

Sidste Nyt fra Albanien, Kosóva og Makedonien

The Latest News from Albania, Kosóva and Macedonia

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Politikeren og forfatteren Pjeter Arbnori er død. Se under: [Albanien](#).



The framework of *The Latest News from Albania, Kosóva and Macedonia* is in Danish - nevertheless, the news are mostly in English. You may send information, comments and questions to: [»The Latest News«](#) [please click].

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UGEOVERSIGT (resumé)

ICTY vs Milutinovic et al. (IT-99-37, jf. IT-05-87). Retssagen mod tidl. Præsident Milutinovic m.fl. påbegyndes i Haag.

Kosóva: Kosovo's / Kosóva's fremtid. Forhandlingerne: Der har været forhandlinger i Wien i den sidste halvdel af Juli under forsæde af Martti Ahtisaari. Ifølge presseoplysninger var resultaterne meget beskedne. AP skrev bl.a.: »The Serbian delegation has suggested as many as 13 new municipalities, a proposal based on the ethnic composition of Kosovo before the 1998-99 bloody conflict in the province. Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister Lutfi Haziri told reporters Wednesday morning his delegation will offer the creation of five Serb-run municipalities.« + »Austria-Ethnic Albanian and Serbian negotiators failed Tuesday to finalize an agreement on the protection of Serbian Orthodox religious sites in Kosovo, officials said.«

Chefpolitiinspektør Kai Vittrup, der leder UNMIK-Politiet, fratræder for at overtage ledelsen af det Internationale Politi i Sudan. Vittrup har i den senere tid været særlig stærkt beskyttet af bodyguards fordi han trues af Kosova-Albansk mafia. »Der er ingen trusler, der kan drive mig ud herfra. Det er med vemod, at jeg forlader stedet, men der er andre steder, der trænger mere til støtte, og der melder jeg mig«, siger han til »Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten«.

Tyske KFOR-tropper placeret i Nord-Kosóva: BELGRADE, Aug 2 (Tanjug) - Two hundred German troops have been deployed in the north of Kosovo, as part of the additional NATO forces that had arrived in Kosovo and Metohija, Tanjug learns at the press center of the Brigade North on Wednesday. The deployment of the reserve troops, totaling 650 German soldiers, has started in the whole of the Kosovo territory, it was said at the Press Center. The German troops are stationed at the KFOR base near Leposavic, where another 100 soldiers at the most from other KFOR brigades will also be stationed.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CONCLUDES EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION Human Rights Committee ROUND-UP 28 July 2006 Adopts Final Conclusions and Recommendations on Reports of the Central African Republic, the United States and **UNMIK**

Albanien: 060703 Finn Theilgaard, chargé d'affaires på den Danske Ambassade, har haft sin sidste arbejdsdag på ambassaden i Tirana. Han efterfølges senere af Ambassadør Niels Severin Munk, hidtil Dhaka, Bangladesh. Theilgaard har bl.a. haft møde med Præsident Moisiu, der tildelte ham en særlig hædersbevisning.

Zef Pllumbi, Romersk-Katolsk Præst, der var fængslet i mange år i Hoxha-tiden, blev dekoreret samme dag. I højtideligheden deltog bl.a. Ismail Kadaré.

Politikeren og forfatteren Pjeter Arbnori er død. Arbnori blev fængslet i 1961 og sad fængslet i 28 år for anti-kommunistisk virksomhed. Han var én af stifterne af det Demokratiske Parti og blev parlamentsmedlem; han var Parlamentsformand fra 1992 til 1997. Han stillede senest op til valget i 2005, men blev ikke valgt. Han har skrevet romaner og noveller. Han var under behandling på et hospital i Napoli, da han døde af hjerteslag. Han blev 71 og efterlader sig kone og to døtre.

Økonomen og Politikeren Gramoz Pashko er død. Han slog sit hovede meget alvorligt under dykning ved Himara og skulle flyves med en Bell-helikopter til et Italiensk hospital for behandling; imidlertid forulykkede helikopteren over Adriaterhavet og alle ombordværende omkom, også Pashko's 24-årige søn, Ruben Pashko [Rubin Pashko]. Regeringen har besluttet at helikopteren skal findes og bjærges.

Regeringspartierne ønsker Chefanklager Theodhori Sollaku afskediget, Oppositionen (Socialister m.fl.) undlod at stemme i protest mod fremgangsmåden.

Præsidenten har underskrevet loven om tilbagegivelse af og kompensation for ejendom [President Moisiu decreed the Law on the return and compensation of property]. Det har taget år at komme dértil, for sagen er meget kompliceret: Hvilken regler skulle gælde, når ejendom - der engang var privat - blev konfiskeret af den kommunistiske stat og siden privatiseret.

Der har været drøftelser om en valgreform. Nuværende valgeregler kan ses på: http://www.osce.org/documents/pia/2005/04/14076_en.pdf. **President Moisiu demands consensus between the majority and opposition and their keeping of the promises about the electoral reform.**

060706 **NATO Generalsekretær - Jaap de Hoop Scheffer - har været i Albanien. Han har besøgt Præsident Moisiu og holdt en tale til det Albanske Parlament.**

IMF har udsendt materiale om Albansk økonomi: A central theme of the Article IV Consultation was how Albania could sustain its impressive growth performance and raise income levels towards those of middle-income economies. The following selected issues papers cover key areas that would help achieve this: an examination of the determinants of growth and the microeconomic underpinnings for growth focusing on the problem of uncertain property rights; the role of remittances in the economy; and the policy response to rapid credit growth.

Albanian Media Institute har udsendt 2 Newsletters (om medielovgivning og efteruddannelsesaktiviteter).

Serbien: **Serbia will not renounce Kosovo-Metohija for accelerated EU accession + Protection zones for religious and cultural legacy in Kosovo-Metohija necessary.**

Økonomien: IMF har udsendt et statement. Serbia and Montenegro—2006 Article IV Consultation and Post-Program Monitoring.

Makedonien: Parlamentsvalg onsdag 05.07.2006. Valget blev vundet af oppositionen; ny PM ventes at blive Nikola Gruevski; den hidtidige PM - Vlado Buckovski - har erkendt nederlaget. Grevski og VMRO-DPMNE vil intensivere arbejdet for at få Makedonien optaget i EU og NATO. Man vil søge at gøre landet mere attraktivt for investeringer. ... **Ljubisha Georgievski elected for new Parliament Speaker ...**

Økonomien: IMF har udsendt materiale om Makedonsk økonomi: Report on Observance of Standards and Codes - Fiscal Transparency Module.

England: »Mjaft« ('Nu kan det være nok!') har fået en afdeling i England. Ét af medlemmerne, Ralf Gjoni, har brokket sig over en 'tendentøs' eller 'skæv' omtale af Albanien i the »Sunday Times«. Links til artikel og 'brok' i nyhedsbrevet.

Danmark. Norge: DIIS har udsendt »Danish Foreign Policy Yearbook 2006«.

Både den Danske Chargé d'Affaires og den Norske Ambassadør i Tirana er fratrådt i sommerens løb, da deres periode udløb. Se under: [Albanien](#).

INTERNATIONALE ORGANISATIONER m.v.

Opmærksomheden henledes på *Economic Reconstruction and Development in South East Europe*. Adressen er www.seerecon.org. 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

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 Milutinovic et al. (IT-99-37, jf. IT-05-87). Retssagen mod tidl. Præsident Milutinovic m.fl. påbegyndes i Haag. ICTY meddeler:

The trial of six former high-level political and military leaders of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) charged with alleged crimes in Kosovo during 1999, will begin on Monday, 10 July at 9.00 a.m. in Courtroom I.

The charges against Milan Milutinovic, Nikola Šainovic, Dragoljub Ojdanic, Nebojša Pavkovic, Vladimir Lazarevic and Sreten Lukic, all former associates of former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milošević, focus on an alleged campaign of terror and violence directed against Kosovo Albanians and other non-Serbs living in Kosovo. The crimes with which they are charged include deportation, forcible transfer, murder and persecutions of thousands of Kosovo Albanians.

The prosecution's indictment alleges that the accused participated in a joint criminal enterprise, the purpose of which was, among other things, to modify the ethnic balance in Kosovo to ensure continued Serb control over the province. The accused, and other members of the joint criminal enterprise, used the powers available to them as political and military leaders to achieve this purpose by criminal means consisting of a widespread or systematic campaign of terror and violence that included deportations, murders, forcible transfers and persecutions directed at the Kosovo Albanian population.

According to the indictment approximately 800,000 Kosovo Albanian civilians were deported.

The prosecution asserts that throughout Kosovo, forces of Serbia and the FRY systematically shelled towns and villages, burned homes and farms, damaged and destroyed Kosovo Albanian cultural and religious institutions, murdered Kosovo Albanian civilians and other persons taking no active part in the hostilities, and sexually assaulted Kosovo Albanian women.

A pre-trial conference will be held on Friday, 7 July 2006 at 9.00 a.m. in Courtroom III, all accused will be present.

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



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: http://europa.eu.int/comm/publications/booklets/eu_glance/20/da.pdf.

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 FN's Generalsekretær](#) • 040616 SG Kofi Annan udtaler at han agter at udpege Søren Jessen-Petersen som 5' SRSG. [Søren Jessen-Petersen](#) blev senere udpeget og tiltrådte i Kosóva 040816. Søren Jessen-Petersen fratræder igen i slutningen af juni 2006 • 0308 Harri Holkeri tiltrådte som 4' SRSG. Fratrædt 0406 af helbredsmæssige grunde. • 020214 Michael Steiner tiltrådte i Kosova som 3' SRSG og fratrædte i begyndelsen af 0307. • En biografi over 2' SRSG Hans Hækkerup kan læses på [Danske Politikere](#). 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 [Fatmir Sejdiu](#)

Kosovo's / Kosóva's fremtid. Forhandlingerne: Der har været forhandlinger i Wien i den sidste halvdel af Juli under forsæde af Martti Ahtisaari. Ifølge presseoplysninger var resultaterne meget beskedne. AP skrev bl.a.: »*The Serbian delegation has suggested as many as 13 new municipalities, a proposal based on the ethnic composition of Kosovo before the 1998-99 bloody conflict in the province. Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister Lutfi Haziri told reporters Wednesday morning his delegation will offer the creation of five Serb-run municipalities.*« + »*Austria-Ethnic Albanian and Serbian negotiators failed Tuesday to finalize an agreement on the protection of Serbian Orthodox religious sites in Kosovo, officials said.*« Se under: [Serbien](#).

KiM Info Newsletter 25-07-06

Vienna Negotiations Over Kosovo Fall Through

Asked by a journalist if any progress had been achieved at the negotiations, Ahtisaari replied: "No! I would be lying if I said that. This is the first session of such a kind, and it would be unrealistic to expect any progress to be made." He said that talks were unsuccessful because stances of Belgrade and Prishtina remained diametrically different. "Belgrade still accepts everything but independence while Prishtina wants only independence," said Ahtisaari.

Still no agreement on Kosovo's future - Belgrade and Pristina meeting in Vienna

Vienna, 24 Jul (RTS) - Face-to-face talks between the Serbian and Kosovo's Albanian leaders on the final status of Kosovo, which started out on Monday in Vienna, ended with no results,

UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari said.

Asked by a journalist if any progress had been achieved at the negotiations, Ahtisaari replied: "No! I would be lying if I said that. This is the first session of such a kind, and it would be unrealistic to expect any progress to be made."

He said that talks were unsuccessful because stances of Belgrade and Prishtina remained diametrically different. "Belgrade still accepts everything but independence while Prishtina wants only independence," said Ahtisaari.

"The goal of the international community is to create the conditions for a normal life of all of its communities. Serbia is of vital importance in this process and those conditions cannot be created without Belgrade," stated Ahtisaari.

Ahtisaari said that there is still a possibility for reaching a solution by the end of this year adding this is why everyone will be working throughout the entire summer. He announced that the next meeting will take place in early August.

The UN special envoy said he is encouraged by the unity of the Contact Group, adding that this gives him a great deal support in his effort to find a good solution.

B92 skrev:

The Serbian PM Vojislav Koštunica began his address explaining Serbia's solution to the Kosovo status problem: essential autonomy formula. He said that this autonomy must be guaranteed with a constitutional agreement. Kosovo's constitutional jurisdiction will be implemented by the province's institutions, legislative, executive and judicial government. According to this formula, Serbia would be in charge of foreign affairs and borders. Koštunica also said that due to the province's specific ethnic structure, the parliament would have a number of seats reserved for the Serb and other non-Albanian representatives. He added that laws could not be passed unless the majority of Serb PMs voted in favor.

During the break between the two sessions, Serbian president Boris Tadic said that Albanians had demanded unconditional independence without showing a desire to negotiate. "We are here to talk, but all we get from the Albanians is an ultimatum demanding independence", president Tadic said.

In his address at the beginning of the talks, Kosovo president Fatmir Sejdiu said that the independence is the "alpha and omega" of all. He said that the Kosovo Albanians expect Kosovo's independence until the end of this year. "Further postponing determining Kosovo status is in no one's interest and can only damage peace and stability in South-Eastern Europe," said Sejdiu. Sejdiu emphasized that "in spite of the severe crimes which the Serbian state did to Kosovo, the leading desire of the Kosovo people is to build a multiethnic society, with the same rights for all of its communities". The Kosovo president called on Belgrade to recommend the Kosovo Serbs to take part in the work of the province's institutions, that way allowing them to take their rightful place in the Kosovo institutions. "They are always welcome," concluded Sejdiu. After that, the Kosovo PM Agim Ceku and the opposition DPK party leader Hashim Thaci took a stand. The latter spoke about Kosovo's future status of full independence. That state would then cooperate with its neighbors, work on creating a national identity, and have its state symbols supporting Kosovo's civil identity.

Se evt. reportage på BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/5208920.stm> + <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/5232320.stm>.

Chefpolitiinspektør Kai Vittrup, der leder UNMIK-Politiet, fratræder for at overtage ledelsen af det Internationale Polit i Sudan. Vittrup har i den senere tid været særlig stærkt beskyttet af bodyguards fordi han trues af Kosova-Albansk mafia. »Der er ingen trusler, der kan drive mig ud herfra. Det er med vemod, at jeg forlader stedet, men der er andre steder, der trænger mere til støtte, og der melder jeg mig«, siger han til »Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten«.

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Vurdering af Regeringen. Makfax skriver:

Divided opinions over activity of Kosovo's Government during fir

Pristina /12/07/ 19:04

Representatives of the Kosovo's public life voiced divided opinions over activity of Kosovo's Government during the first 100 days.

Hajredin Kuci, the Vice President of the opposition Democratic Party of Kosovo (DPK), said that in its report, the Government proved incapable to acknowledge its flaws.

Kuci, who is a Prime Minister of the DPK's shadow government, said that report contains only records of routine matters, visits and protocolary visits, which are represented as Government's accomplishments.

According to him, the report lacks elements of developmental policy, i.e. plans for economic development, creating new jobs and rural development.

Naim Maqoku, the Vice-President of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AZBK) and member of the Presidency of Kosovo's Assembly, described the Government's report as satisfying.

AZBK is a junior partner in the Kosovo's coalition Government, led by the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo.

Maqoku congratulated the Prime Minister for completing a good job and his dedication in implementation of the Government's programme, achieving standards and battle against corruption.

