



TELEGRAM DIPLOMATIK

ALBANIAN MFA NEWSLETTER

Apostolic Journey of Pope Francis to Tirana



On Sunday, September 21, 2014, His Holiness Pope Francis held his first European visit to Albania. Upon his arrival, he was officially received by the Prime Minister of Albania, Mr. Edi Rama, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ditmir Bushati and other high authorities.

In his speech during a courtesy visit to the Presidency, Pope Francis stated:

I am very happy to be here with you, in this noble land of Albania, a land of heroes who sacrificed their lives for the independence of the nation, and a land of martyrs, who witnessed to their faith in difficult times of persecution. I am grateful for the invitation to visit your country, called “the Land of the Eagles”, and for your warm welcome.

There is a rather beautiful characteristic of Albania, one which is given great care and attention, and which gives me great joy: I am referring to the peaceful coexistence and collaboration that exists among followers of different religions.

The climate of respect and mutual trust between Catholics, Orthodox and Muslims is a precious gift to the country. This is especially the case in these times where an authentic religious spirit is being perverted and where religious differences are being distorted and instrumentalized. This creates dangerous circumstances which lead

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to conflict and violence, rather than being an occasion for open and respectful dialogue, and for a collective reflection on what it means to believe in God and to follow his laws.

What the experience in Albania shows, rather, is that a peaceful and fruitful coexistence between persons and communities of believers of different religions is not only desirable, but possible and realistic. The peaceful coexistence of different religious communities is, in fact, an inestimable benefit to peace and to harmonious human advancement.

This is something of value which needs to be protected and nourished each day, by providing an education which respects differences and particular identities, so that dialogue and cooperation for the good of all may be promoted and strengthened by mutual understanding and esteem.

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It is a gift which we need to implore from God in prayer. May Albania always continue to walk this path, offering to other countries an inspiring example.

Alongside the globalization of the markets there must also be a corresponding globalization of solidarity; together with economic growth there must be a greater respect for creation; alongside the rights of individuals, there must be the guaranteed rights of those who are a bridge between the individual and the state, the family. Today Albania is able to face these challenges in an atmosphere of freedom and stability, two realities which must be strengthened and which form the basis of hope for the future.”

The culminating moment of this Apostolic Journey was the celebration of the Holy Mass and the prayer of the Angelus Domini at Mother Teresa Square, which was attended by thousands of believers and ordinary citizens, as well as prominent figures from the political and social sphere in the country.

After the Holy Mass, Pope Francis had lunch with Albanian Bishops and the Papal Entourage at the Apostolic Nunciature.

Pope Francis also held a meeting with leaders of religious communities in the country and considered Albania as a perfect example which shows that coexistence between different religions is not just a dream, but a reality and an example to be followed.

The final event of a tight agenda was the meeting with the children of “Centro Betania” and with representatives of other charitable centers in Albania.

His Holiness left Albania in the evening, with a special blessing for the Albanian people, who despite numerous sufferings, knew how to find the right path and build a healthy society.

On August 28 2014, Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Economy of the Western Balkan countries met in Berlin at a forum organized under the auspices of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

This conference was organized in light of the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I and it was the first conference held in this framework. Organizers and participants agreed to continue holding the Conference in the future.

During the Conference, Günther Oettinger confirmed that this event will be held annually, with Vienna and Paris hosting it in 2015 and 2016 respectively. The conference was attended by heads of government and ministers from all six Western Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as representatives of EU Member States Croatia and Slovenia. The meeting was also attended by former EC President Jose Manuel Barroso, EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger, EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fule, Austrian Economy Minister Reinhold Mitterlehner, and Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sebastian Kurz.

During the Foreign Ministers’ segment, Albanian Foreign Minister Bushati underlined the importance of making this initiative periodical, as well as finding the right instruments to enable, in future years, the drafting and implementation of concrete joint projects in the region.

In this regard, the Albanian delegation presented a document under the title “Albanian Working Paper for the Western Balkans Conference in Berlin”, which is based on the vision of “a region in peace and well prepared to join the European Union, by guaranteeing a dignified living for all its citizens.”

Speaking before the start of the August 28 conference, Merkel stated that the Western Balkans needed a European perspective, adding that their EU accession depended on the swiftness of implementing the necessary reforms.

A press conference at the German Chancellery was held at the end of the Conference with Chancellor Merkel, President Barroso and the Prime Minister of Albania, Edi Rama, who is the current Chair of the South East Europe Cooperation Process.

