law, some in the early stages of implementation.

This implementation stage, however, is the most difficult part of the process and a lot of work needs to be done.

It cannot be successful unless there is a genuine consensus and cooperation on the part of all political forces and more transparency between citizens and government.

So much depends on true progress in the fight against corruption – NATO membership, EU accession, access to funding sources like the MCC (Millennium Challenge Corporation), better credit evaluations, lower lending costs, and generally a better life for the people of Albania. Given how much is at stake, every available tool should be used to combat corruption.

We want people to see this survey as a baseline to measure perceptions of change in the future and the data as a helpful tool for policy formulation. It is meant to be educational for all - civil society, citizens, government, and public institutions.

So much has been said about corruption that the true scope and impact of it in Albania can be lost. This survey helps all of us re-focus on where the needs are and what needs to be done. Again, let me thank everyone involved in the creation of this important piece of work.

Thank you very much.

Amerikansk rapport om trafficking. "Albania is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Victims are trafficked to Greece and Italy, with many of these victims trafficked onward to the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany, and the Netherlands. Internal trafficking within Albania and re-trafficking of Albanian victims to other countries remained a problem in 2005. Reports of Roma and Egyptian children trafficked for forced labor or begging continued." Den Amerikanske Ambassade har udsendt flg.:

U.S. Releases 2006 Annual Trafficking In Persons Report

Today, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, as mandated by the U.S. Congress and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000.

The goal of the TIP Report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery. Countries determined to have a significant number of trafficking victims are evaluated in the report and are assigned to one of three tiers. This year 158 nations from around the world were evaluated.

Albania maintained a Tier 2 placement in the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report, having moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 2 in the 2002.

Countries assessed as meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the law are classified as "Tier 1."

Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet those minimum standards, are classified as "Tier 2."

Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to do so are classified as "Tier 3."

Countries classified as "Tier 2 Watch List" are at risk of slipping to Tier 3 unless serious concerns are addressed.

The entire TIP Report is available at <u>www.state.gov/g/tip</u>. Below is a copy of this year's report on Albania. This is also available in both English and Albanian on the Embassy webstite at <u>www.usemb-tirana.rpo.at/</u>

2006 Trafficking in Persons Report

Albania (Tier 2)

Albania is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Victims are trafficked to Greece and Italy, with many of these victims trafficked onward to the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany, and the Netherlands. Internal trafficking within Albania and re-trafficking of Albanian victims to other countries remained a problem in 2005. Reports of Roma and Egyptian children trafficked for forced labor or begging continued.

The Government of Albania does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government continued to produce successful prosecutions and convictions of traffickers, appointed a new full-time national anti-trafficking coordinator with staff, began to implement its witness protection law for trafficking victims, and signed a bilateral anti-child trafficking agreement with Greece. While the government demonstrated strong law enforcement efforts, overall implementation of the government's protection and prevention programs remained weak. The government should fully implement its witness, protection program, encourage a greater number of victims to testify against their traffickers and make efforts to guarantee victims' safety. Comprehensive reintegration and rehabilitation services are critical to prevent the re-trafficking of Albanian citizens. The government as a whole should assume a greater leadership role in the country's anti-trafficking efforts, actively implement its National Action Plan, and vigorously investigate and prosecute trafficking-related corruption at all levels of law enforcement.

Prosecution

In 2005, the Government of Albania actively continued to investigate and prosecute trafficking; it investigated 49 cases, prosecuted 51 traffickers, and convicted 54 traffickers. Albanian courts sentenced more than half of the convicted traffickers to five to 10 years, with some sentences over 10 years – significant penalties for the region. In February 2005, the government established a specialized asset forfeiture unit and thus far has obtained final judgments of forfeiture for two trafficking cases, with additional cases pending. The government failed to conduct its own specialized anti-trafficking training for police, prosecutors, judges, and other relevant law enforcement officials in 2005, but continued to cooperate closely with NGOs and international organizations on border control and various trainings. Reports of trafficking-related corruption in Albania involving government and police officials continued. The government increased its investigations of police officers for involvement in illegal border crossings, but did not find any government officials complicit in trafficking.

Protection

The government sustained its modest efforts to protect and reintegrate trafficking victims during 2005. NGOs and international organizations administered and funded the majority of services for victims; however, the government provided some facilities and personnel. In 2006, the government began using in one case a witness protection program for trafficking victims. While the government approved a national victim referral mechanism in 2005, it did not employ it during the reporting period. In 2005, Albanian police continued to informally refer victims to shelters and re-integration assistance. Police identified and referred 28 victims identified in Albania and referred 214 victims either repatriated or deported back to Albania to the Vatra Center, a leading NGO in Albania providing shelter and services to victims. The Vatra Center reported assisting 238 victims in 2005, more than half of which had been trafficked at least on one other occasion. In addition, another reintegration shelter, Different and Equal, reported assisting 23 women and girls in 2005. The government-run National Victim Referral Center temporarily housed 32 victims in 2005; many were transferred to other shelters for reintegration. In February 2006, the government signed a bilateral agreement with Greece to address child trafficking, which should assist with the return of child trafficking victims to Albania from Greece.

Prevention

The government made some progress in anti-trafficking prevention during the reporting period. In 2005, the government appointed a new, full-time, national coordinator with a dedicated staff of five. It publicly endorsed the previous government's National Action Plan for 2005-2007, though it failed to implement most of the Plan's objectives, including implementing a referral mechanism, improving witness protection, vocational training and other key reintegration efforts, specialized law enforcement training, and a targeted awareness campaign. The government took steps to increase the level of coordination with NGOs and international organizations, but relied primarily on these groups for anti-trafficking prevention and outreach to vulnerable populations and potential victims. The Ministry of Education continued to implement with IOM a project targeting 36 schools in at-risk regions, and in 2005 expanded the project to another 10 schools.

SERBIEN

Det Amerikanske UM har offentliggjort en 'Background Note' om Serbien - Montenegro: <u>http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm</u> • Det Engelske Udenrigsministeriums 'Country Advice' til rejsende kan findes på adressen: <u>http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?</u> <u>pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618386622</u> • En biografi over tidligere Forbundspræsident Kostunica kan læses på <u>Serbiske Politikere</u>.