Kosovo's Assembly is due to review on Thursday the report on activity of Kosovo's Government during first 100 days, following the introductory statement by the Prime Minister Agim Ceku.



Pressemeddelelser fra UNMIK:

Decentralization talks on the UN-run province of Kosovo held in Vienna

19 July 2006 – In the run-up to a high-level meeting next week on the future status of the United Nations-run province of Kosovo, delegations from Pristina and the Serbian capital of Belgrade met today in Vienna to discuss the decentralization process in the province, a UN spokesman said.

Yesterday the two delegations, hosted by the Special Envoy for the Kosovo Future Status Process Martti Ahtisaari, met for discussions on the protection of the religious and cultural heritage of Kosovo, UN spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters.

Next Monday's status talks, also to be hosted by Mr. Ahtisaari, will be a chance to move the twice monthly dialogue from the technical to a political level.

Last week, Serbia's Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu briefed the Security Council members in separate sessions regarding the province's future

status. Kosovo, an Albanian-majority Serbian province, has been run by the UN since Western forces drove out Yugoslav troops in 1999 amid ethnic fighting.

Kosovo and Serb leaders meet for first time on the province's status at UN-backed talks

24 July 2006 – Top Serbian and Kosovar leaders met for the first time today to discuss plans for the future status of the United Nations-run province of Kosovo, and while both sides remain far apart politically, the UN official overseeing the discussions welcomed the start of dialogue and said the world body remained committed to further negotiations.

The meeting, which was held in Vienna under the auspices of Martti Ahtisaari, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Kosovo's future status process, included Serbia's President Boris Tadic and Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica. The Kosovo delegation was led by President Fatmir Sejdiu.

"The High-level meeting we just had here is a result of the clear wish on the part of the parties to move to direct talks on the future status," Mr. Ahtisaari said at a press conference afterwards.

"Today's discussion was meant to enable both sides to present and argue their respective positions, and the meeting did achieve that objective. The presentations showed that it is evident that the positions of the parties remain far apart: Belgrade would agree to almost anything but independence, whereas Pristina would accept nothing but full independence."

Today's meeting was also the first formal one between top Serbian and Kosovar leaders since 1999, although Mr. Ahtisaari has facilitated lower-level technical talks between the two sides since February and he said his office intended "to move rapidly forward" with further technical discussions.

"We will also focus increasingly on areas which have not been discussed – namely, community rights and constitutional and institutional aspects of the status process. Again, substantial progress in these areas requires the parties to be realistic and flexible."

He stressed that one of the central aims of the international community is to create conditions in Kosovo where all communities can live in a multi-ethnic society, adding that the full support of Serbia was of vital importance for this.

"I have reminded the participants today that we should not lose sight of the fact that the process we are engaged in is about all the people of Kosovo, from all of Kosovo's communities. The people expect them to exercise leadership, so does the international community."

Kosovo, an Albanian-majority Serbian province, has been run by the UN since Western forces drove out Yugoslav troops in 1999 amid grave human rights abuses in ethnic fighting.

Human Rights Committee ends session with reports on UN mission and two countries

28 July 2006 – The panel of experts monitoring the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) today wrapped up its latest session after examining compliance reports by the Central African Republic and the United States and, for the first time, a United Nations peacekeeping operation – the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

The countries that presented their reports for the consideration of the 18-Member Human Rights Committee, meeting in Geneva, are among the 156 States parties to the Covenant, which was adopted in 1966 by the General Assembly.

UNMIK's report was presented in response to a request by the Committee in its final observations on the initial report of the country known as Serbia and Montenegro when its report was submitted in 2004. As Kosovo is a UN-administered Serbian province, presentations were made by UNMIK and the Provisional Institutions of Government in Kosovo, as well as representatives of Serbia.

The ICCPR affirms that all peoples have the right to self-determination as well as the right to life, liberty and security of person. It prohibits torture, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, and the arbitrary deprivation of life. The Covenant also provides, among other protections, for freedom of movement, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and freedom of expression.

Under the Covenant's Optional Protocol, 105 States parties recognize the Committee's competence to consider confidential communications from individuals claiming to be victims of violations of rights proclaimed under the treaty. Some 57 States parties have ratified or acceded to the Covenant's Second Optional Protocol, which aims to abolish the death penalty.

In its discussion of the combined second and third report of the US discussed in the session that ended today, the committee praised a number of recent Supreme Court decisions on criminal detention and prosecution, but expressed concern over "credible and uncontested information" of secret detentions and extreme interrogations techniques, the abandonment of which it welcomed. It also noted with concern reports of shortcomings in the investigation of maltreatment in detention facilities in Guantanamo, Afghanistan, Iraq and other overseas locations.

Turning to the UNMIK report, the Committee welcomed the work of the Ombudsperson Institution and the promulgation of a Provisional Criminal Code, while expressing concern over the continuing impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the ethnic violence that preceded the UN mission's mandate, as well as the low priority given to cases of missing persons and the lack of investigation of accusations of the use of force by various security units in Kosovo.

While expressing satisfaction with legal measures in the Central African Republic (CAR) to ensure greater respect for human rights, the Committee noted with concern the persistence of discrimination against women, and requested that the country raise women's awareness of their rights, abolish polygamy and take other measures in that regard. Troubled by the large number of forced disappearances, summary executions, reports of torture and other penal abuses, the Committee also requested the CAR to monitor the conditions in its prisons.

The Committee, which traditionally holds three sessions per year, will convene next on 16 October, in Geneva, to consider reports of Honduras, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and the Republic of Korea.

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CONCLUDES EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Human Rights Committee ROUND-UP 28 July 2006

Adopts Final Conclusions and Recommendations on Reports of the Central African Republic, the United States and UNMIK

The Human Rights Committee concluded today its eighty-seventh session, during which it considered and adopted concluding observations and recommendations on the reports submitted by the Central African Republic and the United States on how they implement the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Committee also considered and adopted concluding observations on the report of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) on the human rights situation in Kosovo since 1999, marking the first time that a United Nations mission has reported to a treaty body on measures taken to implement the provisions of a treaty.

The Governments of the Central African Republic and the United States sent delegations to answer questions raised by Committee Experts in keeping with their obligations as States parties to the Covenant. UNMIK's report was presented in response to a request by the Committee in its final observations on the initial report of the then Serbia and Montenegro, submitted in 2004, and was introduced by a joint delegation from UNMIK and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government. The Committee also heard an introductory statement from a Serbian delegation, as Kosovo is a separately administered province of Serbia, which is one of the 156 States parties to the Covenant.

Concerning the second periodic report of the Central African Republic, the Committee noted

the efforts undertaken to ensure greater respect for human rights and to establish the rule of law in the country. The Committee was particularly concerned by the delegation's statement that, while the Central African Republic wished to undertake reforms to combat discrimination against women, it was the women themselves who did not wish to enjoy the same rights as men. The Committee, among other things, requested the State party to strengthen its efforts to raise women's awareness of their rights, and to promote their political participation and access to work and education.

Following its consideration of the combined second and third periodic reports of the United States, the Committee welcomed the Supreme Court's decision in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* (2006) establishing the applicability of common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 in any armed conflict. The Committee was concerned by credible and uncontested information that the State party engaged in the practice of detaining people secretly for months and years on end. With regards to the Patriot Act, the Committee was concerned that the State Party still monitored phone, e-mail, and fax communications of individuals within and outside the United States, and requested the State Party to ensure that interference in privacy was conducted only where strictly necessary, under protection of the law, and that appropriate remedies were made available.

Among positive aspects in the report submitted by UNMIK on the human rights situation in Kosovo since 1999, the Committee noted that the Covenant was part of applicable law in Kosovo, and was subsequently included in the Constitutional Framework for the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government. The Committee was concerned about the absence of information on the number and nature of allegations concerning excessive use of force by UNMIK, the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the Kosovo Police Service, and about the reported failure to investigate such acts. UNMIK, in cooperation with the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government and KFOR, should ensure that such complaints were investigated. It should also intensify efforts to ensure safe conditions for sustainable returns of displaced persons; and ensure freedom of movement and access to essential services to minority communities.

During the session, the Committee considered communications from individuals submitted under the first Optional Protocol to the Covenant. The Protocol, for the 105 States that have ratified it, allows review by the Committee of complaints from persons alleging violations of the terms of the Covenant. Such reviews are carried out in private meetings, and the Committee's conclusions on cases considered during the session will be released at a later date.

Also during the session, the Committee held a discussion on its revised General Comment on article 14 of the International Covenant on the right to a fair trial.

During the course of its session, the Committee adopted a report by its Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Views, Nisuke Ando, which analyses and makes recommendations for action on individual communications that are before the Committee. In addition, it adopted the report of its Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations, Rafael Rivas Posada, which outlines States parties' activities to address the Committee's recommendations made following a periodic review, and recommends actions to be taken by the Committee in that regard. Both those documents are incorporated in the Committee's Annual Report to the General Assembly, which it adopted towards the end of the current session and which covers issues relating to the eighty-fifth, eighty-sixth and eighty-seventh sessions of the Committee.

At its last meeting, the Committee announced the results of Bureau decisions, appointing Committee Expert Ivan Shearer as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on Views, Committee Experts Abdelfattah Amor and Michael O'Flaherty as representatives of the Committee to the Working Group on Treaty Body Reform, and requesting Committee Expert Hipolito Solari-Yrigoyen to send the Committee's concluding observations on the Central African Republic and UNMIK to the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Juan Mendez.

The next session of the Committee will take place from 16 October to 3 November in Geneva, at which time the Committee will consider periodic reports from Honduras, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine and the Republic of Korea.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS ON COUNTRY REPORTS

Central African Republic

Concerning the second periodic report of the Central African Republic, the Committee noted the efforts undertaken by the State party to ensure greater respect for human rights and to establish the rule of law in the country, as well as the commitment of the delegation to the swift implementation of the Committee's recommendations. The Committee welcomed the adoption of Ordinance No. 05.002 of 22 February 2005 on freedom of the press and communications, which decriminalized a number of press-related offences. The Committee noted with satisfaction the measures taken by the Central African Republic with regard to juvenile justice matters, such as the establishment of juvenile courts and the fact that minors were no longer subject to incarceration.

The Committee noted with concern the persistence of discrimination against women both with regard to the exercise of political rights and in the sphere of education, as well as regarding their legal rights as wives and mothers. The Committee was particularly concerned by the delegation's statement to the effect that, while the Central African Republic wished to undertake reforms to combat discrimination against women, it was the women themselves who did not wish to enjoy the same rights as men. The Committee, among other things, requested the State party to strengthen its efforts to raise women's awareness of their rights and to promote their political participation and access to work and education. The Central African Republic should abolish polygamy and effectively combat the social climate that fostered it. It should also intensify efforts to raise awareness about female genital mutilation, in particular among those communities where it was prevalent, in addition to criminalizing that practice and punishing those who perpetrated it.

The Committee remained concerned by the large number of forced disappearances and summary and/or arbitrary executions that took place in the Central African Republic. It was similarly perturbed by reports that torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment were systematically practised, and that the justice officials responsible appeared to enjoy a wide impunity. The Committee was further troubled by the excessive length of police detentions, which could be extended to 16 days – and often exceeded that limit in practice – and that systematic access to a lawyer, a doctor or family members was not guaranteed. The State party should monitor conditions of detention in penal institutions to ensure that they complied with the minimum United Nations standards for the treatment of detainees and that all prisoners were adequately nourished. In that connection, the Central African Republic was encouraged to strengthen its prison reconstruction efforts.

United States

Following its consideration of the combined second and third periodic reports of the United States, the Committee welcomed a number of Supreme Court decisions including *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* (2006), establishing the applicability of common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 in any armed conflict; *Roper v. Simmons* (2005), holding that the execution of persons who were below the age of 18 when their crimes were committed violated the Constitution; *Atkins v. Virginia* (2002), holding that the execution of mentally retarded criminal defendants was a cruel and unusual punishment; and *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), which declared unconstitutional legislation criminalizing homosexual relations between consenting adults. The Committee also welcomed the adoption of the National Detention Standards in 2000, establishing minimum standards for detention facilities holding Department of Homeland Security detainees.

The Committee was concerned by credible and uncontested information that the State party had detained people secretly for months and years on end. It was also concerned that for a period of time the State party had authorized interrogation techniques such as prolonged stress positions and isolation, sensory deprivation, hooding, exposure to cold or heat, and 20-hour interrogations. While the Committee welcomed the assurance that those techniques were no longer authorized under the present Army Field Manual, the United States should ensure that the Manual only permitted techniques consistent with the prohibition contained in article 7 of the Covenant, and that those techniques were binding on all agencies of government and others acting for them. The Committee also noted with concern shortcomings in relation to the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of investigations conducted into allegations of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in detention facilities in Guantanamo, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other overseas locations, and into alleged cases of suspicious death in custody in those locations.

The Committee was further concerned that the State party appeared to have adopted a policy

to send, or to assist in sending, suspected terrorists to third countries for purposes of detention and interrogation, without the appropriate safeguards to prevent treatment prohibited by the Covenant. With regard to the amended Patriot Act, the Committee was concerned that the State Party had monitored and still monitored phone, e-mail, and fax communications of individuals both within and outside the United States. The State party should ensure that interference in privacy was conducted only where strictly necessary, under protection of the law, and that appropriate remedies were made available. Within the framework of discrimination, the Committee remained concerned about information that poor people, and in particular African-Americans, had been disadvantaged by the Hurricane Katrina rescue and evacuation plans, and continued to be disadvantaged under the reconstruction plans. In addition, the State party should assess the extent to which the death penalty was disproportionately imposed on ethnic minorities and on the low-income population, and adopt all appropriate measures to remedy that situation.

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Among the positive aspects in the report submitted by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo on the human rights situation in Kosovo since 1999, the Committee noted that the Covenant was part of applicable law in Kosovo, and was subsequently included in the Constitutional Framework for the PISG. The Committee welcomed the work accomplished by the Ombudsperson Institution created by UNMIK as an independent institution reporting to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, while noting that its mandate was terminated by the provision for a local Ombudsperson by the Assembly of Kosovo. The Committee welcomed the promulgation of a Provisional Criminal Code which included chapters on crimes under international law, on sexual offences, and on new forms of alternative punishment such as orders for community service, and of a Provisional Criminal Procedure Code that sought to strengthen judicial oversight of detention.

The Committee noted with concern that UNMIK and the PISG had not always extended due cooperation to the Ombudsperson, and that the Human Rights Advisory Panel established to receive and examine complaints against UNMIK lacked the necessary independence and authority. In that regard, UNMIK should ensure that full cooperation was extended to the new Ombudsperson, in particular by the PISG, and should reconsider arrangements for the authoritative human rights review of acts and omissions by UNMIK. The Committee was also concerned about the persistence of male-dominated attitudes within Kosovar society, and requested UNMIK to take prompt measures with the goal of achieving equal representation of women in public offices, and to intensify training for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers to combat gender discrimination and domestic violence.

The Committee was concerned about the continuing impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed prior to UNMIK's mandate and about ethnically motivated crimes perpetrated since June 1999, and regretted the failure of UNMIK to fully cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. It was also concerned that some 1,774 ethnic Albanians and 690 non-Albanians continued to be reported as missing at the end of 2005 and that low priority had been given to investigation of those cases. The Committee was concerned about the absence of information on the number and nature of allegations concerning excessive use of force by UNMIK, KFOR and the Kosovo Police Service, and about the reported failure to investigate such acts. UNMIK, in cooperation with the PISG and KFOR, should ensure that such complaints were investigated. It should also intensify efforts to ensure safe conditions for sustainable returns of displaced persons; and ensure freedom of movement and access to essential services to minority communities.