Berlin Conference on Western Balkans



Speech of Minister Ditmir Bushati

Western Balkans Conference – Berlin, "Economic governance: getting closer to the EU"



I would like to start by thanking Germany for taking the initiative to bring us together in Berlin and Frank-Walter for hosting this session. We surely hope that this will become a yearly joint exercise of the Western Balkans and the EU member states.

This conference is both a statement that the Western Balkans matter and a further incentive for the Western Balkans to become a true region in economic terms.

It might sound awkward, but we are far from being a true region, particularly in terms of infrastructure and energy interconnectivity. Indeed it is easier for our peoples to travel to EU member states than to a neighboring country.

There has been tremendous change in our region, and we have had some good news in the past years. But we are gathered here to do more than merely contemplate our fragile stability. Both peace and stability cannot be guaranteed in the long run without sustainable economic growth.

The risk we currently face as a region is that the economic gap widens between the Western Balkans aspirant countries and the EU member states.

This is why it's important that the pre-accession process envisages projects with a regional economic impact that will help improve the lives of our citizens and physically connect the Balkans with the EU.

Furthermore, in the last few months, the European

geopolitical and security landscape has changed immensely:

- In the Eastern neighborhood: the Ukrainian crisis has developed into a prolonged geo-economic confrontation;
- In the Southern neighborhood and the Middle East: fundamentalism and terrorism destabilize the whole region.

It is against this backdrop, that we believe enlargement should also be seen in geopolitical terms, as the Western Balkans offer the prospect of enhanced cooperation and security amongst nations now at peace with each other.

Even if it is clear to us that enlargement is not calendar, but process and performance driven, the overall process needs to remain both credible and predictable.

I consider this conference an instrument of credibility and predictability. It brings further purpose to our meetings, providing a clear opportunity for us to collectively define a vision of where we would like to see our region in the next 5 to 10 years, particularly in relation to our common strategic goal to become fully-fledged members of the EU.

In this collective vision, "Economic governance" should become our common denominator. By Economic governance, I mean not only a set of economic policy reforms but also a new set of instruments for our region and a set of concrete projects of regional impact.

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A first step in this direction was taken by the EU Commission which developed a platform of Enhanced cooperation within the Stabilisation and Association Process, a platform that brings incentives for us to focus on acquis-related areas such as rule of law, economic governance and connectivity.

Yet, the Western Balkans currently faces a two-fold problem:

a) On one hand, because of internal dynamics in the EU member states, there seem to be difficulties facing the enlargement process, difficulties which we understand.

b) On the other hand: our countries are deprived of long-term public and private financing sources. The region will not be able to kick start a new period of modernization and growth on its own, in particular one based on investment and exports.

Let me elaborate on this point a little bit:

In financial terms, measured by net inflows from EU funds: the difference between member states and candidate countries is by a factor of more than five.

Furthermore, IPA funds are mainly used to build institutions and prepare sectorial policies. Only limited IPA funds can be used to build necessary national and local infrastructure, or extend long-term resources to improve human capital and build innovative Small and Medium Enterprises.

Importantly, since the financial crisis, limited fiscal space has been largely utilized to stabilize the economy and little is left for launching new projects, in particular those of regional/EU importance.

Within this context, a slower integration process, on top of negative political effects, would have deep negative economic consequences.

This negative scenario would mean that the region would remain outside of major energy and transport routes and

on a weak growth trajectory, offering very few business opportunities for EU key energy and infrastructure players. In a nutshell, the risk is that we could be seeing a period of economic stagnation and a fatal uncertainty about our region's EU destination.

We want instead the remainder of the decade to be a period of catch up and dynamism. In a Working Paper, which we have circulated to the participants of the conference, we have outlined the need to facilitate and restructure the economic integration process of the region through the launch of several large scale initiatives of joint EU- Western Balkans interest.

The following regional projects are now being discussed by our colleagues:

- *Regional infrastructure projects such as the Blue Highway and regional Railway networks,*
- *Energy infrastructure and energy security: with key strategic projects such as TAP and IAP,*
- *Support for SMEs, human capital financing and vocational training,*
- *Regional tourism projects.*

Through these regional projects, the geo-economic traction of the Balkan states should help revitalize the European idea.

We are fully prepared to take the necessary internal governance decisions to boost our courses towards the EU, especially in the areas of rule of law, economic governance and connectivity.