Præsidentvalg i Serbien. Boris Tadic blev i Juni 2004 valgt som Præsident. Seneste Parlamentsvalg: 031228. Præsident Tadic har iflg Tanjug udtalt sig om de to veje Serbien kan gå:

ZAGREB, June 7 (Tanjug) - Serbian President Boris Tadic has said that no one in Serbia "is indifferent toward the dismantling of a state, fifteen years after the first dismantling." In an interview to the Zagreb weekly Globus, Tadic said that Serbia faces two paths - a radical and a democratic one - and that the choice will fundamentally determine the nature and character of Serbian society in the future. "It would be a mistake if Serbia were to take the radical path, because it must take the path leading to the European Union, which is the only solution," Tadic said. Every person indicted for war crimes must be arrested, he said. The Serbian government, even if it had maintained different views at the beginning of its mandate, is now aware that Serbia must extradite Ratko Mladic, Tadic said. The Serbian president said that there are people in the Serbian political corps who is his political opponents, who had helped war criminals, and who glorify war crimes.

Serbien overtager (generelt) Serbien-Montenegro's »status«, herunder ift OSCE og IMF. Nedenfor om den generelle beslutning og om relationerne til IMF. . Om OSCE, Se under: <u>Montenegro</u>.

Decision on transferring jurisdictions from Serbia-Montenegro to Serbia

Belgrade, June 5, 2006 – Serbian parliament has adopted today the Decision on obligation of Serbian state bodies in carrying out Serbia's jurisdictions as successor of the state union of Serbia-Montenegro.

The Decision obliges the Serbian government and other Serbian state bodies to pass necessary documents within 45 days and take measures aimed at the realisation of Serbia's international and legal subjectivity as legal successor of Serbia-Montenegro.

The Decision primarily refers to execution of jurisdictions in the fields of foreign affairs and defence until necessary laws regulating foreign affairs and defence are passed.

The Decision has been passed in order to avoid any problems or conflict in the separation between Serbia as state successor and Montenegro, which proclaimed independence.

In accordance with the Constitutional Charter of Serbia-Montenegro, Serbia has become successor of the state union, which is why it is necessary to create political and legal grounds for Serbian state bodies to pass necessary documents.

Serbian parliament also confirmed that, in accordance with the Belgrade Agreement and the state union's Constitutional Charter, Serbia has become heir of the state union and has fully inherited its international legal subjectivity and international documents, especially UN Security Council's Resolution 1244 [om Kosovo].

Parliament has also concluded that Serbia's legal system will be harmonised with principles on which legal systems of developed democratic states are based as well as with regulations and documents of the international community.

In the session, it was agreed that institutions in Serbia are built at a level that enables Serbia to successfully take part in European and international processes. An accelerated entry process of full membership into all international bodies and organisations, and especially the process of stabilisation and association with the EU, is undoubtedly Serbia's strategic and national goal, and basic groundwork for its realisation have already been created.

Parliament agreed that economic relations in Serbia are based on a market economy founded on free entrepreneurship, competition, protection of property and social justice and that Serbia is determined to develop peaceful and equal relations with other states, particularly neighbouring ones. It is also prepared to contribute to the efforts of the international community and EU to achieve political stability in the Balkan region, Europe and the entire world.

Nedenfor om forholdet til IMF:

Serbia inherits Serbia-Montenegro's rights, obligations towards IMF

Belgrade, June 8, 2006 – The National Bank of Serbia (NBS) informed Rodrigo de Rato y Figaredo, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), that according to Article 60 of the state union's Constitutional Charter, Serbian parliament decided on June 5 this year that the Republic of Serbia is to inherit Serbia-Montenegro's international and legal subjectivity and jurisdiction.

Therefore, Serbia will now continue to hold Serbia-Montenegro's membership in the IMF and participate in the Special Drawing Rights Department and will be obliged to keep fulfilling all the obligations according to the IMF's statute, reads the letter which NBS sent to the IMF Managing Director and also forwarded to the Montenegrin Central Bank.

The NBS recalls that the Serbia-Montenegrin Constitutional Charter was also signed by EU High Representative Javier Solana and that it clearly states that the member state that willingly chooses to withdraw from the union does not inherit the union's international and legal subjectivity.

When it comes to the IMF, it should be noted that the membership in this international financial organisation was defined in December 2000 with the NBS fulfilling the necessary conditions for that, such as settling old obligations and quotas, adds the statement.

Also, the NBS has been settling all financial obligations toward the IMF, including the obligations regarding the three concluded financial arrangements. Serbia has already settled the obligations regarding the funds used as part of the post-conflict aid and the Stand-By Arrangement, recalls the NBS in its letter to the IMF.

Relationerne til EU. Den Serbiske Regering skriver om Second sectoral meeting of Enhanced Permanent Dialogue between Serbia and EU begins:

Second sectoral meeting of Enhanced Permanent Dialogue between Serbia and EU begins

Belgrade, June 7, 2006 – The Serbian government's EU Integration Office has stated that the second sectoral meeting on economic and financial issues, within the framework of the Enhanced Permanent Dialogue between Serbia and the EU began today and will last two days.

The meeting is being presided by Head of the Serbian government's EU Integration Office Tanja Miscevic and Head of the European Commission delegation in Belgrade Josep Lloveras, who stated on the occasion of today's meeting that at an administrative level this meeting represents preparation for drafting the Annual Report by the European Commission on the state of reforms in Serbia, which is expected to appear in October this year.

Representatives of the European Commission stressed that the Enhanced Permanent Dialogue is a necessary instrument allowing the construction of a complete picture of the problems and reforms in a society in transition such as Serbia. They pointed out that on the path to European integration and harmonisation with the legal standards of the EU it is especially important to follow the definition and implementation of activities on a macroeconomic and institutional level.