Membership of Committee

The States parties to the Covenant elect the Committee's 18 expert members who serve in their individual capacity for four-year terms. Article 28 of the Covenant requires that "they shall be persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights."

They are: Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia); Nisuke Ando (Japan); Prafullachandra Natwarlal Bhagwati (India); Alfredo Castillero Hoyos (Panama); Christine Chanet (France); Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo (Benin); Edwin Johnson Lopez (Ecuador); Walter Kälin (Switzerland); Ahmed Tawfik Khalil (Egypt); Rajsoomer Lallah (Mauritius); Michael O'Flaherty (Ireland); Elisabeth Palm (Sweden); Rafael Rivas Posada (Colombia); Sir Nigel Rodley (United Kingdom); Ivan Shearer (Australia); Hipolito Solari-Yrigoyen (Argentina); Ruth Wedgwood (United States); and Roman Wieruszewski (Poland).

* * * * *

For use of the information media; not an official record

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

KFOR Hold 15 har afsluttet den hjemlige uddannelse og klar til at tage af sted til missionsområdet.

31-07-2006 kl. 17:11

Cirka 300 danske soldater har netop afsluttet de sidste øvelser i Oksbøl forud for udsendelse til Kosovo i august, hvor de som DANCON KFOR Hold 15 vil fortsætte opgaven med at skabe og opretholde fred og sikkerhed for alle i Kosovo.

Kontingentchef, oberst Jørgen Michael Wallin ser frem til opgaven:- Siden 1999 har det danske kontingent gjort en forskel i Kosovo, og hold 15 vil med sikkerhed også få den rolle set i lyset af de igangværende afsluttende forhandlinger om Kosovos fremtid.

God øvelse

Bataljonens soldater har de seneste fire dage trænet en hel række scenarier, man kan forestille sig at komme ud for som dansk soldat i Kosovo – patruljering og løbende dialog med lokalbefolkningen og lokale magthavere, trafikuheld og indsatsberedskab, førstehjælp og stabsarbejde. Og så har bataljonen naturligvis trænet på de værst tænkelige situationer, som for eksempel væbnede optøjer mellem de etniske enklaver i bataljonens ansvarsområde omkring byen Mitrovica i det nordlige, Banja og Suvo Grla i det vestlige og Devic i det sydlige Kosovo.

- Det har været en øvelse, hvor kontingentet har demonstreret vilje og evne til samarbejde og udvist en professionel optræden, siger oberst Wallin.

Hold 15

DANCON KFOR Hold 15 drager af sted til Kosovo med cirka 300 mand fordelt på en stab, et stabskompagni, et panserinfanterikompani, en militærpolitisektion, et logistisk støtteelement og et Liaison and Monitoring Team, der har til opgave at tage pulsen på Kosovo og dets befolkning samt holde tæt kontakt med de forskellige lokale, regionale og internationale instanser i området. Herudover er der et dansk element med enkeltfunktioner, som indgår i Multinational Task Force North.

Afpassede virkemidler

En af de discipliner, bataljonen har trænet meget i Oksbøl, er boks-princippet. Det er kort sagt en løbende intensivering af virkemidler overfor en ophidset og muligvis bevæbnet folkemængde, der ikke vil følge politiets anvisninger om at forholde sig roligt.

Soldaterne skal hele tiden være i stand til at vurdere den mest hensigtsmæssige opførsel og vælge det rigtige virkemiddel overfor folkemængden, således at man ikke umiddelbart efter at have bedt folkemængden om at standse, hæver gevæerne. Virkemidlerne inkluderer for eksempel at danne kæde, både med og uden beskyttelsesudstyr og brug af gas.

100 procent klar

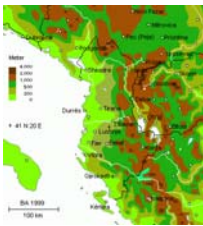
Kosovo er i øjeblikket inde i en rolig periode uden de store optøjer, men oberst Wallin forventer, at der i forbindelse med de afsluttende forhandlinger kan komme provokationer, der vil kræve kontingentets opmærksomhed.

- Men mine soldater er klar til Kosovo. 100 procent klar, siger oberst Wallin.

ØST KOSÓVA / PRESEVO-DALEN / SYD-SERBIEN

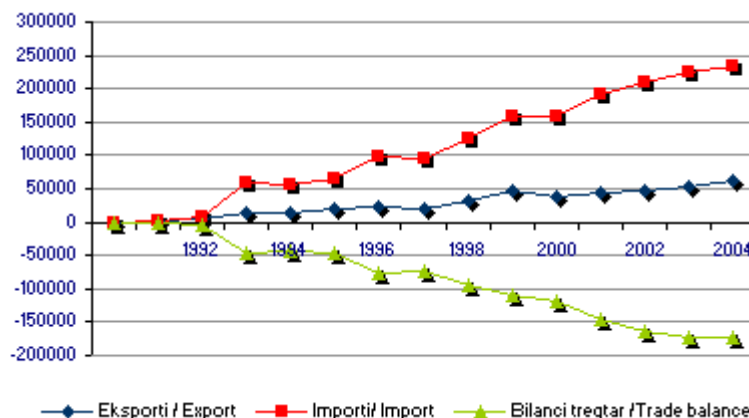
For nemheds skyld bruges betegnelsen *Øst Kosóva / Presevo-dalen* om det omstridte område med byerne: Presheva, Medvegja og Bujanoci (Albansk stavemåde). Ca. 75 % af befolkningen skønnes at være etniske Albanere - måske omkring 70.000. En modstandsgruppe har tidligere været i funktion, men synes nu at 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 Albanien Statistik: Befolkningstal: 3,1 Mio (1.1.2004). GDP (Gross Domestic Product): 630 Mia Lek (2002, current prices); GDP-structure: Agriculture: 26 %, Industry 10-11 %, Construction: 7-8 %, Services: 55-56 %. Export: 54 mia lek (2003) [heraf til Danmark: 23 mio lek; størrelsesorden 1,2 mio kr], Import: 226 mia lek (2003) [Heraf fra Danmark: 855 mio lek; størrelsesorden: 45-50 mio kr], Tradedeficit: 171 mia lek (2003). Største import fra Italien (75 mia lek) og Grækenland (45 mia lek), største eksport til Italien (40 mia lek). Unemployment: 14-15 % (2004-III)



Meddelelser til udlændinge fra det Albanske Indenrigsministerium. Det Engelske Udenrigsministeriums 'Country Advice' til rejsende kan findes på adressen: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Servlet?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>

060703 Finn Theilgaard, **chargé d'affaires på den Danske Ambassade, har haft sin sidste arbejdsdag på ambassaden i Tirana.** Han efterfølges senere af Ambassadør Niels Severin Munk, hidtil Dhaka, Bangladesh. Theilgaard har bl.a. haft møde med Præsident Moisiu, der tildelte ham en særlig hædersbevisning:



July 3, 2006

The President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu received today in a meeting the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Finn Theilgaard who is leaving our country.

During the friendly talk held at the meeting, President Moisiu pointed out the contribution of Mr. Theilgaard in the qualitative enhancement of the good relations between our two countries and peoples and also in the further strengthening of the cooperation to the benefit of reciprocal interests. Appreciating this contribution, the Head of state handed to the Danish Ambassador the Medal of Gratitude.

Then the interlocutors expressed the consideration for the positive achievements of Albania in its path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration by pointing out especially the signing of the Association-Stabilization Agreement by our country with the European Union and also other significant steps that will be taken in this direction.

060703 Zef Pllumbi, Romersk-Katolsk Præst, der var fængslet i mange år i Hoxha-tiden, blev dekoreret samme dag. I højtideligheden deltog bl.a. Ismail Kadaré.



July 3, 2006

The President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu handed today to Father Zef Pllumi, this high personality in the field of culture and Albanian literature, the distinguished Order "The Honour of the Nation."

At the decorating ceremony, President Moisiu held an address where he stressed the fact that Albanian society needs to pay tribute to its most precious values and their carriers at the right time, when these remarkable people are still with us by giving incessantly and with dedication their precious contribution.

The Head of state highly praised Father Zef Pllumi as "a representative of the human and cultural asset, as a true institution who resisted to the most difficult regimes and times and as the symbol of the free citizen, whose vision is inspired by the European values. At the same time, President Moisiu emphasized the importance that has for the younger generation to know the works of Father Zef Pllumi as a precious asset of our national memory in order to not allow

the return anymore of dictatorships in all their forms.

On his part, Father Zef Pllumi stated that he accepts willingly this honor, as a sign that from today on there would not be anymore censorship and districts', religious and ideological divisions that shatter the Albanian culture and as a sign of the unity of this culture throughout the centuries.

Present in this ceremony were the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, Fatos Beja, the Minister of Education and Science, Genc Pollo, the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Bujar Leskaj, the Archbishop of Tirana, Durres and entire Albania, Monsignor Rrok Mirdita, parliamentarians and other famed personalities of Albanian culture and publicists, among them also the noted writer Ismail Kadare and the Head of the Academy of Sciences, Ylli Popa.

Politikeren og forfatteren Pjeter Arbnori er død. Arbnori blev fængslet i 1961 og sad fængslet i 28 år for anti-kommunistisk virksomhed. Han var én af stifterne af det Demokratiske Parti og blev parlamentsmedlem; han var Parlamentsformand fra 1992 til 1997. Han stillede senest op til valget i 2005, men blev ikke valgt. Han har skrevet romaner og noveller. Han var under behandling på et hospital i Napoli, da han døde af hjerteslag. Han blev 71 og efterlader sig kone og to døtre.

Fig. kan ses på Præsident Moisiu's web-sted



Økonomen og Politikeren Gramoz Pashko er død. Han slog sit hovede meget alvorligt under dykning ved Himara og skulle flyves med en Bell-helikopter til et Italiensk hospital for behandling; imidlertid forulykkede helikopteren over Adriaterhavet og alle ombordværende omkom, også Pashko's 24-årige søn, Ruben Pashko [Rubin Pashko]. Regeringen har besluttet at helikopteren skal findes og bjærges. Billederne og de første to tekster er fra Præsident Moisiu's web-sted.



President Moisiu consoled the Pashko family and the families of the pilots Çondi dhe Heba for the loss of its beloved ones.

July 19, 2006

The President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu shared today with the family members of the noted politician, economist and professor, Gramoz Pashko the major grief about the loss of the beloved ones during the grave accident of July 16, 2006.

The Head of state expressed his deepest condolences for the tragic passing away at a young age of Mr. Pashko and his son and also of the flying team and doctor who with dedication and self sacrifice carried out their state and human duty, in the line of which they even lost the life. "It is very hard to find the right words at these moments of grief and sadness, at these moments of anguish and despair for you, for the family members of the other dispersed, for all of us who were lucky to work and share with them important moments of life, good and difficult ones. We are close to you today with all our heart to offer our support." – stated President Moisiu.

Today in the afternoon, President Moisiu visited also the families of Vangjel Çondi and Demush Heba to express up close the sincere condolences about the premature passing away of the two pilots.

While talking to the family members and relatives of the pilots, the Head of state praised their tireless and dedicated work, their professionalism and seriousness on the job and also the rare human values that they possessed. Mr. Moisiu stated that he understands and shares these difficult moments with the family members that must find the strength and courage to move forward and to keep alive the hope of a quick recovery of the bodies of the dispersed.

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President Moisiu consoled the Koni and Baloi families for the loss of their beloved.

July 21, 2006

The President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu paid a visit today in the families of the flight technician Qemal Koni and reanimated Doctor Sandër Baloi, who lost their lives during the tragic accident a few days ago when the Bell 222 Helicopter crashed in the Adriatic Sea.

The Head of state expressed his deep condolences to the family members about the grave misfortune which brought pain, grief and a major void in these families. Inquiring about the way of life and well being of the Koni and Baloi families, President Moisiu pointed out his support and that of the entire Albanian state for them at these hard moments. At the same time, Mr. Moisiu praised the professional capabilities, dedication at work and the humanism of Engineer Koni and Doctor Baloi by stating that these values of these two men convey very meaningful messages to young generations.

Forsvarsministeriet skriver:

18 Korrik [July] 2006 The most recent developments on search-rescue operation of disappeared helicopter in Adriatic sea

Minister of Defence Mr. Fatmir Mediu together with Chief of General Staff are continuously leading and attending closely this operation. In order to ensure success of this operation Minister of Defence has asked for aid from Italian Minister of Defence Mr. Parizi and Chief of General Staff Admiral Di Paola who have shown maximum engagement and disposition and are making attempts to make available the appropriate means for search in great depths.

There has been contacted also Admiral Ulrih, commander of the joint forces of NATO in Naples, to be asked for aid. Today also it was discussed with Admiral Ulrih possibility of assistance from NATO and the American party. It is being gathered information on finding specialized means that discover metal object in great depths, as well as means to take out the waters the helicopter.

Actually since 2:30 of 18.07.06 continues the joint search-rescue operation with participation of 8 patrolling ships and two helicopters. Means used are of Albanian Coast Guard and ITALIAN Coast Guard. The operational centre of naval forces and the operational centre of search-rescue of Italian coast guard [Rome] are in continuous attendance of the situation.

Ministry of Defence will do all the necessary attempts in order to realize engagement of the Albanian Government and request of Prime Minister Mr. Sali Berisha for finding and taking out the water the helicopter.

The entire region that is defined in plan of Search-Rescue operation is controlled. After the

searches until now there are no survived found or other objects of the helicopter tha can identify the exact place where the helicopter has fallen. Searches will continue until the lost helicopter will be found. The great depth of the sea [200-1000 meters] and the wide region where it is suspected that the helicopter fell makes difficult to find and take it out of the waters.

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27 Korrik [July] 2006 It ends the first phase of search operation for helicopter "Bell 222 U"

It has finished the first phase of search operation in depth for helicopter type "Bell 22 U" that has fallen in Adriatic Sea on July 16, with six persons in the board. After no results with searches in the surface, on July 22 began the search in depth of the governmental helicopter, in whose board were three directors of the helicopter, Mr. Gramoz Pashko his son Ruben Pashko and doctor Sander Baloi. In the first phase of the operation that would last from July 22 to 26 were engaged ships of the Italian Navy "Urania" and Galatea" specialized for searches in depth supported by ships of the Albanian Navy.

At the end of the first search phase it results that: About 1 {one} mile away of the coordinates was marked the last communication between the Rinas Airport Tower and pilots of the helicopter during the night of the tragic accident. In a depth of about 1024 meters, the ship "Urania" has localized a metallic object about 5 meters long, as well as some other smaller objects scattered in a range of 100 meters away of each other. These objects were intercepted by acoustic signals, which it means that to fully verify if it is the governmental helicopter or not, it is necessary to use visual views.

-Due to this purpose, the past preparations are being done in order to begin the second phase of the search operation that consists in the full identification and taking out of the waters of the helicopter of the sea depths. Due to this purpose big dinghies that are equipped with cameras and other assisting means will be used to make possible to take the helicopter out. Ministry of Defence is very engaged that this operation to finish as soon and successfully possible. Media will be informed an anything new about this operation.