Short of rapid membership, it is important that the EU integration process keeps going on, giving tangible benefits to ordinary citizens, so as to continue being the strategic anchor for the region. We would expect all countries in the region to be well advanced in their negotiations to join the EU by the end of this decade.

Internship opportunity at the MFA during October-December 2014

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is seeking to recruit interns for the period of October - December 2014. Interns will assist with research work and provide their support in one of the MFA directorates. The internship is without payment. MFA offers to help interns by providing all necessary documents which reflect their internship period, tasks assigned, as well as an assessment at the end of the internship. Whether this internship period is recognized by the educational institution where you study depends entirely on the institution, but the MFA stands ready to help you with the recognition of your time and work in exchange for credits. In compliance with the Directors' needs, interns are expected to track relevant developments and updates from leading agencies, organizations, industries and other sources, relevant to the field; assist in the preparation, editing and publishing of the newsletter; provide administrative support, as needed. Required Qualifications: Interest in international relations, political science, international law, business, communication sciences, etc.

Croatian Forum on "EU integration of the Western Balkan countries; Rule of Law"



At the invitation of, Mrs. Vesna Pusić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ditmir Bushati attended the annual Croatian Forum on the "EU integration of the Western Balkan countries; Rule of Law", which took place on 10-11 July 2014,

Ministers and high officials of the region, the EU and member states, as well as guests from the USA, the Russian Federation, China and Japan, discussed over challenges of the EU integration process of the Western Balkan countries.

During this meeting, participants shared their countries' experiences and talked about difficulties faced by the countries of the region as well as the European Union and member states, underlining the necessity of keeping the enlargement policy alive.

In his speech on the future of the EU enlargement process, Minister Bushati focused on the successes achieved in the Balkans through the coordination of the EU and the United States foreign policy, by creating stability as well as a real perspective.

Minister Bushati noted that "beyond peace and stability, which remain primary goals, European Union guidelines for the Western Balkans must now focus on the mechanisms of economic development and those of interconnection between regional countries themselves, as well as between them and the EU."

"Beyond their perspective, Western Balkan countries need the geo-strategic clarity of the EU, especially at a time when Europe's periphery is challenged by conflicts and non-stabilized political-economic systems," Minister Bushati stated.

Press releases

22 September 2014

MFA welcomes the formation of the National Unity Government in Afghanistan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania welcomes the agreement to form a Government of National Unity in Afghanistan, following the political commitment of the two leading candidates for the post of President and Chief Executive Officer of Afghanistan, namely Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah.

This agreement marks the first democratic and peaceful transition of power in the history of the country, aiming to achieve all-inclusive governance, to the best interest of the stability and prosperity of the Afghan people.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania encourages the Afghan authorities to maximally engage in taking the necessary steps towards strengthening democracy, implementing reforms and consolidating peace in the country.

September 10, 2014

MFA welcomes the new team of EU Commissioners

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes the new team of commissioners, revealed today by the European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker.

MFA praises the cooperation with the previous team and is convinced that, during the upcoming term, relations with the European Commission and Albania's integration process will mark important steps forward. A clear European perspective for the Western Balkan countries and special focus on the EU enlargement policy are an indispensable support to reform processes and the stability in our region.

NATO Summit in Wales



Minister of Foreign Affairs Ditmir Bushati attended the NATO Summit in Wales. The Albanian delegation at this Summit was led by Prime Minister Edi Rama. During the first working session of the North Atlantic Council at the level of Foreign Ministers of NATO member countries, discussions focused on the process of NATO enlargement and countries aspiring to join the Alliance, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Minister Bushati underlined the importance of carrying on with the Alliance's "open doors policy" with aspiring countries able to meet the membership commitments and obligations. He noted that Albania remains a strong and firm supporter of the Euro-Atlantic integration of all Western Balkan countries, believing that this is the only way to guaranteeing security, stability and peace. Also, in the capacity of Chairman of two very important regional initiatives, such as the Adriatic Charter (A5) and the SEECP, Minister Bushati expressed his support for the strengthening of regional cooperation, especially at a time of new multidimensional threats in the Euro-Atlantic space, highlighting that their presence calls for a closer cooperation among regional countries in the future. Moreover, during the Ministers of Foreign Affairs' working dinner, discussions were mainly focused on future security challenges and cooperation with NATO partner countries, in order to face them.

