



TELEGRAM DIPLOMATIK

ALBANIAN MFA NEWSLETTER

➤ **Minister Bushati** pays working visit to the **Kingdom of Sweden**



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Minister of Foreign Affairs Ditmir Bushati paid a two day working visit to the Kingdom of Sweden, during which he met with his counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament Urban Ahlin, the Minister for International Development and Cooperation Isabella Lövin, and the Director General for International Development Cooperation Cecilia Björner. Minister Bushati also held meetings with members of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Swedish Parliament, as well as with representatives of Swedish companies interested to invest in Albania. During the meeting with Foreign Minister Wallström, both parties highlighted the importance of enhancing cooperation between the two countries in all fields, putting the emphasis on economic cooperation. Albania's EU integration perspective was the main topic of discussion between Minister Bushati and his Swedish counterpart. While praising Sweden's constant support to Albania's integration processes, Minister Bushati introduced Minister Wallström to Albania's efforts with regard to the reform process and the fulfilling of the five key priorities. He underlined that “the drafting of a concrete timetable of measures that aims at bringing the country closer to the opening of accession negotiations would be a gradual approach with positive effects on reforms and would help to keep the public administration motivated”.

Minister Wallström reiterated Sweden's support for the EU integration process of Albania and the whole region. She praised the measures undertaken by Albania to address the phenomenon of asylum seeking and encouraged the further intensification of cooperation between relevant institutions in both countries, by offering Sweden's support in dealing with this phenomenon.

Special attention was paid to the regional situation in the Western Balkans. In this context, Minister Wallström praised the role Albania plays in the region, as a reliable factor of stability and regional cooperation.

Focusing on the importance of the Berlin Process and the preparations for the Vienna Conference, Minister Bushati emphasized that Albania supports joint regional projects, the implementation of which would bring the region closer to the EU, and invited all interested Swedish companies to participate in the implementation of such projects. The Ministers also discussed the latest developments in Macedonia, the situation in the Western Balkans, as well as other issues concerning multilateral cooperation and global security challenges.

During his two day visit to Sweden, Minister Bushati also met with the Speaker of Parliament, Urban Ahlin, who underlined the attention and importance that Sweden attaches to Albania and the Western Balkans. Mr. Ahlin stressed that Sweden and the Swedish Parliament have continuously supported the enlargement of the Union. The parties also exchanged views on the latest developments in the WB region and today's global challenges.

During his meeting with Minister for International Development and Cooperation, Isabella Lövin, and Director General for International Development Cooperation, Cecilia Björner, Minister Bushati expressed his appreciation for Sweden's contribution to Albania and the WB region, in the framework of the 2014-2020 Strategy for Development and Cooperation.

He thanked his interlocutors for Sweden's contribution in general and its support for Albania's territorial and administrative reform in particular. Focusing on the 2014-2020 strategy, the parties praised the fact that this strategy focuses on supporting Albania's EU integration process. In this context, they welcomed the added component to the SIDA activities in Albania, which deals with the further economic integration of Albania in the EU. Parties also welcomed the consolidation of other SIDA components, such as democratic governance and human rights, environment and climate, economic development, integration and SMEs.

During his meeting with members of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Swedish Parliament, Minister Bushati responded to the interest of those present with regard to political developments in the country, the EU integration process, Albania's role in the region and the latest developments in the Western Balkans.

► Ministers Bushati and Gjicknuri participate in the Fifth Forum on Security Issues in Budva



Minister of Foreign Affairs Ditmir Bushati and Minister of Energy and Industry Damian Gjicknuri participated in the Fifth Forum on Security Issues "To Be Secure Forum-2BS", which is being held in Budva, Montenegro on 4-6 June 2015. The Forum addressed issues of global and energy security, as well as security in the Euro-Atlantic area and South East Europe. The activity welcomed different ministers of Foreign Affairs, Energy and Defense from the region, as well as NATO senior officials.