Alban Bytyqi <http://alban.bytyqi.googlepages.com> skriver:

Gramoz Pashko February 11, 1955 - July 16, 2006

Able economist who worked for measured reform and ethnic tolerance in Albania after the collapse of communism

AS THE waves of unrest crashed through Eastern Europe in 1989, one or two rocks looked for a short period as if they might remain standing. In Prague Gustav Husak's grey successors dithered but then disappeared; in the German Democratic Republic a few hotheads called, thankfully in vain, for repression à la Tiananmen Square; in Romania Ceausescu played precisely that card, and lost: only in Albania did the hard-line communists seem secure. There the Stalinist dictator Enver Hoxha had ruled from 1944 until his death in 1985, isolating his country from most external influences and building up a domestic security apparatus of formidable power. But even in Albania the tide could not be stopped.

The communist collapse in Albania came at the end of 1990. The ruling party had made a number of concessions to the growing demands for reform but each concession seemed to whet the appetite for more. In December students in the Enver Hoxha University in Tirana demonstrated, demanding further political relaxation and a change in the name of their university. A delegation of influential communist figures decided to negotiate with them. The result was a change in the name of the university and, more importantly, the legalisation of non-communist political parties. Albania's transition from totalitarianism had begun.

One of those who negotiated with the students was a teacher in the economics department, Gramoz Pashko. Born in 1955 he was the son of well-placed communists, his father serving as prosecutor in the trials that had neutralised some of Hoxha's opponents. Pashko studied at Tirana University as an economist, specialising in the problems afflicting the Western economies in the 1970s and 1980s. He received his BA in 1977, an MSc (Economics) in 1983, and a doctorate in 1989; his masters dissertation was entitled Stagflation as a New Precedent of Low Growth with Inflation in the Western Economies in the 1970s-1980s.

His youth, intelligence and academic background made him a natural choice to negotiate with the students in December 1990; in return, that experience convinced him that the reform of Albanian politics and society was not only necessary but also feasible. Thereafter he involved himself fully in this process. He was one of the founding members of the new Democratic Party of Albania (DPA).

When a coalition consisting mainly of the DPA and the Socialist Party of Albania, the former communists, was formed in June 1991 he was appointed a deputy prime minister and minister for the economy. It was the high point of his political career. He was later to be appointed deputy prime minister and minister of education and science, but he did not become a major figure and exercised far more influence when he served as an adviser on economic policy.

That Pashko did not become a more important figure was in part the consequence of his background, but it also had much to do with the bitter personal rivalries characteristic of Albanian politics, and not a little to do with bad luck.

As the son of entrenched servants of Hoxha, Pashko always had extra weight to carry, and that he did not get on with the other major DPA figure, Sali Berisha, was a huge impediment. Pashko's bad luck came first in December 1991 when he was visiting London and, without consulting him, Berisha pulled the DPA out of the coalition, causing it to disintegrate. Pashko was furious and the following year Berisha, flushed with victory after his election as president, expelled Pashko and a number of associates from the DPA. Pashko formed a new party, the Democratic Alliance, and continued his bitter rivalry with Berisha.

Pashko was struck by bad luck again in 1997. While he was a Research Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars in Washington, Albania collapsed into anarchy and Pashko was not at hand to participate in the necessary political restructuring. He was, however, appointed economics adviser to the socialist Government formed in 1997. By 2005 Pashko had mended enough fences with Berisha to agree to rejoin the DPA and to take part in the Government should the party emerge victorious at the elections of that year. It did, but Pashko failed to secure a seat in parliament.

Pashko had complained in 1996 that the Albanians had not "yet understood the principles of civic society" but it could also be the case that he was not suited to the rough and tumble of party political life, or to the demands of electioneering.

In politics Pashko was a moderate. He came to believe in the necessity of economic reform and privatisation, but he wanted to bring this about in a controlled and relatively measured fashion; it was his belief in the need for moderation and compromise that had made him so angry when Berisha pulled the plug on the coalition with the socialists in 1991.

He was also a moderate in ethnic policies. Early in 1995, when there was serious tension between Albania and Greece, he called publicly for a more flexible attitude by the Albanian Government towards the small Greek minority in Albania; this was not a popular cause. His consciousness of the need for ethnic tolerance was increased by the Kosovo emergency of 1998-99 when, as a senior adviser to the socialist Government, he took a major part in securing help from Nato and from the EU to cope with the huge number of refugees pouring into Albania.

If Pashko was not the natural party politician, he was an able academic economist. He published widely in Albanian, English and German, including valuable analyses of Albania's economic transition. He continued teaching and had been made a professor by the University of Tirana. His academic work took him not only to Washington, but also to Munich and to the University of Strathclyde, where he was a visiting professor. He was also a Senior Fellow at the US Institute for International Peace in Washington, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Centre for Research into Post-Communist Economies in London. In 2002 Pashko became a founder and rector of the New York University in Tirana.

Pashko relished hunting and the outdoor life. On July 16 he struck his head on a rock while diving off the coast of southern Albania. He went into a coma and was put on a helicopter to be taken to hospital in Italy. It crashed as it neared the Italian coast and all on board, including Pashko's 24-year-old son, Rubin, were killed.

Pashko is survived by his wife, Mimosa Rule, and their daughter.

Gramoz Pashko, economist and politician, was born on February 11, 1955. He died on July 16, 2006, aged 51.

Spørgsmålet om Chefanklageren. Regeringspartierne ønsker Chefanklager Theodhori Sollaku afskediget, Oppositionen (Socialister m.fl.) undlod at stemme i protest mod fremgangsmåden. Tirana Times skriver:

TIRANA, July 24 - Albanian parliament voted Monday to oust Prosecutor-General Theodhori Sollaku for mishandling and abusing his post, a move that should be then approved by the country's president. Parliament's Democratic Party-led majority of Prime Minister Sali Berisha voted 79 in favor with one against to approve a 200-page report following a two-month investigation into some 80 allegations against Sollaku, also saying he had cost the government million of dollars in damages. Parliamentarians of the opposition led by the Socialist Party boycotted the voting in a sign of protest saying the investigation broke the constitution, laws and parliamentary procedures. The report said it found Sollaku cost the government US\$20 million in damages paid to unfairly imprisoned persons, did not start or suspended penal procedures, did not extradite criminal suspects and failed to declare personal private properties.

Præsidentkontoret har udsendt flg.:

Regarding the issue of Attorney General.

August 1, 2006

The Press Office of the President of the Republic, announces that on July 27, 2006, the Assembly of Albania has sent to the President of the Republic the decision number 53, dated July 24, 2006 "For the approval of the Final Report, conclusions and recommendations of the Investigating Commission of the Assembly, founded by the decision number 31, dated May 2, 2006," accompanied by the report of this Commission and the opinion of the minority about this report.

In order to have a full as possible judgement, the President has demanded all documentation on which the Assembly was based in taking the decision such as: the minutes of the Parliamentary Investigation Commission meetings, the decisions of this Commission taken throughout its activity and its internal rule of conduct.

On this occasion, the President of the Republic assures the entire public opinion that his decision making will be based on the Constitution of the Republic, after fully verifying and studying all the causes for which it was made the proposal to remove the Attorney General.

Præsidenten har underskrevet loven om tilbagegivelse af og kompensation for ejendom [President Moisiu decreed the Law on the return and compensation of property]. Det har taget år at komme détil, for sagen er meget kompliceret: Hvilken regler skulle gælde, når ejendom - der engang var privat - blev konfiskeret af den kommunistiske stat og siden privatiseret. Præsidentkontoret har udsendt flg.:

July 28, 2006

The President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu in compliance to the Article 84.1 of the Constitution of Albania decreed today the Law numbered 9583, dated July 17, 2006 on "Some amendments and appendixes of the Law numbered 9235, dated July 29, 2004 'On the return and compensation of property', amended.

During the period of reviewing the law, President Moisiu has held consultation meetings with the interested sides, political parties and legal experts.

President Moisiu has followed with attention and respects the claims and arguments of the sides, but based on the constitutional arguments and the great importance that this law holds for the economic developments in the country, decided to decree it.

Der har været drøftelser om en valgreform. Nuværende valgeregler kan ses på:

http://www.osce.org/documents/pia/2005/04/14076_en.pdf. President Moisiu demands consensus between the majority and opposition and their keeping of the promises about the electoral reform.. Præsidentkontoret har udsendt flg.:



President Moisiu during the speech at the Round Table on the Electoral Reform.

July 27, 2006

The President of the republic, Alfred Moisiu participated today in the round table whose topic was "The Electoral Reform. The Voters List – the need for further improvements," and which was organized by the Albanian Institute for the Development of the Election System, by Krik-Albania and Albanian Human Rights Group in the framework of the civil movement "Civil Action for the Electoral Reform."

In the presence of the representatives of the NGO-s and noted jurists and constitutionalists, President Moisiu addressed the round table by raising and discussing a few fundamental issues regarding the development of the electoral reform in our country such as the Electoral Code and electoral infrastructure.

First of all, the Head of state expressed his concern about the fact that although more than seven months have passed from the round table of the parliamentary political parties, the progress of the electoral reform is very slow, that it hasn't yet bear any fruits and that at the mean time the Commission of the Electoral Reform remains deadlocked. In this context, Mr. Moisiu appealed once again to the parliamentary political parties to keep their repeated promises about the electoral reform and to find the necessary political will to reach the consensus for its further progress.

A special attention was paid in the address of President Moisiu to the issue of the nomination of the Central Election Commission members. The Head of state stressed that "In any case I have been and remain conscious to fulfill my legal obligations, but the legal criteria and up to the present practice of electing new members of CEC make me to wait for the turn to decree the respective member of CEC. After yesterday's elections of a CEC member by the High Justice Council and of course after the Parliament will elect another member, then I naturally will decree the member required by the President."

Regarding the setting of the elections date, it was pointed out that in the case of next elections, they fall on the most difficult climate period of the year, then the Parliament must express with consensus about another time deadline and this must be done as soon as possible. "The date of the elections is also connected to a great part of legal, technical and organizational issue and that is why setting it time frame would be a positive contribution for the entire process." – stated President Moisiu.

In conclusion, the Head of state expressed all his commitment in compliance to his constitutional competences to contribute in the best way possible for the improvement and strengthening of the integrity of electoral process.

Der har været boksekamp i Tirana; Albanske Kreshnik Qato vandt over Franske Touzet



President Moisiu attends the boxing match between the Albanian boxer Qato and the French one Touzet.

060706 NATO Generalsekretær - Jaap de Hoop Scheffer - har været i Albanien. Han har besøgt Præsident Moisiu [billedet] og holdt en tale til det Albanske Parlament:



SPEECH BY NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JAAP DE HOOP SCHEFFER AT THE ALBANIAN PARLIAMENT

[Mr. Speaker,]

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by saying how pleased and honoured I am with this opportunity to complement my official meetings in Tirana today with a public appearance. I was a parliamentarian myself not that long ago, and I am always delighted to meet with legislators. But I am also very pleased to see a considerable number of young people in the audience. Their interest in and understanding of security issues is of vital importance, in all our countries.

My visit to Albania this afternoon follows a visit to Skopje a few weeks ago, and a visit to Croatia this morning. The main purpose of these visits is clear. It is to commend all three countries with the impressive progress they have made in preparing for NATO membership – and to reassure them that they will accede to NATO, if they keep up their efforts.

But I have another objective, too, with these three visits. And that is to further explain – to

policymakers and the public at large – what it really means to be a member of NATO today. And why it is in your interest, as well as NATO's, that you continue your efforts to join the Alliance.

NATO is a unique institution. It features, first of all, an exceptional political consultation mechanism that is geared towards consensus. This consensus process is sometimes perceived as slow and cumbersome. But it has distinct advantages. It creates a sense of predictability. And it fosters both a responsibility and a pre-disposition among the Allies – big and small – to seek common solutions to common problems.

NATO also has an integrated multinational military structure to implement these common decisions. Over the years, the militaries of our member nations have become highly interoperable, and capable of working together effectively under the most demanding circumstances. And that military potential is another unique feature of the Alliance.

What also makes NATO unique is its transatlantic dimension. There is simply no other forum that brings Americans, Canadians and Europeans closer together. And transatlantic consultation and cooperation in the Alliance works both ways. Through NATO, the United States and Canada can make their voice heard in Europe. And we Europeans, in turn, use NATO to get our views across the Atlantic.

Together, these various characteristics make NATO a truly unique organisation. But the real glue that has held the Alliance together for more than half a century is not structures, is not bureaucracies. It is not even a common threat. What continues to bind us are the common values on which all our societies are built – pluralism, freedom, democracy, and tolerance.

What has changed – and what has changed dramatically – is the way in which those common values are threatened, and the manner in which we have to defend them. In the face of threats from terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and failing states, a reactive approach is simply no longer good enough. These new and complex threats call for much more active engagement, including well away from our own borders – and that is what the NATO Alliance is very much geared towards these days.

NATO, today, is actively engaged on 3 continents – in Europe, in Asia, and in Africa. In Kosovo, our troops continue to keep the peace and ensure a safe and stable environment for the UN-sponsored status talks to bear fruit. In Afghanistan, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force helps the Government of Afghanistan to provide the necessary security so that democracy and redevelopment can flourish with Albanian participation and I commend you for that. In Iraq, NATO is training Iraqi security forces to allow them to take on more responsibility for the security of their own country. And in Africa, we are airlifting African Union peacekeepers into the Darfur region of Sudan, and providing other assistance to that force in order to facilitate, I hope, a smooth transition to the United Nations.

Alongside these commitments, NATO maritime forces are conducting an anti-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean. We provided humanitarian relief to the victims of last year's Hurricane Katrina in the United States, as well as to victims of last October's earthquake in Pakistan. And NATO aircraft have been helping to secure the skies over Germany during the Football World Cup, just as we supported several other big public events during the past few years.

NATO's operations are one important part of our pro-active, values-based security policy. But they are not the only one. Because the best way to safeguard our values is by nourishing them – by upholding our values at home, and advocating them abroad. By believing in the power of open, democratic systems and liberal economic systems. By encouraging other countries to open up their societies too. And by lending them advice and assistance if they so request.

NATO has acted in line with this logic. Over the past fifteen years, the Alliance has built up a wide network of security relationships – all over Europe and into the Caucasus and Central Asia. Through this network we have not only been able to promote our values. We have also fostered a genuine Euro-Atlantic security culture – a strong disposition to tackle common security problems by working together. And we have greatly improved our ability to cooperate in meeting such common challenges.

NATO's enlargement process also shows how our values and our security interests converge. It has extended a unique zone of security throughout our continent. It has given – and continues to give – our neighbours new confidence in their own future, and a strong incentive to

reform. And in so doing, it enhances prosperity and security for us all.

This logic of integration through NATO enlargement remains as valid as ever. It remains particularly valid here in Southeast Europe, because I strongly believe that for this region, Euro-Atlantic integration offers the only feasible way forward. There is simply no alternative.

Our Membership Action Plan remains the key instrument for Albania and other aspirant countries to move closer to NATO. The MAP enables your country to benefit from the Alliance's support and guidance to complete reforms in key areas; to stay abreast of the reforms which NATO itself is going through; and to ensure that you are able to make a meaningful contribution to the Alliance, as soon as you get on board.