During the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of NATO member countries with Heads of International Organizations such as the EU, OSCE and Council of Europe, discussions focused on the cooperation between NATO and these organizations within the framework of facing current and future security challenges in the Euro-Atlantic space. In his speech, Minister Bushati, in the framework of recent events in Ukraine and new threats emerging in the Middle East and the Maghreb, underlined the importance of further enhancing cooperation with the EU, OSCE and CoE, in order to effectively cope with the risks and threats stemming from the above-mentioned crisis, for the European security and beyond. Praising the effective ongoing cooperation of NATO with these organizations on a significant number of mutual concerns, as demonstrated in the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, the fight against piracy etc., Minister Bushati expressed his conviction that we should carry on with our common ambition to intensify and strengthen cooperation, in order to successfully cope with future security challenges. Appreciating the commitment of each of the organizations to resolve the current conflict in Ukraine, Minister Bushati further praised the EU as a strategic partner for NATO, noting also the strategic importance of obtaining the candidate country status not only for Albania, but for the region as a whole.

The Summit of the Heads of State and / or Government of NATO member countries formally concluded its proceedings with the adoption of the Joint Declaration and several other important documents of ally countries, which will serve as a guide for their future work in the next two years.

MFA organizes Ambassadorial Conference 2014

At the beginning of July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the Ambassadorial Conference, after four years of absence. The Conference was a four-day event that gathered the heads of diplomatic and consular missions of Albania in the world.

The Ambassadorial Conference is conceived as a platform for the exchange of information and ideas, with the aim of analyzing some of the key issues related to our country, the region and the international arena.

Ministers, government officials, representatives of civil society, independent analysts and members of the academic world, both Albanian and international, were invited to interact with the diplomats, in order to boost diversification of opinions and ideas on current developments in international relations.

In his speech at the opening ceremony of this conference, Minister Bushati put the emphasis on the activities of the MFA in the last 10 months, as well as on developments, basic principles and objectives of the country's foreign policy.

"The word 'service' is in fact the core of our mission," Minister Bushati stated at the beginning of his speech, "a mission consisting of a sense of piety, discipline and dedication. If we submit to this definition, a healthy foreign policy can in no way be understood without diplomats with strong professional ethics, responsible and self-acting. As long as we preserve these values, the execution of foreign policy will be in safe hands. "

Minister Bushati underlined the importance of determining the main foundations of our foreign policy,



which clearly denote the "unshakeable and vital alliance of Albania with the USA and the EU".

"Albania supports the 'open doors' policy and the importance of a NATO structured process of cooperation with countries of the region, in order to eliminate security gaps in Southeast Europe" Minister Bushati underlined.

He further stated that: "Our region, where the enlargement project which runs in the DNA of the EU is continuing, has undergone major changes.

The history of enlargement is a success story, which is proof, firstly, of the aspirant countries' commitment to a European transformation that enables the so-called 'return to Europe'. 2014 finds Albania in a more favorable position than ever before. A NATO member, a candidate country of the EU, part of the Adriatic-Ionian basin, a key country of energy projects which bare special importance to Europe, such as the TAP pipeline project and its ramifications on the Adriatic-Ionian corridor.

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It is a pleasure to note that now, nothing in the region can be done at the expense or without the knowledge of Albania.”

Minister Bushati underlined the fact that Albania has supported the Euro-Atlantization of the region. “For us, the European perspective of the Western Balkan region is only a natural result of the enlargement process.” Albania is an active participant in the process of regional cooperation and in all regional initiatives, such as the SEECP – South-East Europe Cooperation Process; CEI - Central European Initiative; All - Adriatic Ionian Initiative. The concept of our diplomacy for the region is not narrow, but strongly connected to other regions. Albania is part of the Mediterranean as it is of the Balkans.”

Focusing on challenges facing the exercise of a diplomat’s duty, Minister Bushati stated that "The fulfillment of these goals requires appropriate financial instruments, but most of all, it requires a change of mindset oriented towards a strong national cohesion concerning foreign policy objectives.”

Albania and Kosovo inaugurate first joint Consulate in Milan

Albania and Kosovo opened their first joint Consulate in Milan. Present at the inauguration ceremony were the two Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Ditmir Bushati and the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Enver Hoxhaj, along with members of the diplomatic corps and other high officials of the host country, Italy.

The new Consulate in Milan will provide services to citizens of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Kosovo, in modern premises and in a shorter time frame, thus improving the quality of services offered.

In their speech, ministers Bushati and Hoxhaj underlined that: "The Consulate is an important step in the framework of strategic partnership between the two countries and a clear indication of our work and willingness to be closer to our fellow citizens, by offering them qualitative and transparent services”.