Experts of the Serbian government, the European Commission and the European Central Bank today discussed basic macroeconomic trends and Serbia's relations with international financial institutions, fiscal and monetary policies, and the restructuring and privatisation of companies. The agenda for tomorrow includes issues of ownership rights and market regulation, above all execution of contracts, regulatory framework for energy and telecommunications, the experience with registration of companies and implementation of legislation in the area of bankruptcy.

Samarbejdet mellem Serbien og ICTY / Haag. Den Serbiske Regering skriver under overskriften: Serbia is doing everything to successfully end cooperation with Hague tribunal:

Serbia is doing everything to successfully end cooperation with Hague tribunal

Belgrade/New York, June 7, 2006 – Serbian Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government Zoran Loncar addressed the UN Security Council today by saying that Serbia is doing everything to successfully bring cooperation with Hague tribunal to an end.

Loncar recalled that the Serbian government stated several times that Serbia's interest is to end cooperation with The Hague adding that the government officially declared that the hiding of fugitive Ratko Mladic is an dishonorable act which directly hampers Serbia's national and state interest.

He reiterated that the government of Serbia has done absolutely everything in its power to locate Ratko Mladic and transfer him to The Hague, noting that eleven persons who were suspected of aiding Mladic in hiding have been sentenced to several months in custody.

Despite very intensive and large-scale activities, it was impossible to find out where Ratko Mladic is located, Loncar said noting that "political will is indisputably there, and it is a technical matter to reveal the place of Mladic's hiding."

Speaking on the Serbian government's efforts, Loncar recalled that since the end of 2004, 16 accused persons from Serbia, most of whom were top military and police officers, voluntarily surrendered to the tribunal at The Hague.

The Serbian government is firm in efforts to continue and fulfill all remaining international terms, Loncar said noting that the results accomplished so far confirm that in the best possible way.

Loncar, who is also a member of the National Council for Cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), said that all accused officers who served in Serbia, either as members of the Serbia-Montenegrin army or police members, turned themselves in to The Hague. He also added that a large number of accused persons from Republika Srpska turned themselves in as well.

He pointed out Serbia's readiness to fully cooperate with the ICTY's Office of the Prosecutor in part that refers to access to documents and archived material.

The state union, i.e., Serbia being its successor, received a total of 1,148 requests from the Office of the Prosecutor. The National Council for Cooperation with the ICTY positively responded to most of those requests and there are currently only a few unsolved requests which are seen as urgent, Loncar said.

He said that demands by the tribunal, directed to Serbia-Montenegro, arrive daily and are dealt with most promptly. He recalled that according to demands by the tribunal 43 witnesses have been released from the obligation to official secrecy, and 39 demands of submitting documentation have been met positively.

According to Loncar, representatives of the tribunal have begun inspecting the archives of the Ministry of the Interior, and recently they were given access to Ministry of Defence archives and archives of the Serbian Presidency.

Speaking on the concrete moves with the aim of cooperating with the tribunal, Loncar said that

in May this year the state union parliament adopted the Law on freezing assets of Hague indictees still at large.

He said that when it comes to the issue of cooperating with the Hague, it is necessary to pay attention to the statement by tribunal President Fausto Pocar, who said that the "previous six months of work by the tribunal were the toughest in its history." He added that it is especially important to take into consideration the deaths of Slobodan Milosevic and Milan Babic that occurred in custody.

While giving due importance to the fact that official reports on these deaths are still not complete, the Serbian government shares the opinion of the independent investigation that was conducted by Swedish state organs that conditions and treatment of those in custody in the detention unit must be significantly improved, and the monitoring of the functioning of the detention unit itself should be more open, said Loncar.

According to Loncar, Serbia regrets such incidents, they have been without precedent in the detention unit of the tribunal, they are in conflict with the defined work of the court, which is efficient the realisation of international law regarding those who are guilty of serious war crimes, and providing justice to victims and creating conditions for reconciliation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Loncar pointed out the importance of transferring trials to domestic courts, adding that trials conducted in domestic courts could contribute to realising those aims for which the Security Council of the UN in 1993 created the ICTY.

He said that the judicial organs of Serbia are willing to accept the processing and trying of the indictees. He recalled that despite the positive evaluation of these organs by the tribunal and the Prosecution Office at the Hague, not a single case from the tribunal has been handed over to Serbia.

"I want once again to express the firm resolve of the Serbian government to continue to do everything within our power to locate all remaining indictees, and in case any one of them is hiding in Serbia, to send them to The Hague. Serbia is determined that all those who have committed war crimes should be tried in a court of law, either by the tribunal or in a domestic court," concluded Loncar.

Politiet slår ned på trafficking (vedr. »four Serbian citizens of Albanian nationality from Kosovo-Metohija«). Den Serbiske Regering skriver:

Police cuts human trafficking chain from Albania, Turkey and Kosovo

Belgrade, June 8, 2006 – The Serbian Ministry of Interior said that members of special unit for fighting organised crime cut human trafficking chain from Albania, Turkey and Kosovo-Metohija.

On June 6, on the Belgrade-Zagreb highway, near Kuzmin, five persons were arrested as members of organised criminal group that tried to smuggle four Serbian citizens of Albanian nationality from Kosovo-Metohija, including one underage person.

The suspects who charged €2,000 per person for this service, have been brought before the investigative judge in the Sremska Mitrovica municipal court.

MONTENEGRO

Præsidentvalg 030611: Filip Vujanovic blev valgt. Seneste Parlamentsvalg 021020.

Folkeafstemning 21.05.2006 om Montenegro's forhold til statsforbundet Serbien-Montenegro. Der var et mindre flertal for at udtræde af forbundet (55,4% mod 44,6%), hvilket er blevet anerkendt af EU

m.fl. Formentlig vil Serbien acceptere den nye tingenes tilstand, skønt der var nogen murren efter at resultatet blev kendt.

03.06.2006: Parlamentet har erklæret Montenegro som selvstændig stat.

OSCE har (på anmodning af Montenegro) iværksat optagelsesprocedure

OSCE states considering Montenegro's request to join the Organization

VIENNA, 6 June 2006 - The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe was considering today a request from the newly independent Republic of Montenegro to become the OSCE's 56th participating State.