Over the past few years, Albania has made a determined effort to implement far-reaching reforms, and with considerable success. The new government is to be commended for placing a strong emphasis on the fight against corruption and organised crime, and the strengthening of the rule of law, which are all vital to Albania's future as a viable and prosperous democratic nation. There are encouraging signs of progress in these areas, but much remains to be done, especially to improve the efficiency of the judicial system. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement which Albania concluded with the European Union last month provides a particularly good basis for this work.

Defence reform is another area where there has been clear progress, but where further work remains to be done. We appreciate the effort that is being made to set more realistic goals for Albania's armed forces, and to make better use of the growing but still limited financial resources that are available for defence. That kind of change is obviously important with a view to NATO membership, which is why we will continue both to encourage and to assist it, including through our NATO Headquarters here in Tirana.

One further area that I wish to mention relates to the handling of classified information, which is another important NATO requirement. Important progress has been made in this area as well. With NATO's advice and assistance, all the necessary structures and procedures have been put into place, and it will be important now for the relevant authorities to ensure that they work as intended.

So there still is work to do in a number of areas. But let me tell you that, on the whole, the 26 NATO Allies view the seriousness and determination with which Albania is pursuing the necessary reforms in a very favourable light. And we are confident that this positive trend can and will be carried through.

The same holds true for Albania's international engagement, first of all with its neighbours here in South-East Europe. As a matter of fact, Albania has been playing a very helpful, moderating role here in this region – especially with regard to Kosovo – and it is to be commended for that constructive approach.

But Albania has also been looking further, quite literally. We are pleased that, in addition to its valuable contribution to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Albania is also considering support for NATO's anti-terrorist maritime operation in the Mediterranean. This demonstrates that Albania shares our view that security today requires active engagement and solidarity. And it is another indication that Albania, once it joins the Alliance, is going to be a reliable and active NATO member.

So when will this be? I know there were hopes in this country and the other two MAP countries that invitations might be forthcoming in November, when NATO Heads of State and Government meet in Riga. I am glad that there is generally greater realism now. The NATO enlargement process was never driven by deadlines. It was, is, and remains a performance-based process. And as I just pointed out, some work still needs to be done.

But let me also very clearly state this: once a country has done what we expect from it, NATO will keep its own part of the deal – and open its doors for new members. And this means that your country's accession to NATO is clearly no longer a question of "if", but only of "when".

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In NATO today, twenty-six strong and independent democracies consult and co-ordinate their

positions on the key strategic issues of the 21st century. They pool their individual military capabilities to create an exceptionally capable defence community. They meet common threats and challenges together, including well away from their own borders. And they shape the strategic environment in ways that no single country could ever hope to achieve on its own.

That is the community of nations which Albania is aspiring to join. To obtain the security guarantee of collective defence. To work shoulder-to-shoulder in one of the world's pre-eminent peace making forces. To play a constructive role in the NATO Council, helping the Alliance to arrive at consensus. And to play its full part in defending and promoting the values that make NATO a true symbol of cooperation, democracy and peaceful relations.

Let there be no mistake -- there is still work to do. But Albania is well on its way towards joining the NATO community, and it will be a very welcome addition.

Thank you.

Retssystemet. Hurtigere retsbehandling. OSCE skriver:

Trials are more effective at the Albanian First Instance Court for Serious Crimes due to support from the OSCE Presence in Albania. Judges, lawyers, defendants and witnesses no longer have to wait for court secretaries to take notes by hand, and court clerks have a better understanding of the justice administration's legal framework and their roles within it. Additionally, the public now has access to information about the Court through a new handbook and a website.

Getting secretaries and clerks up to speed

The OSCE Presence has been supporting the Court for Serious Crimes since January 2004, when it started out with limited resources and was housed in cramped facilities within the Tirana District Court.

In the framework of a larger capacity-building project carried out in 2005 and 2006, the Presence organized typing workshops for the Court's nine secretaries.

Enkelejda Millonai, who has been working with the Court for the past two years, took part in a dozen two-hour training sessions in fast typing, the use of typing software and the organization of electronic files. She can see a big improvement over the last three months.

"Court sessions used to be really slow. They are much quicker now that we have been using computers and can type fast," she says.

Sandër Simoni is the Court's Chair: "Now we are confident that court secretaries are able to successfully handle the recording of judicial sessions."

Two Albanian experts were hired to provide additional training workshops for court clerks. The seminars aimed to increase their understanding of the right to a fair trial, the right to access public documents, witness protection and security in general, and relations with the various groups of people using the Court.

"Many projects focus on the big plans and main actors," says the Presence's Senior Legal Officer, Mari-Ann Roos. "To deliver justice, however, it is not enough to have good laws, well-educated judges and court buildings. Without the support of an engaged, well-trained and well-equipped administrative staff, justice cannot be delivered in a fair and timely manner."

Providing equipment and access to information

Since the start of the project, the OSCE Presence has donated to the Court over two dozen computers as well as printers, telephones, photocopying and fax machines, office radiators and uniforms for clerks and secretaries.

It has also furnished the new waiting room for witnesses. The findings of an OSCE study highlighted problems with witnesses and victims having to confront defendants and their families while waiting in the court halls or even outside the building.

Marking the end of its capacity-building project, the OSCE Presence published a handbook and set up a website to increase public awareness about the Albanian justice system, the Serious Crimes Court, fair trial standards and the right to information. The website also provides current information on trial schedules and ongoing and completed trials.

With faster trials, better equipped staff and facilities, and increased access to information, the Serious Crimes Court is on its way to modernization. To continue supporting the development of the Albanian justice system, the Presence will publish an Analysis of Some Aspects of the Criminal Justice System in Albania and provide further training on the basis of its findings.

Written by Joana Karapataqi

17 July 2006

Den Norske Ambassadør - Eva Bugge - er fratrukket i Tirana. Det Albanske UM skriver:

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mustafaj received the Ambassador of Norwegian Kingdom, Mrs. Eva Bugge.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mustafaj received the Ambassador of Norwegian Kingdom, Mrs. Eva Bugge on the occasion of the termination of her mission. Mrs. Bugge congratulated Mr. Mustafaj for the signing of the Stabilization Association Agreement and estimated it as a step ahead towards the full membership of our country into European Union. In this meeting, they talked about the possibilities of Norwegian assistance for our coast-guards with quick sailing vehicles and in other sectors of our economy.

Minister Mustafaj, in the view of the concrete measures undertaken by the Albanian government in the fight against organized crime and illicit trafficking, highlighted the necessity of close cooperation with other countries, mainly with the regional ones. He added that it is compulsory the preparation of the legal base of cooperation in these matters. Minister Mustafaj said that the high level exchange of visits would be very effective and in this context he proposed a visit of his Norwegian counterpart in Albania, thus making possible the signing of bilateral agreements.

The two interlocutors shared the same opinion about the twinning of our schools with the Norwegian ones and initially starting with the high school in Puka.

IMF har udsendt materiale om Albansk økonomi:

I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

A central theme of the Article IV Consultation was how Albania could sustain its impressive growth performance and raise income levels towards those of middle-income economies. The following selected issues papers cover key areas that would help achieve this: an examination of the determinants of growth and the microeconomic underpinnings for growth focusing on the problem of uncertain property rights; the role of remittances in the economy; and the policy response to rapid credit growth.

1 Sustaining high growth following transition becomes increasingly difficult as the easiest efficiency gains are exhausted. In addition, in many economies uncertainty over property rights can hinder development and financial deepening. Part I on Growth and Institutions looks at what Albania can do to maintain strong growth and strengthen property rights.

2 Albania's growth performance has exceeded that of many of its Central European neighbors, but the differential with the Baltic economies has been widening. GDP has increased significantly in Albania over the transition period, led by impressive advances in total factor productivity (TFP). Since 2000, however, the contribution to growth from TFP has declined considerably. Since Albania still has a long way to go to reach the income levels of its central European and Baltic neighbors, the slowdown in TFP growth is a serious concern. It suggests that structural reforms have been misdirected or that there are other impediments to growth. Weaker TFP performance is likely to reflect, in part, the low level of financial intermediation in

Albania-notwithstanding the credit boom-but also other factors. Risk and institutional development indicators suggest that Albania is least advanced relative to the Baltic and Central European economies in terms of enterprise restructuring, competition policy and the non-bank financial sector; while risk indicators are high for corruption, law and order, and bureaucratic quality. This suggests that better targeted structural reforms in these areas could add to TFP and help sustain growth.

3 Informal urban sprawl and uncertainty over property rights have hindered development and financial deepening in Albania. Around 60-70 percent of buildings built since 1990 are extra-legal. Lack of progress on resolving property rights is likely to have held back development of a land market, agriculture and tourism, and prevented effective use of collateral for lending. The government is focusing on the legalization of informal areas but it is a complex task. Moreover, it will take time to create a legal setting that is in keeping with the underlying structures of informal areas and provides the correct cost incentives to ensure individuals operate within the law on an ongoing basis. The budget impact of legalization could be substantial-but also somewhat ambiguous as both revenues from property taxes and compensation costs could be high. While success with formalization offers the prospect of significant gains, containing the costs to government will require skillful management.

4 Workers' remittances have contributed significantly to Albania's economic development and provide an important informal social safety net. Part II on remittances looks at their impact on the economy and in particular on the fiscal position. Microeconomic surveys suggest that remittances are significant at around 5-8 percent of GDP, but substantially lower than in the official balance of payment estimates, and they have been directed to poor households thus helping to eliminate the poverty gap. Over the medium-term, a key question is whether remittances will continue to sustain the informal private safety net and support the current account. Based on the experience of other countries, the contribution of remittances as a percent of GDP might be expected decline over the medium-term as emigration tapers off. Given the uncertainties, it would be prudent for policy makers to develop contingencies to deal with the increased pressure on social spending that could accompany a slowdown in the flow of remittances. The bulk of remittances are currently sent through informal channels. Developing financial instruments targeted at emigrants would bring more of these flows through formal channels, boosting financial intermediation and supporting growth.

5 Remittances are also likely to have supported the fiscal position having a significant impact on fiscal revenues and expenditures through a variety of channels. They are likely to boost household consumption and add to indirect tax revenues, but they could also reduce the incentive to work which would lower income tax revenues. On the expenditure side, remittances provide an alternative informal safety net that reduces the pressure for government social spending. On balance, it is likely that remittances have supported the fiscal position. As remittances as a ratio of GDP are expected to slow over the medium term, continuing the practice of including a significant contingency mechanism in the budget would be appropriate.

6. The financial sector has developed rapidly over the past two years, but an ongoing credit boom now poses risks to macroeconomic and financial stability. Part III looks more closely at developments in the banking sector, the experience of other countries, and the policy measures that can be taken to improve the macroeconomic and financial stability of the Albanian financial sector in the face of rapid credit growth. The policy tools available to manage the risks associated with rapid credit growth fall into three categories: macroeconomic policies; prudential and supervisory policies; and other, including market development and administrative measures. In Albania, there is some scope to use all of these levers, and a particularly strong case for intensifying monitoring and strengthening the regulatory regime. Prudential and supervisory measures are being taken or planned which are aimed at protecting loan quality, improving supervisory capacity, and raising the costs of financial intermediation to help cool credit growth.

Hele rapporten kan hentes som PDF fra: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2006/cr06285.pdf>

Se endvidere: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2006/cr06286.pdf> Albania: 2006 Article IV Consultation, First Review Under the Three-Year Arrangement Under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility, Review Under Extended Arrangement, Request for Waiver of Nonobservance of Performance Criterion, and Financing Assurances Review - Staff Report; Staff Supplement; Public Information Notice and Press Release on the Executive Board Discussion; and Statement by the Executive Director for Albania.

og: <http://www.imf.org/External/NP/LOI/2006/alb/071406.pdf>: Country's Policy Intentions Documents -- Albania: Letter of Intent, Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies, and Technical Memorandum of Understanding, July 14, 2006.

Albanian Media Institute har udsendt 2 Newsletters:

1/

AMENDMENTS TO LAW ON BROADCASTING APPROVED BY THE PARLIAMENT for the second time

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 for the second time on June 26. This law was returned to the Parliament by the President, who decided not to decree the law, due to some anti-constitutional provisions he claimed the law had. The opposition is firm in its stance to reject this law, while the majority repeated its guarantee that nominations from the opposition will be voted by the majority. In addition to parliament discussions, the amendments to this law were also discussed in a meeting of negotiating work group in Brussels.

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 tends 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.

REPORTING ON EU TRAINING

The second training course aimed at improving international affairs reporting addressed reporting on EU affairs and took place on June 22-23, with the participation of fifteen journalists from print and electronic mainstream media. The first lecturer was Ledio Bianku, international right expert, the European Center. His main focus was EU and Albania's path to integration, in view of the recent signing of the Stabilization Association Agreement from Albania, with the respective obligations that follow from this act. He started with a brief description of the EU legal foundations, with an emphasis on the concept of sovereignty. Another topic addressed in the course of the training was Euro as a common currency, its positive and negative effects. Finally, EU structures and their coordinating role constituted another topic of discussion, in view of the new obligations Albanian government faces after signing the SAA. Discussed new measures included the efforts to harmonize the Albanian legislation and the coordinating role and function of the Ministry of Integration.

The second lecturer was Albert Rakipi, Director of the Institute of International Relations, who

focused on main aspects of EU since its establishment, providing a brief history. On another level, Rakipi addressed the issue of values of European Union. One of the main ideas was that EU was a unique market, but not a unique cultural identity. Another aspect addressed in the course of the lecture was EU enlargement with members from Central and Southeastern Europe, focusing on their problems in the different membership stages, comparing them to the range of problems of our countries. 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.

TEAM TRAINING AND SUPPLEMENT PRODUCTION ON ROMA

A team reporting training took place at the Albanian Media Institute on June 19-23, with the participation of eight journalists from both mainstream and local media. The reporters produced a supplement that was published in daily "Panorama." The supplement focused on issues of Roma minority reporting and their coverage by both minority and mainstream media. The participants worked as a team and covered different stories addressing topics related to the Roma minority, their living conditions, the economic problems they experience, the existing statistics of Roma minority, government strategy on Roma, profiles of successful Roma people, etc. In order to assist their reporting, three key speakers were invited to address this topic: Lindita Xhillari from the Center for Promotion of Human Development, focused on the situation of minorities in Albania and introduced the main trends deriving from research their center has completed in this area. The second key speaker was Ledi Bianku, international rights expert, who addressed the existing legislation on minorities and their rights. Third speaker was Blendi Kajsiu, analyst, who presented the findings of a research on mainstream newspapers regarding coverage of minorities in general and Roma in particular. This project was supported by Swedish Helsinki Committee and organized by the Albanian Media Institute.

COURT REPORTING TRAINING COURSE

A training on court reporting was organized at the Albanian Media Institute on June 19-21, with the participation of print Tirana-based journalists. Given the importance of appropriate reporting on this delicate section of society, the aim of the course was to introduce journalists to the basic principles of court system in the country and beyond, as well as the main elements to consider when reporting on courts and judicial system. Lecturers were Njazi Jaho, from Albanian Helsinki Committee, Ledio Bianku, European Center, and Xhezair Zaganjori, Constitutional Court. The speakers presented the participants with the main judicial bodies in the country, the way they work, presumption of innocence as a must for reporters, 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.