This representation is based on the Agreement between the two governments for consular representation and the Action Protocol for the implementation of this agreement for the consular representation of the Republic of Kosovo at the General Consulate in Milan and consular representation of the Republic of Albania at the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Canberra, Australia (representation in Australia is expected to take place soon) signed in Pristina, on 14/03/2014.

The beginning of consular representation of the Republic of Kosovo in Milan is a clear indicator of the high level of cooperation and mutual confidence between our two countries, serving as a highly significant example of the willingness to collaborate. At the same time, it reflects the



good relations between our two countries and Italy, the host country of large immigrant communities from the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Kosovo. This representation is a modern form of mutual assistance and an expression of the willingness to facilitate and improve the quality of services for our citizens abroad.

Note:

The new Joint Consulate is located in:
Via Gian Battista Pirelli No. 30
Tell 02.8051265; fax - 02.86910853;
e-mail: consulate.milan@mfa.gov.al

Albania marks the beginning of its **SEECP Chairmanship**

In the framework of the 69th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Minister Bushati chaired the Council of Foreign Ministers of member countries of the South-East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP).

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers of 13 member states, Commissioner Füle, representatives of the Italian Presidency of the EU and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).



SEECP ALBANIAN CHAIRMANSHIP
REGIONAL OWNERSHIP IN ACTION

In this activity, for the first time, a delegation of the Republic of Kosovo was represented as a full-fledged participant.

The New York meeting constitutes a special moment, as it marks the beginning of the Albanian Chairmanship of the SEECP, the highest forum of cooperation for the South-Eastern Europe countries. This meeting also served to present the priorities of the Albanian Chairmanship 2014 – 2015, namely: strengthening the

regional role of the SEECP, promoting dialogue among member countries as a tool for the functioning of the SEECP, as well as consolidating vital sectors of the SEECP. The calendar of activities which will take place along the Albanian Chairmanship was also adopted during the meeting.

The Albanian Chairmanship of the SEECP is a significant political-diplomatic commitment, which serves to further promote the role and policy of our country in the region and beyond. During our Chairmanship, several high-level meetings will be held in Tirana, which will be attended by heads of states / governments, parliament speakers, foreign ministers and other ministers, according to the priorities of our chairmanship. Moreover, a series of regional activities have been planned, with experts and representatives of civil society, the academic sphere and business community.

Albanian Delegation at the 69th Session of **United Nations General Assembly**



In his speech at the Security Council, Minister Bushati noted that: "Foreign terrorist fighters pose a serious threat to the whole trajectory of their journey: to states they transit and to states of destination.

But the threat is also great for the states of origin - as the return of foreign fighters to their countries of origin carries potential risks, particularly where security structures are insufficient, where political stability is fragile, where social cohesion is yet unformed or where there is a complex fabric of religious and ethnic composure, as it is in the case of the Balkans. Albania is proud to be among the first countries to respond to this challenge.

During the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly, a special meeting of the Security Council was held, which aimed at adopting a resolution on foreign terrorist fighters. Albania aligned with the countries which supported this resolution, whose object was to respond to the growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. This resolution affirms the commitment of member states to coordinate their actions against terrorism in all its forms, which threatens international peace and security.

Minister Bushati underlined the need to address social and economic factors which favor the involvement of foreign fighters in terrorist networks and activities. In his closing speech, Minister Bushati expressed Albania's willingness to further contribute to international efforts in strengthening peace and stability.

Economic and Public Diplomacy

Fifth Session of the Albania-Poland Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation held in the framework of economic diplomacy

In the framework of Economic Diplomacy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Entrepreneurship, held on July 15, 2014, in Tirana, the 5th Session of the Albania-Poland Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation.

After three years, this session brought together representatives of counterpart institutions, who after assessing economic developments in their respective countries and evaluating the current stage of bilateral economic and trade cooperation, discussed, proposed and defined the prospects of future cooperation in areas of mutual interest. At the end of the meeting, the heads of the two delegations signed the Protocol on Economic Cooperation.

Part of this table were also business representatives, who praised the current cooperation which should be institutionalized in the near future, thus enabling common agendas and activities, such as fairs, exhibitions, business forums, B2B meetings and others, in the framework of promotion, recognition and partnerships, information exchange, development, etc. Areas of interest for a closer cooperation, which are also a good opportunity to attract Polish businesses, included economic cooperation, trade and investment, development of economic areas and industrial parks, industry (especially in the manufacturing and domestic processing sectors, mainly those of food and textile industry), agriculture and agricultural processing industry, energy, transport and infrastructure, tourism, environment, technology and innovation, health, education etc. Following this meeting, it was agreed that parties will work to finalize new cooperation agreements or renegotiate older ones in areas of mutual interest, in function of the current stage of Albania, after obtaining the EU candidate country status.