"The OSCE participating States will consider the request from Montenegro carefully and without delay," said the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht.

Miodrag Vlahovic, Montenegro's Foreign Minister, wrote to Minister De Gucht on June 4 saying Montenegro was ready to accept all the necessary commitments and responsibilities of joining the OSCE.

"The Government of the Republic of Montenegro expresses its commitment to all OSCE principles and standards, and its readiness to actively co-operate with all OSCE participating States in the pursuit of the goals of this Organization," wrote Minister Vlahovic.

Foreign Ministers from the 55 participating States will consider Montenegro's request to accede to the OSCE through a so-called silence procedure, meaning the request would be accepted if no country objects by a set deadline.

As the Republic of Serbia is the successor State to unified Serbia and Montenegro, it does not have to apply to join the OSCE.

MAKEDONIEN

Det Engelske Udenrigsministeriums 'Country Advice' til rejsende kan findes på adressen: <u>http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?</u> <u>pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618386163</u> • Det Amerikanske UM har offentliggjort en 'Background Note' om Makedonien: <u>http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/26759.htm</u>

Der er omkring 25 % etniske Albanere i Makedonien. Folketælling afholdtes 021101-021105.

Folkeafstemningen 041107 om decentralisering (= imødekommelse af Makedonien-Albanske interesser): Folkeafstemningen "faldt". Stemmedeltagelsen var kun omkring 26 %. Hvis afstemningen skulle have kunnet udvirke en ændring af decentraliseringslovgivningen, skulle deltagelsen have været mindst 50%, og desuden skulle der have været flertal mod lovgivningen. Det var ventet at stemmedeltagelsen ville have været noget større, selv om både Regeringspartierne og den Albanske minoritet anbefalede at man blev hjemme. Man kan nu gå videre i overensstemmelse med Ohrid-aftalerne.

Præsidentvalg i Maj 2004: Branko Crvenkovski - hidtidig PM - blev valgt (efter Boris Trajkovski som omkom ved en flyulykke). Seneste Parlamentsvalg fandt sted 020915. Der kan henvises til flg. OSCE/ODIHR-oversigtsside: http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/field_activities/skopje2002/.

Makedonien forhandler med EU om optagelse. Aktuel status, se: <u>http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/fyrom/key_documents.htm</u>. Se også den generelle side: <u>http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/index_en.html</u>

[08.06.2006] SRSG har haft møde med Makedonske Politikere. Han sagde - i dén forbindelse - at der var sket fremskridt mht opfyldelsen af 'standards'; han fremhæver PM Agim Çeku's positive rolle:

SRSG: Kosovo sooner rather than later will be conducive to regional stabilization

PRISTINA . The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo (SRSG) Soren Jessen-Petersen today visited Skopje where he met the Macedonian Prime Minister Vlado Bukovski. He later travelled to Tetovo to meet the President of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) and coalition partner in the Government, Ali Ahmeti.

The SRSG told his interlocutors that he has witnessed good progress in the political situation and standards implementation in Kosovo, particularly since Prime Minister Agim Ceku took office. However, whereas the Kosovo Albanian leadership is working hard to address the concerns of the Kosovo Serbs, the latter's continued non participation in the political processes in Kosovo makes it difficult to improve their condition. The SRSG exchanged views with the Macedonian leaders on the way forward in the context of the ongoing status negotiations and its significance from the regional perspective.

Addressing a joint press point with Prime Minister Bukovski after their meeting, the SRSG said, "The next six months are crucial for Kosovo and for the region. The Contact Group has made it very clear that any settlement for Kosovo must be acceptable to the majority in Kosovo. On the other hand, the Kosovo Albanians fully understand that they must make the status settlement acceptable also for the minorities."

"Kosovo needs clarity of status, the region needs clarity of status, and the region needs to move forward on its European future. To settle Kosovo sooner rather than later will be conducive to regional stabilization", he added.

Prime Minister Bukovski reaffirmed his government's commitment to continue playing a constructive role in supporting the ongoing process and stressed that it is important that the status settlement is reached before the end of this year.

The SRSG and the Prime Minister expressed their satisfaction with the excellent state of bilateral relations between Skopje and Pristina. The SRSG's scheduled trip to Tirana today, as also his planned meeting with the Macedonian President in Ohrid, had to be cancelled on account of inclement weather conditions.

IMF Rapport om Makedoniens økonomi

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—Concluding Statement of the 2006 Article IV Mission

June 5, 2006

Macedonian economic performance has started to improve. For more than a decade, economic growth was sluggish, in part the result of external shocks. However, in the last couple of years, growth has reached 4 percent or even higher, inflation has remained under control, the current account deficit has narrowed, international reserves have increased, and structural reforms have been initiated. To raise living standards more decisively toward European levels, the authorities now need to focus on sustaining and accelerating these achievements. As a first condition, this will require maintaining the country's hard-won macroeconomic stability. But for growth to accelerate and jobs to be created, this will need to be accompanied by more ambitious structural reforms: enhancing financial intermediation with sound banking supervision, improving the business climate and, underlying all these reforms, improving institutional quality.

The Medium-Term Challenge: Achieving Rapid Sustained Growth

1. For much of the Former Yugoslav Republic (FYR) of Macedonia's independence, fiscal and monetary policies have been relatively stable. Despite numerous shocks, fiscal policy has generally been disciplined. Monetary policy has been guided by the fixed exchange rate, which has successfully delivered low inflation. By keeping government debt to sustainable levels, fiscal policy has supported the fixed exchange rate regime.

2. Until recently, this stability in macroeconomic policies has been slow to translate into rapid output or employment growth. Since the mid-1990s, growth has averaged only 2 percent, well below other transition economies. Output has only recently reached its pre-transition level. The unemployment rate is one of the highest in the region.