PHOTOJOURNALISM TRAINING COURSE FOR REPORTERS

A workshop on photojournalism was organized at the Albanian Media Institute on June 26-30, with the participation of 15 journalists from print and electronic media, both from mainstream and local ones. The main aim of this course was to introduce journalists to the basic elements of photojournalism and visual side of reporting in general. In the first three days trainer Albes Fusha discussed with the participants the elements that distinguish good photos from bad ones, taking specific examples from media coverage, participants' portfolio, and world photojournalism experience in general. Building a photostory and the different facets to consider in the process was another topic that the participants discussed and carried out on field. Attention was also devoted to the relation between reporters and editors and positions when it came to photojournalism. In the next two days trainer Mitrulla Thodhori provided an overview of the technical elements of photography, the basic software for working up photos, formats and their specific natures, etc. The course was a combination of theory, practical examples from well-known photographs, and practice from participants themselves. 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.

HEALTH REPORTING FOR YOUTH

A training on health reporting for young people took place at the Albanian Media Institute on June 15-16, with the participation of fifteen correspondents of mainstream media based on main cities. The aim of the training was to raise awareness among journalists that cover health reporting in order to foster a healthy lifestyle for the youth. The speakers were Genci Mucollari, Andi Shkurti, Irida Agolli, and Arjan Harxhi, from Aksion Plus, an organization that is active in health and youth issues. The main topics covered in the course of the training were the philosophy of damage control for drug users, HIV/AIDS and human rights, role of media in improvement of information, kinds of drugs and how to report on them. Other issues related to health reporting for young people that were addressed included the generation gap, relations and communication among youth and adults, teenagers and sexual health, etc. This seminar was organized by the Albanian Media Institute, with the support of UNFPA.

ONLINE JOURNALISM TRAINING

A training course on online journalism took place at the Albanian Media Institute on June 5-9, 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 Internet 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.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING COURSE

A training course on investigative reporting took place at the Albanian Media Institute on June 12-14, with the participation of 15 journalists from print and electronic media, both from mainstream and local ones. The topics addressed in the lecture of journalism professor Iris Luarasi were related to the definition of investigative reporting and the debates that evolve on this genre. The lecturer also provided a brief history of investigative journalism, its origins, famous cases, and the current stage of development. 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. The role of the editor and the media outlet predisposition were also discussed by the lecturer and participants, having in mind the present context of Albanian media when it came to this kind of reporting. 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 National Endowment for Democracy.

PRESENTATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON DEFAMATION

The amendments to the law on defamation were presented to a group of members of Parliament on June 6. These amendments resulted from previous round tables and discussions with members of the previous parliament. In these discussions the media lawyers, media experts, and the Parliamentary Commission on one hand, and the journalists from the other, had the chance to give their input on the potential amendments needed for the law on defamation. In the final round table the members of Parliament agreed in principle on every article and the amendments made to the law. These amendments will be introduced to the Parliament as a bill. Both the Penal Code and the Civil Code contain articles on defamation and slander that are considered regressive in the framework of the freedom of expression. While neighboring countries have improved this aspect of their legislation, Albania is lagging behind, as underlined in the annual report issued by the European Commission. These discussions are a joint initiative of the Albanian Media Institute and the Justice Initiative in New York, with the support of the Open Society Justice Initiative.

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Albanian Media Institute / ALBANIAN MEDIA NEWSLETTER - July 2006**MEDIA TRAINING ON EU INTEGRATION PROCESS STARTS**

Although European integration is a very salient issue after Albania signed the Stabilization Association Agreement, very few people are aware of the complexity of this process. In this context, the Albanian Media Institute, with the support of British Embassy, initiated a training project that aims to provide journalists with the basic aspects that this process entails. The first training course took place in Tirana on July 18-21, with the participation of 15 journalists from both print and electronic media. The main aspects of the integration process were legislation, foreign policy, integration issues, and economical aspects that involve the impact of the integration process. The participants became familiar with the nature of legislation in EU versus member states, the attempts made in harmonizing Albanian legislation to EU standards, and the comparison of the present stage legislation to required standards.

Another topic of interest for participants was the foreign policy issues and the process of relations between Albania and EU in the last years, the changes in the political dialogue, the present position of the Albanian state in this context, Albania's negotiating power in the region, the historical role of ASA, etc. In addition, the participants were briefed on the role of the Ministry of Integration in this process, the coordination efforts among government bodies, the plan for ASA implementation, the economic benefits and risks expected, the importance of further strengthening of independent institutions in the country, etc. Finally, the Interim Agreement was another major topic, briefing the journalists on the main aspects of this economic agreement, its impact on domestic business, the expected effects, the limitations and benefits that may derive, and Albania's capacity to fulfill this agreement. Lecturers included high officials from the Ministry of Integration, Ministry of Economy, Commerce, and Energetics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and international law experts. These courses will continue with other groups of journalists in Tirana and other cities.

ATTEMPTS TO DECRIMINALIZE DEFAMATION CONTINUE

In the framework of the initiative to decriminalize defamation and amend Criminal and Civil Codes provisions on insult and libel, Albanian Media Institute and Open Society Justice Initiative sent a memorandum to the Ministry of Justice on July 21. This memorandum followed a meeting of representatives of these organizations earlier this month with the minister and other persons of his cabinet. The aim of the memorandum is to explain in detail the two-year ongoing attempts to amend the provisions on defamation. These attempts have been warmly welcome by international organizations concerned with freedom of expression and amending defamation law has been a recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe. The amendments to defamation received the support of 23 MPs of the last legislature, but due to elections in 2005 could not make it to the plenary voting. Parallel to the amendments to the defamation, Albanian Media Institute is also engaged in the possibility of revising the Code of Ethics for journalists and establishing a self-regulatory mechanism.

TEAM TRAINING AND SUPPLEMENT PRODUCTION ON DRUG ABUSE

A team reporting training took place at the Albanian Media Institute on July 3-7, with the participation of eight journalists from both mainstream and local media. The reporters produced a supplement that was published in daily "Korrieri." The supplement focused on issues of reporting on drug abuse and risk behavior, targeting especially young generation. The participants worked as a team and covered different stories addressing topics related to risk behavior and drug abuse, such as profiles of drug users, the impact of drug use in society, statistics that exist in this area, the attempts to control the damage, etc. In order to assist their reporting, several speakers were invited to address this topic: Genc Mucollari, from Aksion Plus, focused on drugs prevention and its impact on financial, political, and social costs for the individual, the community, and society. The speaker also discussed with the participants the philosophy of damage control and the human rights and media role. The second key speaker was Sokol Morina from the Ministry of Health, who introduced the National Strategy for Reduction of Drug Usage, followed by Dhimitraq Stratoberdha of the Institute of Public Health, who addressed the concepts of medical and public health in the media, as well as the strategic

plans that are being implemented in reducing drug usage. On the second day Andi Shkurti from Aksion Plus introduced to the participants the different social theories and their impact through media awareness and education, broaching the terminology used in these cases and the existing stereotypes. The last speaker was Ilda Londo, media researcher at the Albanian Media Institute, who discussed with the participants cases of media coverage of drug use, coupled with the main principles of the Code of Ethics for journalists. This project was supported by UNFPA and organized by the Albanian Media Institute.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ON COURT REPORTING

A roundtable discussion brought together 20 journalists and representatives of the judiciary system at the Albanian Media Institute on July 12, in order to discuss the citizens' access to information in this area and search for possible ways to improve the situation. Journalists were mainly court and crime reporters, while the rest of participants included spokespersons of courts of different instances, public relations' officers, representatives from the People's Advocate Office, etc. The first speaker in this roundtable was Ledio Bianku from the European Center, who focused on the right to access official documents, comparing it to European standards and bringing specific court cases both from the Court of Tirana and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Second speaker was Njazi Jaho from the Albanian Helsinki Committee, who tackled the concept of presumption of guilt in Albanian legislation and the main problems in media coverage of this aspect.

Other topics that were discussed included awareness of the law on access to information, existing limitations of the court institutions, their internal regulations on granting information classified as secret. Journalists expressed their concern that procedures for accessing information from court proceedings or data from the Commercial Register are often hindered by bureaucratic procedures and delay journalists or public. In addition, the public relations' officers identified some problems in media coverage related to the correct terminology used, accurate information, use of anonymous sources, etc. This activity was organized by the Albanian Media Institute with the support of National Endowment for Democracy.

REPORTING ON NATO

A training course aimed at improving NATO reporting was organized at the Albanian Media Institute on July 5-6, with the participation of 15 journalists from both print and electronic media. The course was organized in the framework of the visit of NATO's Secretary General in Albania. The first lecturer was Luan Hajdaraga, ex-Minister of Defense and ex-Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. He gave the participants a brief historical overview of the establishment of NATO, the historical context that led to its establishment, as well as the structure of the organization. Then he focused on the shift of doctrine after the Cold War and on the process of Albanian integration into NATO. More specifically he focused on the different stages Albania has been in this process, several aspects of integration, coordination activity, and membership plan.

The second lecturer was Arjan Starova, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Transatlantic Club. He addressed the role of NATO in preserving Euro-atlantic values, NATO enlargement and the membership criteria, as well as its increasing military power. After tackling the concepts of "defense" and "safety," Starova focused on the Adriatic Charter III as a positive agreement on the path to NATO membership. Finally, he explained the increasing efficiency of NATO after events in Bosnia and especially in Kosovo, as well as the geopolitical role of this organization in the future. 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.

TRAINING ON COVERAGE OF PRESS CONFERENCES

A training course on coverage of press conferences was organized at the Albanian Media Institute on July 24-28, with the participation of 15 journalists from both print and electronic media. Although a routine activity for journalists, press conferences are an important task for them that should be carried out with professionalism. In order to train the participants on the main aspects to have in mind in these cases lecturers were Aleksander Furrxhi, BBC correspondent and Arben Muka, DW correspondent. Some of the steps the lecturers tackled during the training were prior research and gathering information on the press conference topic,

persons, or organization, preparing the basic questions that are relevant to the topic, foresee questions that might come up in the course of the conference, etc. The trainers also tackled the specific nature of press conferences as events, cases when to attend, what makes a good active participation, and how to report on press conferences. Usage of media kits and other materials available at the conference was also discussed with the participants. In the fourth training day the journalists attended a press conference that took place at the Ministry of Integration, in order to test some of the knowledge gained during the course. This course was part of an extensive training on professional skills, organized by Albanian Media Institute and supported by Network Media Program.

WORKSHOP ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

A workshop on access to information and investigative journalism brought together media and local government representatives in Korca on July 25-26. The main aim of the workshop was to get acquainted to the law on access to information and the manner the local administration implemented this law, as well as the way it can be used for investigative reporters. 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 specific 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, Ombudsman. Ristani also provided a brief history of this law from other countries' experience.

Second speaker was Lutfi Dervishi, freelancer. In his lecture he addressed the issue of writing a detailed, in-depth investigation story. Specific steps included: picking the topic, planning the sources, searching, reporting, writing the story, checking the facts before publication, the actual publication, follow-up, etc. After becoming familiar with the main problems journalists in this area face with regard to this law, he gave some specific advice and examples that would improve their reporting for the community.

Mitro Medelko, representative of the Prefecture of Korca, focused on the work that was being done by this body for a better implementation of the law on access to information. He clarified the problems that existed in the relations between citizens and journalists on one hand, and the city officials, on the other, briefly explaining the way of functioning of the press office. In his speech he also addressed the problem of meeting the citizens' attempts for information. The present journalists also suggested some ways that would help a more efficient functioning of the office. This workshop was organized by the Albanian Media Institute, with the support of National Endowment for Democracy.

RADIO PROGRAMS PRODUCED IN MONTENEGRIN

A group of reporters and representatives from the Montenegrin minority gathered to produce two radio programs of approximately 20 minutes in their language. The main aim of these programs is to promote media coverage of minorities in the country and provide a different voice for the minorities within the media landscape. In this context, the first program was devoted to the introduction of this minority group, attempts to protect their rights and organize themselves, cooperation with other organizations, as well as youth education. The second program focused on the culture of this group, tackling such subjects as language, customs, the folk music ensemble, the community life, etc. The participants were guided in these productions by Arben Muka, Deutsche Welle correspondent. These radio programs will be aired by Radio Shkodra and Radio Tirana, the public service radio. The production of the programs was implemented by Albanian Media Institute, with the support of Swedish Helsinki Committee.

COMPUTER ASSISTED REPORTING TRAINING

A training course on Computer Assisted Reporting took place in Shkodra on July 13-15, with the participation of 12 journalists from print and electronic media. 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 Internet 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 was organized by Albanian Media Institute with the support of UNESCO.

Note: Albanian Media Institute will be closed until August 28. We wish you all nice holidays,

AMI staff

Arrangement vedr. minerydning i Albanien. Den Amerikanske Ambassade i Tirana skriver:

Ambassador Ries and Adriana, mine survivor assisted through Night of a Thousand Dinners funds

Remarks by Ambassador Marcie B. Ries: Night of a Thousand Dinners In Support of the Albanian Mine Action Program July 24, 2006

I am delighted to host the third Night of a Thousand Dinners in Albania to support mine-victim assistance. Of course, this is a period of change in the Balkans, as we try to move beyond the conflicts of the 1990s toward a more secure and more prosperous future. In Albania, we are closer than ever to eliminating one of the terrible legacies of the Kosovo crisis: landmines and unexploded ordnance in the northeast region of Albania. The Albanian Mine Action Program has been a great success story; thanks to the support of international donors - including of course the United States, the European Commission and Germany - the engagement of the Albanian government and UNDP, and many individuals, we are closer than ever to reaching the goal of making Albania safe from the effects of mines and unexploded ordnance.

The work of clearing mines, combined with education of local communities about the risk of landmines, has saved lives: although 34 people have been killed by landmines in the region bordering Kosovo, but there have been no fatal injuries in the last two years, and so far this year there have been no landmine incidents. The job won't be finished for a few years yet, but we can say that the end is in sight.

But we are here tonight to talk about another aspect of the Albanian Mine Action Program, and that is taking care of the survivors. Even after the mines are cleared, there are those who still need our help. It is to assist the survivors of these accidents that we are here tonight. Funds raised this year will be used to support young mine survivors in pursuing post-secondary studies and to assist survivors requiring advanced medical treatment outside Albania.

At the Night of a Thousand Dinners last year, thanks to your generosity (donors), matched by the U.S. Department of State, we raised nearly \$22,000, with which we have already screened 18 sight-impaired mine/UXO survivors and assisted 8 of them with surgical treatment for eye injuries. I ask you again to be generous and surpass that figure so we can do even more this year.

Website om Albanien som turistland skal videreudvikles

Udbud af opgaven: <http://www.ictd.org.al/index.php?fq=news&id=261>

Foreløbig udgave (mange, men ikke alle, ting virker på siden): <http://www.albaniantourism.com>

SERBIEN

Det Amerikanske UM har offentliggjort en 'Background Note' om Serbien - Montenegro: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm> • 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=1013618386622> • En biografi over tidligere Forbundspræsident Kostunica kan læses på [Serbiske Politikere](#).

Præsidentvalg i Serbien. Boris Tadic blev i Juni 2004 valgt som Præsident. Seneste Parlamentsvalg: 031228.