This Protocol will serve as a platform to be followed up by relevant institutions in both countries, by orienting priorities of economic cooperation, implementing concrete commitments for cooperation, realizing joint projects and activities, encouraging direct investments, increasing business contacts between institutions, providing concrete help to businesses, etc.

Albanian Embassy in Pristina promotes cross-border cooperation with Kosovo

On September 15, 2014, the Embassy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the local government of Kukës, held a broad meeting in the municipality of Shishtavec to explore the possibilities of increasing the production of potatoes in this region, situated at the border with Kosovo.

The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Panariti, ambassadors of Turkey and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, foreign and domestic experts and producers from the area of Kosovo and Shishtavec. They concluded that the government and foreign donors will subsidize and finance the cultivation and production of bio potatoes in the mountainous area of our country, around 1,400m above sea level.

This project aims to triplicate and quadruplicate the production and to export a part of it in the near future.





Opening of **BESA** Exhibition in Switzerland

“Besa” photo exhibition opened on September 11 in the city of Biel, in the framework of ten exhibitions and other activities of the same theme which will be held in Switzerland during the period May 2014-April 2015. The inauguration ceremony of the exhibition, which aims to evoke Albanian hospitality that saved hundreds of Jews during World War II, was attended by the Ambassador of Israel Yigal Baruch Caspi, the Ambassador of Kosovo, Naim Malaj, directors of local institutions of Biel, citizens of the Albanian and Hebrew community. The event was greeted by various participants, who during their speech, praised one of the most important virtues of the Albanian people, “besa”, as the highest ethical code. “This virtue should serve as an example, a model to be promoted as a positive inheritance to be brought to the present, characterized by conflicts,” lecturers underlined. This project is being carried out under the auspices of three embassies: that of Kosovo, Albania and Israel, in the framework of the development of public cultural diplomacy in Switzerland. The exhibition will continue to be displayed in the upcoming days and then will open in Zurich, Bern, Lucerne, Geneva, Lausanne, and Freiburg.

Unveiling of **Mother Teresa** bust in Budapest

Following the one-year initiative launched by our Embassy and supported by the diplomatic corps accredited in Budapest and in the framework of the celebration of September 5, the day of Mother Teresa’s birth, declared by the UN as the International Day of Charity, the Embassy of the Republic of Albania in Budapest together with the Municipality of Budapest, organized the unveiling ceremony of the bust of Mother Teresa, placed in the square which holds the same name. In her speech, Ambassador Hoxha, as an initiator of the project, thanked the guests and humbly reiterated the values and great love which the daughter of Albania, Mother Teresa, gave to mankind. “Placing the statue of Mother Teresa, apart from the symbolic values of humanism, is an indicator of the relations between our two countries,” Ambassador Hoxha stated in her speech. She also extended her thanks to the Municipality of Budapest, who immediately responded to the request of the Albanian community in Budapest to have a Mother Teresa statue, as well as for the hospitality that this capital has shown to our diaspora. Following the celebration of this day, our Embassy together with the Italian Embassy, in the quality of the EU Presidency, the Municipality of District 12, the Apostolic Nunciature, Embassy of Kosovo and MOM Cultural Center, organized a charity concert, whose funds went to the aid of the Blind Children’s Foundation.

Albania, guest of honor at the 26th Festival of **Globe-Trotters** in France

On 26-28 September 2014, the 26th Festival of Globe-Trotters, regarded as one of the most important activities for traveling and adventure in the field of tourism, was held in France. The festival was organized at the Opera de Massy, near Paris.

For the first time, Albania was introduced in this activity as a guest of honor. Various local public and private stakeholders were present at the Albanian stand during the festival. Albania was presented by the Association of Municipalities of Puka, Fushë-Arrës, Qafë-Mali, Gjegjan, Qarrë, as well as by the private sector, with the “Vacances Albanie” French tourist agency.

The representation of Albania was made possible thanks to the initiative of the “Vacances Albanie” French-Albanian company and with the help and support of the Embassy of Albania.

On this occasion, “Vacances Albanie” also prepared some short touristic spots around Albania and other special areas represented at the Festival, which were screened during the event and also published on the Internet.