3. However, it would be wrong to conclude from this that growth would have been higher if only monetary and fiscal policies had been more expansionary. Macedonia is a small and open economy. Experience from around the world shows that in such countries fiscal expansion soon leaks into higher imports and loss of international reserves. Monetary loosening would

also result in reserve loss, depreciation, and inflation. Expansionary macroeconomic policy cannot generate a lasting improvement in living standards.

4. Spending the recent increase in international reserves also would not generate any lasting improvement in growth. To some extent the increase in reserves is due to privatization receipts. Since these sales will not recur, the proceeds are best saved (for example by repaying external debt) rather than spent. This strategy is already producing substantial economic benefits, by improving confidence in the fixed exchange rate and causing interest rates to fall.

5. To reach the country's full growth potential and to raise living standards, macroeconomic stability and structural reform need to work together. The government has implemented several important reforms in recent years, including the strengthening of customs and tax administration, labor market liberalization, introduction of the one-stop shop for registering companies, and privatization of electricity distribution. The ground work for judicial reform has also been completed. However, to sustain and accelerate growth a more ambitious pace of reform is needed.

6. Macroeconomic stability and ambitious structural reform, consistent with intensified efforts toward EU accession, could raise growth significantly. With ambitious reforms, capital inflows and investment (including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)) should strengthen and growth could accelerate faster than envisaged under the program. Since imports are much larger than exports, the resulting increase in import growth rates would cause some widening in the current account deficit. However, as much of this should be FDI-financed, vulnerability should be less of a concern. Fiscal policy needs to keep to the 0.6 percent of GDP deficit target, to prevent overheating and contain the current account deficit.

7. However, if structural reforms slow and fiscal policy is allowed to loosen, the economy could quickly deteriorate. Weaker commitment to structural reform could slow growth back toward the low historical average. Failure to resist pre- and post-election pressures to raise public sector wages and pensions or for major tax cuts would raise the fiscal deficit. Government debt ratios would increase, while the fall in domestic savings would increase the current account deficit. Financial market confidence and capital inflows would worsen, and the fall in international reserves could again become an issue.

Statistical Issues

8. Understanding economic performance and assessing monetary and fiscal policy is complicated by data deficiencies. National accounts data are available only with a considerable lag, making it hard to understand the forces determining growth. Trade performance and competitiveness are also hard to gauge, with volume figures indicating an exceptionally large contribution of exports to growth difficult to reconcile with GDP estimates from the production side. Increased conversions of foreign currency into denars at cash exchange bureaus, a major contributor to last year's current account improvement, are also hard to interpret. Do these reflect increased remittances from abroad and, if so, how permanent are they likely to be? Or do they reflect capital inflows or the conversion of so-called mattress money? Efforts to improve statistical data are taking place, and the mission looks forward to their continuation, supported by additional resources. However, aside from making the macroeconomic analysis which follows more tentative than it could be, these statistical uncertainties caution against fine-tuning monetary and fiscal policy. This increases the premium on keeping macroeconomic policy stable and relatively simple.

Recent Developments and Prospects

9. Notwithstanding these caveats, last year saw a marked improvement in economic performance. The SSO's preliminary estimates suggest growth reached 4 percent in 2005, driven by strong exports, with tight fiscal policy and high interest rates at end-2004 restraining domestic demand. However, the true growth figure could be even higher: (i) corporate income tax receipts are much stronger than expected, likely reflecting higher profitability and value added; and (ii) the increase in consumption and investment due to higher private transfers and bank lending is unlikely to be measured fully. Despite higher oil prices, the stable exchange rate, lower tariffs, and food prices kept average inflation below 1 percent.

10. The external position is also considerably better, with gross reserves increasing to around €1,200 million (roughly 4½ months of imports, or 25 percent of GDP):

The official current account deficit fell sharply to 1.3 percent of GDP in 2005, but mainly because of increased private transfers, which probably includes some capital account elements. The trade deficit has declined by around 2 percent of GDP, with strong iron and steel exports, and lower consumption goods import growth offsetting higher oil prices; however, at just over 18 percent of GDP it is still high. *

Last year's €150 million Eurobond and this year's electricity privatization (€225 million, almost 5 percent of GDP) have improved the capital account. However, greenfield FDI (as opposed to privatization-based FDI) is still very low; what FDI there is has been mainly in such sectors as banking, telecoms, retail trade and energy, which do not generate exports.

11. The improvement in international reserves has allowed some expansion in monetary and fiscal policy. The NBRM has been able to cut interest rates substantially and rapidly, from 10 percent in November to less than 6 percent, because of the increased reserves. Commercial banks have partly matched these rate cuts. Credit has expanded, especially to households for consumption and in foreign currency, though from a low base and slowly compared to the region. Fiscal policy is also modestly expansionary, last year's ¼ percent of GDP surplus giving way to a projected 0.6 percent of GDP deficit.

12. This monetary and fiscal policy easing should sustain growth in 2006, while inflation and the current account stay under control:

*

Growth in 2006 should meet the 4 percent projection. Though industrial production seems to have slowed in the first quarter, business confidence indicators have improved, new car sales are exceptionally strong, and credit growth since March has started to increase. *

Inflation should average 3 percent. Consumer price inflation rose to 4.1 percent year on year in May, driven by supply factors such as increased tobacco taxes and oil prices, and higher than expected food prices (because of the harsh winter). Under the fixed exchange rate this price increase should only be a blip, with any pickup in domestic demand showing up in the current account. Core inflation remains well under control, and is projected at only 1 percent. *

The official current account deficit should widen in 2006 to around 3 percent of GDP. This assumes higher oil prices, lower interest rates stimulating imports, and some slowing of last year's increase in private transfers. Main risks include higher oil prices (each \$10 per barrel increase raises imports 1½ percent of GDP), steel production delays, and Chinese textile competition. On the upside, the projection for private transfers is quite conservative and the new free trade agreement with Serbia could increase exports of refined oil products.