Kosovo / Kosóva: Den Serbiske Regering skriver:

Serbia will not renounce Kosovo-Metohija for accelerated EU accession

Belgrade, July 31, 2006 – Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica said in an interview with daily Danas that Serbia will never renounce Kosovo-Metohija in return for the country's accelerated EU accession and stressed that Belgrade would respond by using all legal means should the province proclaim independence.

There is one part of international community that sees only one option, that is Kosovo-Metohija's independence, pointing only to its superficial advantages. Independence for the province has many shortcomings whereas essential autonomy, the solution we pledge, has many advantages, Kostunica stressed.

The Prime Minister went on to say that the UN Security Council's session dedicated to Kosovo-Metohija on July 13 made a particular impression on him. Representatives of all five permanent members of the UN Security Council spoke, which shows that there is awareness of the importance and complexity of the problem, he said. We had a chance to hear the arguments made by Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, which were very convincing and close to our position, Kostunica pointed out.

It is of utmost importance that the debate on Kosovo-Metohija is first led in Serbian parliament, Kostunica said and noted that the negotiating team will inform parliament in early autumn on what has been done.

Parliament is the only real, democratic forum where the issue of Kosovo-Metohija can be discussed, he said and added that if we consider the worst solution, the position of Serbia would be to conclude that Kosovo-Metohija is part of Serbia. This is no empty rhetoric but a constitutional and legal formulation, Kostunica pointed out.

According to the Prime Minister, in trying to solve the Kosovo-Metohija issue, Serbia has presented only arguments of law and not force and this is the road that Serbia plans to pursue.

The argument of force is very often on the side of others, certain parts of the international community, who sometimes condition Serbia's European integration with renunciation of Kosovo-Metohija, Kostunica said and highlighted that this would be impossible. There are certain defined conditions for all countries that want to become EU members and no country was forced to give up part of its territory in order to join the EU, said Kostunica and stressed that Serbia cannot be such a case either.

Speaking on cooperation with the Hague tribunal, the Serbian Prime Minister said that all those accused must be brought before the court in The Hague.

All those accused who were proven to be in Serbia went to The Hague, Kostunica said noting that the Serbian government is now facing a technical problem to establish where Ratko Mladic is located at the moment. We are trying to solve the very specific "Mladic case" through the Action Plan and through better coordination with The Hague, Brussels, Serbian intelligence services, copying the Croatian model, Kostunica said.

The Prime Minister also announced that after parliament amends the law on ministries, he will make consultations about candidates for ministers of defence and foreign affairs. It is certain that the government will get two new ministries after the law on ministries is amended, he said.

New elections should take place after the constitution is adopted, Kostunica said and explained that Serbia is no longer a federal unit or part of the state union and therefore it needs to pass a democratic constitution that will last for some time.

Serbia's foreign policy will focus on EU integration and cooperation with The Hague whereas the country's interior policy will be based on Kosovo-Metohija, the new constitution and the economy. Kostunica concluded that he does not see a more logical solution than elections taking place after the new constitution is adopted.

Protection zones for religious and cultural legacy in Kosovo-Metohija necessary

Belgrade, Aug 2, 2006 – Head of the Coordinating Centre for Kosovo-Metohija Sanda Raskovic-Ivic said today that the Serbian negotiating team attended a meeting with experts from the UN Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo (UNOSEK). The negotiation team pointed out that for protection of religious and cultural legacy in Kosovo-Metohija it is most important to set the number of places that we want to protect, to establish protection zones as well as security regime in those zones.

Raskovic-Ivic told Tanjug that restitution of church property in protected areas was one of the topics in the meeting with expert team of the office of Martti Ahtisaari.

She said that the Serbian negotiating team suggested that the church property be returned to the church promptly and explained that all facilities taken away from church in the 1945-1953 period can be returned to the church quickly and efficiently through a *lex specialis*.

IMF har udsendt et statement

Serbia and Montenegro—2006 Article IV Consultation and Post-Program Monitoring
SERBIA: CONCLUDING STATEMENT OF THE MISSION
June 27, 2006

1. Serbia is growing. After stagnation in the 1980s, decline in the 1990s amid the SFRY breakup, and collapse and hyperinflation in 1999-2000, GDP has risen strongly every year since. This reflects the natural rebound following the 2001 stabilization, and a significant—if sometimes interrupted—cumulative fiscal and structural reform effort. Much is going right.
2. But two lost decades are not readily recovered. Though output is up nearly 40 percent since 2000, employment has trended down, unemployment is over 20 percent and still rising, and headline inflation has not been sustained below the mid-teens. Fixed investment is well below transition country norms, yet, even so, the external current account deficit remains unsustainably high—at over 10 percent of GDP. It will be a long haul.
3. Continued structural reform and stability are key. Failed corporate and financial structures—compounded by conflict and policy instability—sapped economic vitality at the end of the 20th century. So it will take completion of the post-2000 reforms to those structures—and policy stability—to restore economic health. This might best be advanced as part of the EU accession process. These matters are considered in turn.

Corporate Restructuring

4. The role of the state has been significantly reduced since 2000. Privatization and retrenchment have reduced the state and socially owned sectors, with private firms expanding alongside. As a result, the private share in non-agricultural non-budget sector employment has risen from 30 to 60 percent between 2001 and 2006. This is a considerable accomplishment, reflected in buoyant exports and improved growth potential.
5. But the core of these corporate reforms has been left until last. Though many tough tasks have been largely completed, including bank restructuring, the more healthy firms were privatized first. So to some extent, the shift towards the private sector has been a change in form rather than substance. And the remaining mixed, socially, and state owned firms still account for over 40 percent of non-budget non-agricultural employment. They incur heavy losses, absorb considerable subsidies, and accrue wage arrears. These firms are largely responsible for low economy-wide corporate savings and impede entry of more productive firms.

6. The remaining restructuring will require sustained commitment. Plans to offer for sale all firms in the privatization agency portfolio by mid-2007 are welcome. But the quality of assets now on offer raises prospects for increased incidence of failed tenders and auctions. In this context, the "two strikes" approach proposed by the IBRD needs to be fully observed. In particular, the tax authorities and the Development Fund should initiate bankruptcies in these cases promptly, while blockages to timely completion of insolvency proceedings—including inefficiencies in the courts—need to be removed. If not, these firms will remain a key constraint on economic performance. Broader business climate and trade arrangements—including regional free trade and WTO membership—should support this effort by encouraging new domestic and foreign investment, while abjuring targeted or firm-specific concessions. And as restructuring proceeds, the high share of administered prices in the CPI can be lowered.

7. The oil sector is an immediate test case. The burden on the economy of high international oil prices is compounded by domestic refinery and distribution inefficiencies—caused by the ban on imported processed product and oil price controls. The sale of shares in the integrated firm to a minority shareholder—albeit with management control and possible eventual majority ownership—with the import ban extended alongside, at best addresses only part of the problem. In addition to these proposals, at the very least the ban should be converted into a tariff scheduled to decline quickly over time, a process that would be consistent with EU and WTO principles. This would lower ex-refinery prices—easing non-oil corporate restructuring challenges—whether or not refining efficiencies are secured, thereby further encouraging realization of those efficiencies by the new management. And it would raise budget revenues.

8. With further corporate restructuring in prospect, employment policy should aim at job creation rather than job preservation. Currently, labor market institutions and remuneration levels discourage employment, which continues to fall even as output rises strongly. And with the toughest restructuring still ahead and the share of the private sector in total employment rising, the inflexibilities of labor market structures are becoming increasingly expensive over time. Hiring and firing rules and unemployment benefit arrangements should be rigorously scrutinized from this perspective.

Financial sector

9. Following earlier bank restructuring, credit has boomed. Drawn by high spreads and a desire to establish early in a new market, foreign parents of banks leveraged surging domestic deposits with external resources, and bank credit has risen over 11 percentage points of GDP in three years. And with credit-to-GDP ratios still regionally low, persistent further expansion is likely—compounding the upward pressures on the external current account deficit emanating from the weaknesses in non-bank corporates.

10. These credit patterns suggest that a further examination of the competitive environment among banks may be warranted. Margins appear to have been falling in some activities—though data on this are unavailable—and unremunerated reserve requirements exact an additional toll on bank profits. But banks' continued appetite to lend suggests that total anticipated returns remain highly attractive. Competition was likely reinforced by the activation of the credit registry in 2004 and, more recently, the pledge registry and legislation on enhancing creditor rights over collateral. But other steps could be considered, including providing banking customers with standardized interest rate formulations and helping them to understand the burden of the debts they take on. Reinforced competition, by securing efficient spreads, may help encourage greater attentiveness by banks to macroeconomic and prudential risks in credit extension.

11. Alongside, supervision should continue to be strengthened. The pace and recent genesis of credit growth raise concerns about credit quality, as does the overwhelming dominance of FX-indexed in total credit and high NPL ratios. The recent banking law establishes the basis for enforcement of Basle Core Principles (BCPs), to take effect once the NBS has adopted detailed "decisions" to implement them. The law and the drafts reflect international and EU best practice. More challenging, however, will be to ensure an appropriately qualified cadre of supervisors to implement the law, deliver the transition from compliance to risk-based supervision, and monitor risks arising from greater exchange rate flexibility. A review of the adequacy of conditions of employment for supervisors from this perspective may be appropriate.

Fiscal policy

12. Fiscal options will remain constrained in the medium-term until corporate profitability improves and credit slows. Until reforms in these areas decisively boost domestic private savings, fiscal policy is constrained to deliver domestic savings—lest investment be constrained by lack of funding and the external current account becomes unsustainable. With external vulnerabilities high—as signaled by external debt at 58 percent of GDP and private external debt up some 6 percentage points of GDP in 2005—and immediate political and regional uncertainties considerable, there appears to be little room for fiscal maneuver.

13. These concerns underlie the need for fiscal consolidation and budget surpluses. Adjustment of 5½ percentage points of GDP in the three years to 2005 represents a further major policy achievement. But that effort was overwhelmed by surging credit and the depth of corporate ailments, so that excluding VAT effects, the high external current account deficits barely budged since 2003. In that light, a budget surplus of 2½ percent of GDP (on IMF fiscal definitions) was anticipated under the Extended Arrangement with the IMF. This implied a further consolidation of 1.8 percentage points of GDP in 2006, and declines in public debt, even excluding the Paris Club write-down. Once the tough corporate reforms take root and credit decelerates, scope may be created to allow the fiscal stance to be re-anchored to fiscal sustainability—thereby accommodating some fiscal relaxation.

14. Tax options are limited. Public revenues are already burdensome at some 44 percent of GDP and tax administration is overstretched in the difficult enforcement environment. Thus, even the envisaged shift from direct to indirect taxation should not go ahead if it prejudices the fiscal balance.

15. This puts the focus on public expenditure reform. Ambitions to raise real public spending within fiscal balance targets would best be secured by growth—and growth of tax revenues—via corporate and other reforms, not by raising tax ratios. Until then, there is ample scope to curb current spending. Spending on transfers, budget wages, and subsidies—17, 10, and 3½ percent of GDP respectively in 2006—contains considerable inefficiencies. As part of a reform effort, an accounting of the costs of the September 2005 government decision to "close" pension contribution gaps is urgent. In that light, recent pension reforms can be taken further, including by rationalizing early retirement. And corporate restructuring could be aided by reduced subsidies and by the impact of budget wage restraint on general wage trends. These actions would create room within fiscal balance targets for long overdue increases in budget investment, including on roads and the social infrastructure.

Inflation, and monetary and exchange rate frameworks

16. A renewed assault on inflation would support restructuring. Still in the mid teens, headline inflation is regionally high. And it constitutes a loud signal of macroeconomic disorder—to the detriment of efforts to raise domestic and foreign investment. Disinflation, by signaling strengthened policies, would encourage investment. In this way, it would not be at the expense of jobs but an essential element in their creation. Unless the NBS takes the view that the prospective fiscal stance is insufficiently supportive, it should not be postponed.

17. Recent changes in monetary arrangements have prepared well for this. Greater exchange rate volatility has already been announced and achieved. And the dinar has strengthened in recent months in the wake of the 500 basis point hike in repo rates from Q4 2005, with banking dinar borrowing and lending rates also rising. These developments demonstrate that repo operations have matured into an effective monetary policy instrument. As the NBS continues to scale back its engagement with foreign exchange bureaus—and with it its forex intervention—the repo will become yet more powerful. Given high pass-through rates from the exchange rate to core inflation, all this signals that monetary policy can be effective through the exchange rate channel in combating inflation. And it is effective notwithstanding high rates of financial euroization and the currently limited impact of dinar interest rates on aggregate demand. Finally, adjustments to reserve requirements on foreign currency-denominated liabilities will continue to play a useful role as a measure of last resort in containing credit growth and the external balance in the context of insufficient fiscal support for these objectives.

18. These steps would best be taken further. A process towards eventual formal adoption of a new nominal anchor—inflation targeting—could be initiated. Within this process, the NBS would

publicly adopt "objectives" for core inflation for 2006 and 2007 in the form of a range, extending this projection horizon every six months or so. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Finance would issue objectives for administered prices over the same rolling horizon, in consultation with the NBS. The repo would become the key instrument used to achieve NBS objectives, to be adjusted upwards when core inflation is projected to exceed objectives and vice versa. Forex intervention would be reduced to a daily "leaning against the wind" role.

19. Over a longer horizon, further developments can be envisaged. Once experience is gained with the new framework, the NBS could consider changing its inflation range "objectives" into formal "targets". And other elements of a full-fledged inflation targeting framework could be built. These include modeling, transparency, decision making procedures within the central bank, and final determination of institutional responsibility to set the inflation target band. And as corporate restructuring reduces the share of administered prices in the CPI, the NBS will progressively become responsible for a greater share of CPI developments.

Policies for 2006-07

20. Demand growth remains strong. Notwithstanding weakness in early 2006—reflecting interrupted gas imports followed by flooding—and several measures of monetary tightening, credit growth remains buoyant. VAT collections before refunds confirm that consumer spending is still surging, with concomitant effects on underlying imports.

21. Thus, a firm fiscal stance remains appropriate. The policy goals for the external current account balance—a reduction by 1¾ percentage points of GDP (corrected for the VAT effect) in 2006 and the planned reduction of ½ a percentage point for 2007—are not yet secure. Vulnerabilities would be compounded if those goals are missed, and efforts to disinflate complicated. In this light, a slippage from the anticipated budget surplus of 2½ percent of GDP (on IMF definitions) would best be avoided, and a further improvement to a surplus of 3 percent of GDP is recommended for 2007 (Text table).

22. In this context, disinflation can be purposefully pursued. With core inflation already at 10 percent, the central bank could announce an inflation "objective" range for 2006 of 7-10 percent, declining to 4-7 percent for 2007, and adjust the repo rate as needed to secure these objectives.

23. But a major weakening of budget balance targets is being considered. The suggestion is to commence a multiyear investment program with planned spending of up to 1½ percent of GDP in Q4 2006, funded by privatization and one-off MOBI63 license receipts. This implies, on IMF definitions, a budget deficit of ½ of one percent of GDP in 2006, fully 3 percentage points weaker than target. And if proposed personal tax reforms and Public Private Partnership projects for 2007 go ahead alongside, without spending cuts to offset the non-recurrence of MOBI63 receipts, then the budget would go significantly further into deficit in 2007.