Mr. Bushati engaged in the first discussion panel of the forum, under the title "Positioning NATO on a global chessboard". During his speech, he highlighted a series of issues pertinent to NATO's contribution, at a time when security climate – at a global, Euro-Atlantic and regional scale – is facing new threats. The Minister addressed different aspects related to new threats coming from the East and South of Europe. In this context, Mr. Bushati stressed the importance of the international coalition's engagement in the war against terrorism and Islamic radicalisation. He underlined Albania's commitment to the international coalition and, in this regard, mentioned the organization of the 2015 Regional Ministerial against Violent Extremism in Tirana, on 19 and 20 May 2015.

NATO's engagement in our region is a key guarantee for stability, security and peace. In this context, Mr. Bushati emphasized the importance of the Euro-Atlantic enlargement in the Western Balkans.

In his speech, Mr. Bushati stated that "Albania supports the open doors policy, because we believe that Euro-Atlantic integration is the most efficient instrument in addressing unresolved issues in the region. The open doors policy of the Alliance remains a key element of our shared goal for a unified, free and peaceful Europe". Minister Bushati wished that Montenegro gets the invitation to join NATO as soon as possible. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of institutionalizing relations between NATO and Kosovo.

Ministers Bushati and Gjicknuri participated in the working meeting for the intensification of cooperation with regard to implementing the Adriatic-Ionian pipeline project. They expressed their commitment to coordinate efforts with a view to materialize this project of strategic importance for the diversification of energy sources in the region and Europe. At the end of the meeting, the participating ministers signed a joint declaration on the implementation of the Adriatic-Ionian pipeline, which provides concrete steps for the implementation of this major project.

Minister Bushati held a special meeting with US General John Allen, Special Envoy of President Obama for the international coalition against ISIL. During the meeting parties discussed the progression of the coalition operations in the fight against ISIL and exchanged views on the further intensification of cooperation. In this regard, the General welcomed Albania's special contribution, as well as its role, in facilitating regional cooperation, as the only opportunity to face this global security challenge in a structured fashion.

Minister Bushati participates in the CEI Meeting of MFAs



Minister of Foreign Affairs Ditmir Bushati participated in the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CEI (Central European Initiative) member states, which took place in Ohrid, in the framework of the Macedonian Chairmanship of this Initiative.

The meeting was attended by Ministers and representatives of the 18 CEI member states, who gathered to share views on the latest developments in the region, focusing especially on the EU integration process, connectivity, security and stability in the region, as well as on the present and future role of the Initiative, based on the 2014 – 2016 CEI Action Plan.

During his speech, Minister Bushati stressed that “The Central European Initiative will continue to be an efficient tool in the multitude of instruments aimed at consolidating peace and security in the region. European integration of non-member countries should remain a priority of this Initiative.

The security of each country is dependent on the collective security of the region and this is why it is in our interest that Macedonia deals in an efficient way with the political crisis through democratic dialogue. Albania remains determined to support the Euro-Atlantic integration of Macedonia, which requires the full implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement as well as respect for the rights of the Albanians, as a state building factor in Macedonia.” The Minister further stated that: “The Ohrid Framework Agreement cannot be seen as a mere formality. This Agreement constitutes a long term vision, based on an authentic history of peaceful coexistence.”

During his stay in Ohrid, Minister Bushati held meetings with the head of BDI, Ali Ahmeti and representatives of civil society. These meetings focused on the latest developments in Macedonia, following the talks that are being held with the mediation of the EU, on the steps to be taken in order to put an end to the political crisis of the country, the need to make further progress in terms of the rights of Albanians in Macedonia and the importance of the events of Kumanovo, highlighting the necessity of having a full and transparent investigation.

“MFA hosted the conference “EU commitment towards Western Balkan countries”



The Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized, on June 24, 2015, a public discourse with Professor Jacques Rupnik, expert on Central Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Professor Jacques Rupnik discussed and shared its own views and visions regarding the “EU Commitment towards Western Balkan countries”. The event was greeted by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Odeta Barbullushi.

Present at this conference were Albanian diplomats, academics, scholars and researchers in the field of international relations, historians, politicians and journalists in the field of foreign policy and international relations, ambassadors and heads of missions headquartered in Tirana, etc.