Fiscal Policy

13. Keeping to the government's annual 0.6 percent of GDP fiscal deficit target over the medium term is essential for maintaining macroeconomic stability. First, uncertainty over the current account deficit's true size, as well as its history of volatility, caution against fiscal expansion. Second, though there are spending needs, institutional capacity in line ministries to spend additional funds efficiently is lacking. Third, rationalization of the public sector is far from complete, and needs to be done first before any spending increases are entertained. Finally, sticking to a clear fiscal anchor can create substantial credibility and expectational benefits, and provides essential support to the fixed exchange rate regime.

14. While the deficit target is likely to be met again this year, the mission regrets the recent proliferation of spending proposals from many fronts. These would worsen the composition of the budget. Recent initiatives include increased subsidies for tobacco farmers, higher health sector wages without full reform of the health sector, and benefits to workers made redundant from large firms. There are also additional proposals in the election campaign for spending increases and tax cuts. The mission is concerned at these proposals, which should not be allowed to undermine the 0.6 percent of GDP deficit target. Relying on higher telecom dividends to pay for these would be unsatisfactory, since telephone charges are exceptionally high and this revenue source will disappear once privatization is complete.

15. The authorities also need to find savings to meet medium-term fiscal challenges:

*

This year's second pillar pension system reduces social security revenues by 0.5 percent of GDP this year, rising to 0.9 percent of GDP by 2009. *

Trade liberalization will reduce import tax revenues by around 0.1 percent of GDP. *

Preparation costs for EU accession (initially institutional strengthening but later investment in transportation and the environment) should be small at first, but may rise later to 1-2 percent of GDP annually. *

Loss of the telecom dividend after privatization will reduce revenues by $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 percent of GDP annually. *

Public investment is only 3 percent of GDP, low by regional standards, and will face pressures to increase.

16. The incoming government should act quickly to address these medium-term fiscal challenges. Close to 80 percent of government spending is non-discretionary. This share needs to be lowered substantially to create flexibility for new initiatives. Rather than simply increase spending and create new institutions to meet EU priorities, spending needs to be reallocated. The best way to do this is through reorganizing the functions of government, which should be championed at the highest levels of government.

Monetary Policy

17. The mission supports the NBRM's gradual interest rate reductions under the fixed exchange rate regime, made possible by the accumulation of foreign reserves. However, the scope for further rate cuts seems limited given the uncertainty over the current account deficit, the slow transmission to bank lending and deposit rates and to credit growth, and because the differential with Euro rates is quite small compared to historical averages. With sterilization costs manageable, the NBRM should continue to sterilize further inflows in line with the monetary program. The further issuance of treasury bills for monetary policy purposes, especially with longer maturities, can help this process.

18. Despite the history of current account deficits, price competitiveness seems broadly appropriate at present. The real exchange rate has depreciated somewhat and, compared to countries with similar incomes, the Macedonian price level is low. Analysis indicates that the real exchange rate's current level is broadly in line with macroeconomic fundamentals. Although export market shares have declined, disaggregated data show this is largely explained by specialization in products with declining world market shares. Correcting this will require a reallocation to sectors that are growing more rapidly and with higher value added, through improving the business environment which would encourage FDI.

Structural Reforms for Growth and Employment

19. Though macroeconomic stability is a precondition, structural reform and improving institutional quality are also key if sustained growth of 5-6 percent is to be achieved. Since 1996, growth has averaged only 2 percent. Despite high unemployment rates, employment growth has been low, explaining part of this poor performance. Investment has been low too, but increasing investment from its current share of 22 percent of GDP to 25 percent of GDP, closer to the regional average, is likely to only raise the growth rate by around 2/3 of a percentage point. Productivity improvement is the most durable way to promote more rapid growth, and this is best achieved through building institutions that support a market environment. This will promote the transfer of ideas and best practices, especially through increased foreign direct investment, and allow existing labor and capital to be used more efficiently. Looking ahead, the scope for employment growth is also considerable, which should further boost output growth rates.

20. The wrong way to improve productivity and attract new investment would be to grant special concessions, such as offering tax breaks or subsidies to individual firms. Incentives schemes offering special treatment for investors do not succeed in attracting long term investment. The mission cautions the authorities against granting concessions (be it free economic zones, selling land below market prices, or direct subsidies to produce) to individual

firms. Aside from governance concerns, these result in investments that typically create little value added, erode the tax base, and encourage other investors to seek similar special treatment. These practices also harm those firms which had decided earlier to invest based on the country's fundamental merits, and so ultimately can deter productive investment.

21. The right way is to create an attractive environment for all investors, domestic and foreign, large or small, that attracts investment projects on their merits. Unfortunately, measures of the business environment, like the governance indicators prepared by the World Bank—covering areas such as the costs of opening and closing a business, hiring and laying off workers, and contract enforcement—rank FYR Macedonia poorly against its neighbors. There has also been little change in the last ten years, suggesting little reform effort, but also considerable scope for higher growth. The most important actions needed to improve governance and lower the costs of business include:

*

Continue judicial reform. The government has amended many laws, and even the constitution, to introduce a comprehensive judicial reform. A coherent and credible strategy to implement these changes is needed, to reduce the backlog of court cases and to improve governance in the judiciary. *

Enhance transparency of government action. Greater and more freely available information can promote better governance. The new Law on Free Access to Information should promote greater transparency. Electricity discounts should be offered to firms based not through individual negotiation but by clear rules based on rational and objective criteria. Abolishing discretionary power to sell state-owned land through direct negotiations would also strengthen governance. *

Liberalize the telecoms sector. Aside from being an EU requirement, this is also important for reducing the cost of doing business. Publication of information on the internet and greater use of e-government can improve governance and efficiency, but these will only become effective once the high cost of telecommunications and internet access is brought down.

22. The government also needs to develop plans for reducing unemployment. Though the headline rate exaggerates the problem, mainly because informal workers register as unemployed to claim health benefits, the underlying unemployment rate still likely exceeds 25 percent. Last year's labor law reform should help, but unemployment is still a serious economic and social problem. More rapid economic growth is the most effective way to reduce unemployment, but in addition the following reforms should be considered: (i) reducing the labor tax wedge by funding healthcare by general taxes instead of social contributions on payroll; (ii) eliminating licensing requirements which should encourage the growth of small and medium-term enterprises; (iii) promoting part-time employment by phasing out minimum social contributions (which are based on minimum salaries assuming full time work for the whole month); (iv) reforming the education system to create human capital attractive to the needs of employers. Steps should also be taken to measure unemployment more accurately, by delinking health benefits from unemployment registration, using existing public works projects to screen those who are truly unemployed, and using sanctions made possible by the judicial reform to encourage registration in the formal economy.