24. These proposals raise again the specter of loss of fiscal discipline, putting at risk the hard-won progress made through reform in recent years. Though the proposed public spending is not debt financed, it will, if implemented fully, significantly impact the current account deficit—raising it towards 14 percent of GDP in 2006, some 3 percentage points weaker than targeted, with further deterioration in 2007 in prospect if the budget deficit enlarges further. Furthermore, the haste of project preparation and disbursement raises doubts about its quality—with considerable waste likely. If the program proceeds on anything like the scale and pace envisaged, investment costs will be raised, gains limited, and competitiveness will be harmed by the impact on non-tradable prices. And if the PIT reforms weaken the fiscal balance further, these adverse effects will be amplified.

25. Disinflation ambitions may also be harmed. Even—perhaps especially—if the fiscal weakening in 2006-07 is sizeable, the suggested reforms to the monetary and exchange regimes should go ahead. But to the extent that the central bank assesses that the fiscal stance is inadequate, it may need to scale back the specificity and ambition of its objectives for core inflation in order to shield, however modestly, the current account balance from the adverse impact of the fiscal loosening.

26. And PPM undertakings would not be observed. In the first quarter, though health sector savings are lower than anticipated and the budget wage bill target was exceeded somewhat, the budget, army reform, headline inflation, and the current account balance are all broadly on

track with PPM commitments. Thus these objectives are well within reach, absent the redirection of fiscal policy now under consideration.

Concluding remarks

27. After two decades of disappointment, Serbia has made significant progress in recent years in an exceptionally challenging environment. To continue with this good progress, we urge you to carefully plan the scope and phasing of your new fiscal initiatives.

* * *

The mission is grateful for the warmth of the welcome it has received.

Serbia: Proposed Macroeconomic Framework, 2005-07

	2005	2006	2007
	(In percent of GDP)		
Non-government domestic savings	-9.6	-8.4	-6.3
Non-government domestic investment	14.3	15.2	16.2
General government fiscal balance	0.8	2.6	3.0
Current account balance (underlying) 1/	-12.6	-10.8	-10.4
External debt	64.3	63.5	61.3
	(Annual change in percent)		
Credit to non-government (end of period)	57.0	42.0	...
Real GDP	6.3	5.5	5.0
Retail price inflation (end of period)	17.7	12.0	8.1
of which: Core inflation	12.7	8.0	5.5

Source: IMF staff estimates and projections

1/ Corrected for the impact of the VAT introduction in 2005. Excluding grants.

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.

MAKEDONIEN

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=1013618386163> • Det Amerikanske UM har offentliggjort en 'Background Note' om Makedonien: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/26759.htm>

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

Folkeafstemningen 041107 om decentralisering (= imødekommenelse 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: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/fyrom/key_documents.htm. Se også den generelle side: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/index_en.html

Parlamentsvalg onsdag 05.07.2006. Valget blev vundet af oppositionen; ny PM ventes at blive Nikola Gruevski; den hidtidige PM - Vlado Buckovski - har erkendt nederlaget. Grevski og VMRO-DPMNE vil intensivere arbejdet for at få Makedonien optaget i EU og NATO. Man vil søge at gøre landet mere attraktivt for investeringer.

Se evt. reportage på BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/5152732.stm>

OSCE skriver om valget:

SKOPJE, 6 July 2006 - Parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 5 July largely met international standards for democratic elections, but violence and intimidation cast a shadow over the campaign, and election day, 5 July, was calm with isolated cases of serious irregularities, concluded the International Election Observation Mission in a preliminary statement, released today.

Some 380 observers monitored the election on behalf of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). This was the ninth time the OSCE observed elections in the country.

"There were a number of improvements in the election process which are a result of the implementation of previous recommendations," said Audrey Glover, Head of the ODIHR mission.

"However, serious incidents during the campaign and on election day are a continuing reminder that perpetrators must be held accountable in accordance with the rule of law."

Mevlut Cavusoglu, who led the PACE delegation, said: "Yesterday the citizens could, and did, decide on the political direction of their country in a generally democratic fashion. The serious, but isolated, irregularities observed should not be allowed to overshadow the democratic progress made. We regret that for some violence and manipulation are still acceptable tools to further their political goals. This can only be condemned. We welcome the willingness and capacity of the people and the electoral system to take corrective action towards such abuses, which is a sign of political maturity."

The observers also concluded that voting and counting were conducted in an orderly and peaceful manner in most of the country, but isolated, serious irregularities, such as vote buying, ballot box stuffing, tension and intimidation tainted the election process in a number of municipalities.

While observers did not find any deliberate attempt to manipulate polling station protocols during the count, major procedural problems were reported.

Following an inclusive registration of political parties, the campaign was competitive, offering the electorate a broad choice. However, a number of violent incidents cast a shadow over the first half of the campaign. Observers also noted instances of abuse of administrative resources, particularly by mayor's offices.

Overall, the broadcast and print media provided the voters with a variety of views, but the public broadcaster, Macedonian Television, favoured the ruling parties in its coverage. The tone of the media coverage was generally moderate, with some partisan comments in private media.

Although the new consolidated Election Code was finalized only three months before the

elections, it provides a more consistent basis for their conduct, including provisions for increasing participation of women and national minorities.

PDF-rapport kan hentes fra: http://www.osce.org/documents/odhr/2006/07/19801_en.pdf

IMF har udsendt materiale om Makedonsk økonomi: Report on Observance of Standards and Codes - Fiscal Transparency Module

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an assessment of fiscal transparency practices in FYR Macedonia in relation to the requirements of the IMF Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency based on discussions with the authorities and other organizations, the authorities' response to the IMF fiscal transparency questionnaire, and other sources of information. The IMF Manual on Fiscal Transparency (<http://www.imf.org/external/np/fad/trans/manual/>) should be consulted for further explanation of the terms and concepts discussed in this report.

FYR Macedonia meets the requirements of the fiscal transparency code in several key areas: (i) the allocation of responsibilities among different levels of government is well defined, but the ongoing fiscal decentralization process, particularly related to the devolution of expenditure responsibilities to local governments and borrowing by local governments, must be carefully monitored and underpinned by improved capacity at the local level; (ii) the central bank has operational independence from the government and is barred from financing it; (iii) information on public and publicly-guaranteed debt is regularly published; (iv) the legal framework for the management of public funds is clear and comprehensive with regard to the budget process and responsibilities; (v) the annual budget process is transparent, and the budget presentation is rapidly moving toward international good practice; (vi) the budget preparation has a strategic phase, where the main parameters for fiscal policy are determined and indicative ceilings for expenditure areas are set; (vii) the introduction of program budgeting with the 2005 budget (together with a description of programs in the budget document) has provided much better transparency of expenditure plans; (viii) the treasury accounting system is capable of producing accurate and frequent in-year reports on central government budget outturns; (ix) extrabudgetary funds and local governments have been integrated into the treasury single account; (x) the legislative basis for taxation is generally clear and comprehensive, and legislation in the areas of the value-added tax and customs duties are being harmonized with EU practices; (xi) tax administration officials are given legal protection from political interference; and (xii) the state audit office, which conducts external audit, is independent from the executive branch and its mandate covers all public sector activities.

However, fiscal transparency in FYR Macedonia could be improved in several respects, including through: (i) the provision in budget documents of public debt sustainability analysis and information on fiscal risks, contingent liabilities, and tax expenditure; (ii) strengthened reporting on state-owned enterprises and a more transparent nomination process for board members of state-owned enterprises, funds, and agencies; (iii) the provision in the budget memorandum of an overview of new expenditure initiatives, and the development of a system for tracking their expenditure implications; (iv) further support to the recently-established internal audit units; and (v) increased funding for the activities as well as improved follow-up on the recommendations of the state audit office.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2006/cr06282.pdf>

GRÆKENLAND

Seneste Parlamentsvalg 040307.

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

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

USA



ENGLAND

»Mjaft« ('Nu kan det være nok!') har fået en afdeling i England. Ét af medlemmerne, Ralf Gjoni, har brokket sig over en 'tendentøs' eller 'skæv' omtale af Albanien i the »*Sunday Times*«. Omtalen kan findes på: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2099-2271185,00.html> (fortsættelse på: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2099-2271185_2,00.html). Mjaft-krtikken kan findes på: http://www.london.mjaft.org/mjaft_letter_sunday_times.htm

TYSKLAND

FRANKRIG

DANMARK (NORGE, SVERIGE)

060703 Finn Theilgaard, chargé d'affaires på den Danske Ambassade, har haft sin sidste arbejdsdag på ambassaden i Tirana. Han efterfølges senere af Ambassadør Niels Severin Munk, hidtil Dhaka, Bangladesh. Theilgaard har bl.a. haft møde med Præsident Moisiu, der tildelte ham en særlig hædersbevisning:



July 3, 2006

The President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu received today in a meeting the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Finn Theilgaard who is leaving our country.

During the friendly talk held at the meeting, President Moisiu pointed out the contribution of Mr. Theilgaard in the qualitative enhancement of the good relations between our two countries and peoples and also in the further strengthening of the cooperation to the benefit of reciprocal interests. Appreciating this contribution, the Head of state handed to the Danish Ambassador the Medal of Gratitude.

Then the interlocutors expressed the consideration for the positive achievements of Albania in its path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration by pointing out especially the signing of the Association-Stabilization Agreement by our country with the European Union and also other significant steps that will be taken in this direction.

DIIS har udsendt »Danish Foreign Policy Yearbook 2006« (redigeret af Nanna Hvidt og Hans Mouritsen).

Den kan downloades i sin helhed som PDF [0.8 MB] fra:

http://www.diis.dk/graphics/Publications/Books2006/Yearbook2006/Yearbook2006web_b.pdf.

Contents, Preface, Abstracts of Scholarly Articles in English and Danish

[http://www.diis.dk/graphics/Publications/Books2006/Yearbook2006/yearbook2006_content_etc.pdf
0.1 MB]

Chapter 1: Articles

[http://www.diis.dk/graphics/Publications/Books2006/Yearbook2006/yearbook2006_chapter1.pdf
0.6 MB]

- * The International Situation and Danish Foreign Policy 2005 Ulrik Federspiel
- * The 'Big Other' and the 'Small Other': Discursive Asymmetries and Cleavages in Russian-Danish Relations Andrey S. Makarychev
- * Social Defense and National Security: The Globalized Danish Welfare State Eric S. Einhorn
- * Truth on Demand: Denmark and the Cold War Thorsten Barring Olesen
- * A Hundred Years of Danish Action Space Hans Mouritzen

Chapter 2-5

[http://www.diis.dk/graphics/Publications/Books2006/Yearbook2006/yearbook2006_chapter2_5.pdf
0.3 MB]

* Selected Documents

- * Danish Foreign Policy in Figures
- * Opinion Polls
- * Selected Bibliography

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

Information om »Sidste Nyt«

»Sidste Nyt om Albanien, Kosóva og Makedonien« hører til et *web-site* om de Balkan-lande hvor der lever mange Albanere:
<http://bjoerna.dk/albanerne.htm>.

Her kan du også finde »gamle nyheder«, anmeldelser, links og en [Balkan Brevkasse](#).

»Sidste Nyt« sættes på nettet senest hver fredag morgen, hvor der sendes besked til dem der ønsker det.
Bestilling / afbestilling sker ved at sende en e-mail med teksten »Nyheder udbedes« / »Nyheder afmeldes«.

Nyheder, materiale, kommentarer og spørgsmål modtages *meget* gerne, både om småting og større ting. Send en e-mail.

Tilsvarende hvis du opdager en fejl. Fejl vil blive rettet hurtigst muligt.

»Sidste Nyt« og <http://bjoerna.dk/albanerne.htm> drives *non-profit* og uden finansiering »udefra«.

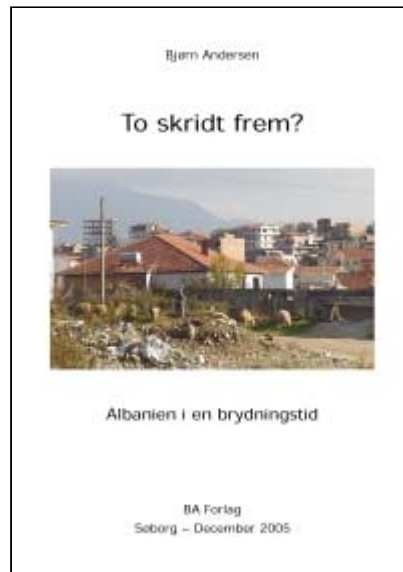
Hvis du vil være med til at finansiere udgivelsen kan du lettest gøre det ved at købe én eller flere af mine bøger.

Send gerne en mail hvis der er - små eller store - tekniske problemer.

[Bemærkninger om EDB-sikkerhed](#).

Du må citere hvis du angiver hovedsidens adresse: bjoerna.dk

Siderne om Albanerne finder du på: bjoerna.dk/albanerne.htm



»To skridt frem? Albanien i en brydningstid«

Baggrundsmateriale kan findes via:
<http://bjoerna.net/to-skridt-frem/#Linksamling>

»Albansk Almanak 2004«

Almanak'en for 2004 er udkommet i december 2005. Her finder du nyhedsbrevene fra 2004 og nogle kommentarer.

Bogen udgives i et sæt bestående af et hæfte (de første 77 sider) og en CD (alle 1264 sider). På CD'en også supplerende materiale - ikke mindst »1912 - Med den serbiske Armé i Makedonien« - Fritz Magnussen's beretninger v/ Palle Rossen.

Se indholdsoversigt på: <http://bjoerna.dk/albansk-historie/almanak-2004.htm>.

Se pris på: [Bestillingsliste](#).

»Albansk Almanak 2005«

Almanak'en for 2005 er udkommet i april 2006. Her finder du nyhedsbrevene fra 2005 og forskelligt supplerende materiale.

Bogen udgives i et sæt bestående af et hæfte (ugeoversigterne) og en CD (med ugebrevene og det supplerende materiale - i alt omkring 2.150 sider).

Se pris på: [Bestillingsliste](#).

»Albanske Studier« bd. 1-2

Kommentarer til Bjøl, Huntington, Machiavelli, Sørlander, DUPI (Humanitær Intervention), Clausewitz, Mao Zedong, Lars R. Møller, Malcolm og flere andre.

Englændere på rejse i Albanien: Edward Lear, Edith Durham og Robert Carver.

Bøger om slægtsfejder og blodhævn. Diskussion af Anne Knudsen's disputats om blodhævn på Korsika og af Ismail Kadare's roman »Ufuldendt april«.

Baggrundsmateriale om den Sønderjyske general Christian von Holstein, der deltog i Habsburgernes felttog ind i Kosóva i 1689-90.

Sidst i bogen et forsøg på en sammenfatning i form af nogle 'grundlæggende synspunkter'.

Desuden en kommentar til Hans Hækkerup's »På skansen«. På CD'en supplerende materiale om traditionelle Albanske klædedragter og om Holstein. Hans bog om Kosovo er omtalt i »Albansk Almanak 2004«.

Du kan downloade indholdsfortegnelsen og kommentaren til »På skansen« fra: <http://bjoerna.dk/albansk-historie/studier-2002.htm>

Bogen findes i trykt form og på CD (som pdf-fil). Papirudgave 368 A4-sider i 2 bind. Bogen sælges som papirudgave m/ CD og som CD alene. Se pris på: [Bestillingsliste](#).

Til dig der kigger på et ældre nummer af »Sidste Nyt«.

Seneste udgave af denne »annonce« kan ses på:

[»Sidste Nyt«](#) (klik)