The discourse was followed with particular and great interest from the auditor, who got involved in an active conversation between researchers, policymakers, diplomats and civil society actors that work together in the field of foreign affairs and international relations.



➤ Fourth Session of the Joint **Albania-Czech** Commission on **economic cooperation** held in Prague



On 26 June 2015, in Prague, was signed the Protocol of the Fourth Session of the Joint Working Group on "Economic Cooperation Albania-Czech Republic". On the Albanian party, the protocol was signed by Ms. Brunilda Paskal, Vice Minister of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Enterprise and for the Czech party the protocol was signed by Mr. Vladimír Bartl.

For two consecutive days, experts of the two sides thoroughly discussed the possibilities of expanding cooperation between the two countries, focusing on areas of economic cooperation, trade, investment, finance, tourism, transport, infrastructure, energy, industry, agriculture, environment and urban development.

Also, a round table was organized with representatives of the Czech business groups interested in investing / cooperating with Albanian businesses.

Vice Minister Pascal and other members of the Albanian delegation provided a detailed presentation of the opportunities that Albania offers in terms of doing business and priority areas for investment. Moreover, they answered questions and responded to the interest shown by representatives of the Czech business.

The parties agreed on a close collaboration in infrastructure and public transportation, as areas of high cooperation potential. The Czech side reiterated its interest in the future development of Albanian railways.

➤ **Albanian Embassy in Poland** holds promotional activity about **Albania**



The Albanian Embassy in Warsaw, in collaboration with the Association *Shqipëri-Poloni* organized, in the premises of the Embassy, a promotional picnic event for Albania, entitled "Albanian Spring". The event was attended by more than 100 people, among them representatives from the MFA of Poland and other institutions, the diplomatic corps, business representatives, tour operators, media, culture and arts, members of the association, friends of Albania, etc. In this multi-dimensional activity, they were introduced to Albania's achievements and opportunities for collaboration, music and Albanian cuisine, and also drinks and other products from Albania.

➤ **Albanian MFA Delegation** at **China-CEEC Investment & Trade EXPO**

1st China-Central and Eastern European Countries Investment and Trade EXPO is an important part of cooperation between China and CEE countries, which was held in Ningbo from June 8 to June 12, 2015. This is the first comprehensive exposition themed with investment and trade between China and Central and Eastern European Countries. Albania participated in this Forum with a delegation of Foreign Ministry headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Selim Belortaja.

Themed with "Promoting opening & cooperation and jointly developing one belt one road", CEEC Expo set its activities in four aspects: investment symposiums, trading exhibitions, conferences & forums, and cultural exchanges. The Albanian delegation participated in all the events organized in Ningbo and also held bilateral meetings with high officials from the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and People's Government of Zhejiang Province, People's Government of Ningbo and Department of Commerce of Zhejiang Province. Special meetings were held also with State Councilors of central Government of PR of China.



In the trading exhibition, Albania was represented with eight big production companies where their goods and products were highly valued and sought by Chinese customers. The Albanian Delegation represented Albanian tourism development in cultural exchange activities which included China-CEEC Special Promotion Event on Tourism Cooperation.

▶ Albania participates in the yearly VEF Garten Party



In cooperation with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the diplomatic representations of member countries of the Forum, the traditional Garten Party was organized. In this annual event were invited hundreds of guests from the diplomatic corps, representatives of the business community and representatives of the Member States. Besides the traditional Albanian food and beverages, participants followed with great interest the concert with traditional music and dancing. Member countries are Austria, Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

A month ago, in collaboration with the Albanian government, the Vienna Economic Forum held VEF-Tirana Tirana Talks 2015, in preparation of the Vienna Conference.

Since its establishment 11 years ago, the Vienna Economic Forum led by Dr. Erhard Busek, as President, and Ambassador Elena Kirtcheva, as Secretary General, has given a valuable contribution in promoting regional cooperation and strengthening economic expansion of trade relations between countries in the Southeast Europe region and the European Union.

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