23. Sustained growth also requires a sound and well-functioning financial system. The number of banks and savings houses is very high for the country's size, suggesting considerable room for consolidation. By and large, the banking sector is adequately capitalized and liquid, though some weaknesses associated with the high level of non-earning assets and high operating costs persist, which lower bank profitability. With poor powers of creditor enforcement, banks have preferred to hold government paper rather than to lend; the recent reduction in NBRM rates could strain profitability in the less efficient banks. Foreign bank penetration is moderate, with most of the entrants from neighboring countries, and focused on providing services for their nationals' businesses. No major foreign bank has entered the market.

24. While much progress has been made, to enhance financial intermediation the authorities should consider: (i) continuing to strengthen banking supervision (especially in light of risks associated with foreign currency lending); (ii) revising the banking law to make it more in line with international best practice and EU directives; (iii) improving implementation of the law (especially bankruptcy and contract enforcement) to nurture a credit culture; (iv) strengthening transparency and corporate governance (for banks and also enterprises); (v) enhancing

competition in the banking system (through entry of foreign banks, including allowing those from countries meeting high supervisory standards to open branches); (vi) increasing minimum capital adequacy ratios while enforcing the gradual write off of foreclosed assets; (vii) improving the quality of financial reporting and auditing; (viii) reducing intermediation costs (ending taxation of provisioning for bad loans and remunerating reserve requirements at closer to market rates); (ix) enhancing the functioning of the credit registry within the central bank.

25. Finally, the mission would like to thank the Macedonian authorities, parliamentarians, union leaders, and representatives of the business and academic communities, for their hospitality, helpful discussions, and cooperation. We look forward to returning to Skopje for discussions after the elections.

GRÆKENLAND

Seneste Parlamentsvalg 040307.

De fleste Immigranter er Albanere. Kathimerini skriver:

Most foreign nationals in Greece are Albanians, according to latest data

The most characteristic aspect of Greece's wave of immigration is that 60 percent of migrants come from Albania.

The latest count from the Immigration Policy Institute gives the following information on immigrants to Greece:

– Some 83 percent of immigrants hail from Albania and other former Eastern bloc countries. Most of the immigrants from these lands come to Greece to seek employment (70 percent), while the rest come to be reunited with members of their family already living in Greece or to work in independent jobs.

– Many immigrants — about 132,000, or 17 percent of the total population — live in Athens. Another 7 percent of migrants live in Thessaloniki.

- Some 80 percent of immigrants are of working age, compared to 68 percent of Greeks.

- More than 50 percent of the immigrants living in Greece want to stay here.

 Some 300,000 immigrants are insured. Of those, 230,000 use the Social Security Foundation (IKA), more than 50,000 use the Farmers' Pension Fund (OGA) and 10,000 use the fund for the self-employed (TEBE).

- Albanians comprise 6.9 percent of all those insured.

– Even though the total school-age population (in junior high, senior high and technical high schools) has dropped by about 8.9 percent, there has been a 20.8 percent increase in foreignborn students.

More than 85 percent of foreign students in junior high schools were born outside of Greece.
Most of these students have already lived in Greece between six and eight years.

 In the junior high schools of outlying Attica, the immigrant population is made up of 75 ethnicities.

About 80.02 percent are Albanians, followed by Russians (2.8 percent), Bulgarians (2.3 percent), Hungarians (2.2 percent), Romanians (1.5 percent), Armenians (1.3 percent), Moldovans (1.2 percent), Kazakhs (1.2 percent) and Georgians (1.15 percent).

In senior high and technical high schools in outlying Attica, foreign graduates hail from 70 different countries. Some 83.5 percent are Albanian.

– In the municipality of Thessaloniki, foreign students comprise 8.5 percent of the total student population in junior high schools. (In senior high schools they make up 3.4 percent and in technical high schools they make up 9.1 percent.) Some 56.3 percent of foreign students are Albanians, followed by Georgians (17.5 percent), Russians (7 percent) and Armenians (6.4 percent).

I en anden artikel står der:

Greece, meanwhile, has special issues with immigration. It's the only EU member state whose foreign-born population consists largely of one ethnic group: 60 percent of migrants to Greece are Albanians. Some 30 percent of Albania's GDP — about 1 billion euros — is composed of incomes sent home from Albanian immigrants working abroad. Of that amount, 700 million euros comes from Albanian immigrants in Greece.

TYRKIET

UMs rejsevejledning: http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Borgerservice/FoerRejsen/Rejsevejledninger/RejsevejledningTyrkiet.htm.

Seneste Parlamentsvalg blev holdt 021103. Det blev i December 2004 aftalt (med EUs Regeringschefer)at der i Oktober 2005 skal indledes forhandlinger om optagelse af Tyrkiet i EU.

LANDE UDEN FOR BALKAN OG ØSTLIGE MIDDELHAV. NATO-LANDE

ITALIEN

<u>Mother Teresa</u>. I anledning af saligkåringen ('beatificeringen') 031019 har Vatikantet etableret en internetside: <u>http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20031019_index_madre-teresa_en.html</u>

Konference om Economic governance in the European Union, arrangeret af den Italienske Ambassade i Tirana. Se under: <u>Albanien</u>.

USA



Amerikansk rapport om korruptionen i Albanien er udsendt. Den Amerikanske Ambassadør, Marcie Ries, udtaler at der i de seneste år er sket fremskridt, at man er nødt til at skabe stærkere konsensus om kampen mod korruptionen, og at der er en del der mangler at blive rettet op på. Rapporten hjælper til at refokusere på problemerne. Se under: <u>Albanien</u>.

Amerikansk rapport om trafficking. "Albania is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Victims are trafficked to Greece and Italy, with many of these victims trafficked onward to the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany, and the Netherlands. Internal trafficking within Albania and re-trafficking of Albanian victims to other countries remained a problem in 2005. Reports of Roma and Egyptian children trafficked for forced labor or begging continued." Se under: <u>Albanian</u>.

Michael Hayden er sværget ind som DCIA. CIA skriver:

President Attends Swearing-In Ceremony of CIA Director Michael Hayden

CIA Headquarters

Langley, Virginia

31 May 2006 2:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thanks for the warm welcome. It's great to be back with the really fine people here at the Central Intelligence Agency.

I'm honored to be here at the swearing-in of Mike Hayden as America's new Director of the CIA. He's such a good man, we're going to swear him in twice -- (laughter) -- yesterday and today.



President George W. Bush looks on as Director of National Intelligence John D. Negroponte administers the oath of office to General Michael V. Hayden, USAF, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. General Hayden's wife, Jeanine C. Hayden, holds a Bible for the oath. The ceremony took place in the CIA headquarters lobby in front of the memorial to the Office of Strategic Services and a statue of OSS Director William J. Donovan.

President George W. Bush looks on as Director of National Intelligence John D. Negroponte administers the oath of office to General Michael V. Hayden, USAF, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. General Hayden's wife, Jeanine C. Hayden, holds a Bible for the oath. The ceremony took place in the CIA headquarters lobby in front of the memorial to the Office of Strategic Services and a statue of OSS Director William J. Donovan.

Mike is a patriot, he's a reformer, he's one of our nation's finest intelligence professionals. I know firsthand how good this guy is; I've worked with him on some really important issues related to the security of the United States. He brings more than two decades of experience in the intelligence field. He is going to be a superb leader for the dedicated men and women of the CIA.

I appreciate Ambassador Negroponte being with us today, the Director of National Intelligence.

I want to thank Attorney General Al Gonzales for joining us, and the Director of the FBI, Bob Mueller, for joining us, as well. But most importantly, thank you all for coming.

I'm proud to serve with you. It is such an honor to serve the United States of America and I appreciate your serving along my side to make America secure. The role of the CIA is critical to the security of the United States. This agency is helping to lead the intelligence war against the terrorists who attacked us on September the 11th, 2001. They continue to plot attacks, and together, we are going to stop them.

The role of the CIA is vital to my doing my job. I cannot do my job without the Central Intelligence Agency. This agency remains the principle provider of intelligence analysis to the President, to the Director of National Intelligence, and to senior national security officials in my administration. As Director of the CIA, Mike will continue the reforms needed. America's leaders are going to have the best possible intelligence, and Mike Hayden is going to work with you to see that that's the case.

I've asked Mike to continue to develop the human intelligence capabilities of the CIA which are essential to understanding the plans and intentions of dangerous regimes and terrorist organizations around the world. I've asked Mike to continue improving the analytical skills of the CIA, which apply the best minds to interpret the intelligence that we gather. I'm confident that under Mike's leadership, the CIA will help us stay ahead of America's enemies and win the war on terror.

The men and women who work here at the CIA have got a tough job and a really important job. You must penetrate closed societies and secretive organizations. You must master foreign languages and deal with unfamiliar cultures. Much of your work is secret, and American lives depend on that work remaining secret. America appreciates the good work you're doing, and so do I.

And in Mike Hayden, you have a leader who recognizes your talents, who understands your challenges, and will ensure that you remain the finest intelligence agency in the world.

In his new position, Mike will build on the good work of Director Porter Goss. Nearly two years ago, I asked Porter to take on a tough assignment, the transformation of the CIA. Porter carried out that assignment with skill and determination. He upheld the high standards and proud tradition of the agency. And he leaves behind a CIA that's stronger than the one he found. And Laura and I wish Porter and his family well as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Mike Hayden succeeds Porter Goss at a time of great change in the world, and great challenge for our intelligence community. Under the leadership of John Negroponte, our intelligence community is growing more integrated and more effective every day. And under the leadership of Mike Hayden, the Central Intelligence Agency will continue to play a critical role in our nation's intelligence enterprise. Mike understands that the CIA must transform to confront new dangers, and do so without slowing the high tempo at which it already operates to protect this country. I'm confident that with Mike Hayden at the helm, the CIA will succeed, and continue to make important contributions to the security of the American people.

As Mike takes on this important assignment, he has my trust, my full trust, and he has the support of a loving family. I'm glad to see his wife, Jeanine, his children and grandchildren, and his father, Harry, and all the other members of the Hayden family who have joined us, as well, today.

I want to thank Mike for agreeing to serve our nation once again, and I look forward to continuing to work with him to do our duty to protect the American people.

Thank you all for coming today. May God bless Mike Hayden, may God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America. (Applause.)

(The oath of office is administered.) (Applause.)

DIRECTOR HAYDEN: Thank you all very much. I will keep this very short. Mr. President, thank you for the honor of placing your confidence in me, and for all of us here and around the world, thank you for the faith you have placed in this agency.

For my family, thank you once again for your continued support. I could not be more grateful.

To my new friends and partners here at the Central Intelligence Agency, thank you for the warmth of your welcome over the last 24 hours. The President has laid out in front of us what we have to do, and as I said yesterday in the bubble when I talked to you for the first time, let's just go to work.

Thank you all. (Applause.)

ENGLAND

TYSKLAND

FRANKRIG

DANMARK (NORGE, SVERIGE)

Den Danske UM, Dr Per Stig Møller, besøgte Albanien tirsdag 06.06.2006 - onsdag 07.07.2006. Se under: <u>Albanien</u>.

Ugerapport fra Dansk KFOR. Hærens Operative Kommando - se under: Kosova.

LANDE UDEN FOR BALKAN OG ØSTLIGE MIDDELHAV. *IKKE NATO-LANDE*

RUSLAND

UMs Rejsevejledning: http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Borgerservice/FoerRejsen/Rejsevejledninger/RejsevejledningRusland.htm

KINA





