



Weekly Media Report

11 to 14 November

International Affairs

013 IPA Programme: Renewed EU support to key reforms in Albania – *Gazeta Shqiptare (Albania), 14 November 2013*

The European Commission adopted the 2013 national programme for Albania under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). The 82 million EUR programme will finance 19 programmes tailored to the specific needs of the country, supporting reforms and investments in key areas such as governance, justice and home affairs, transport, environment, employment and social inclusion, as well as agriculture and rural development. “Albania has shown its commitment to the integration process, which was reflected by the recent Commission's recommendation to grant the country the candidate status”.

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

EU, Albanian authorities hold high level dialogue on EU candidate status' priorities – *Gazeta Shqip (Albania), 14 November 2013*

EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle and the Albanian authorities launched a high level dialogue on the key priorities, which is to provide valuable support for key reforms needed to ensure the granting of EU candidate status to the country. The meeting held aimed to review the progress to date as regards reforms in the rule of law and the fight against corruption and organised crime, in particular the actions undertaken by Albania during the past few months as well as Albania's plans in this area. At a joint press conference with Prime Minister Edi Rama, Commissioner Füle said: “It has been a good year for Albania and for its efforts in the EU accession process. It has been a good year in delivering on free and fair elections and on constructive transfer of power. This also allowed us to clearly confirm in the recent Progress report that Albania delivered on the conditionalities related to the candidate status. It allowed us to recommend to the Member States to grant candidate status and I hope that they will take this recommendation - and a lot of additional information from this meeting - very seriously when they will make the important political decision on the candidate status for Albania.” “What is European Commission's reaction to more efforts from Albanian side? More engagement on our side. Albania and its citizens should be given clear sense of the road towards the EU and to see concrete results on this road. That is why we have launched together the High Level Dialogue on Key Priorities, where we talk about five issues which stand between Albania and our recommendation to open accession negotiations,” added Füle, noting that he expected a good start and good discussion, but “it was actually excellent start and excellent discussion with commitment of all those who participated in the meeting”. Finally, he said he “appreciated specifically the detailed information both in writing and verbally on the actions of

Albania's government in the area of fight against corruption and organised crime".
<http://gazeta-shqip.com/lajme/>

Fule will visit Albania to launch the High Level Dialogue on the Key Priorities – (NOA), Albania, 11 November 2013

The Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Štefan Füle visited Albania to hold a series of meetings with the political representatives of the country and to launch the High Level Dialogue on the Key Priorities. The objective of this dialogue is to provide support to the EU integration process by focusing on key reform priorities. It is the third visit of Commissioner Füle to Albania this year and the first one after the new government took office. - <http://noa.al/en-post/en/377933.html>

Iran backed out of nuclear deal – BBC (UK), 11 November 2013

US Secretary of State John Kerry has said Iran backed out of a deal on its nuclear programme during talks with world powers in Geneva on Saturday, 9 November. Iran had been unable to accept the deal "at that particular moment", Kerry said.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24910918>

Typhoon Haiyan: Philippines survivors desperate for aid – BBC (UK), 11 November 2013

Three days after Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, thousands of survivors are still desperately waiting for the aid effort to reach them. Up to 10,000 people have been killed in Tacloban city and elsewhere, with hundreds of thousands more displaced. Damage to roads and airports has delayed the delivery of aid.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24901993>

National Affairs

Cisl (an Italian labour association) estimates that Italian wages decreased by 1040 Euros in the last five years – Corriere della Sera (IT), 12 November 2013

The losses are particularly sensitive for workers earning between 29 and 50 thousands Euros per year, since their wages decreased on average by 6%. This is due to the increase of the fiscal burden on the medium class, which has not been matched by the adjustment of the wages according to the prices' inflation.
http://www.corriere.it/economia/13_novembre_12/fisco-indagine-cisl-in-5-anni-persi-1040-euro-reddito-948606f8-4b8d-11e3-9f20-48230e8bb565.shtml

Over 100 ethnic incidents among youngsters in Macedonia during last months – (NOA), Macedonia, 11 November 2013

The Interior Ministry informed that 109 pupils became victims of ethnic violence during last 10 months in Skopje in Macedonia. `The MoI has taken several masses to prevent incidents`, said the Minister of Interior during a press conference, but he did not prefer to comment more about details.
<http://noa.al/mk-post/mk/378075.html>

Only 20 persons from Macedonia got asylum in EU - (NOA), Macedonia, 11 November 2013

Only 20 out of 1335 citizens got asylum in EU during January 2012 – March 2013, according to Eurostat. Russians and Syrians are on top of the lists, but there are also a few asylum seekers from Serbia and Kosovo. The 20 persons from Macedonia have only temporarily asylum permits (15 are under status as refugees, 5 are under humanitarian aid, and 5 are under a special custody). The number of Macedonians in EU is: 765 Belgium, 175 France, 105 Holland, 135 Sweden, and 30 Holland.

<http://noa.al/mk-post/mk/350776.html>

Belgrade asks its citizens to go voting – (Gazeta Shqiptare), Kosovo, 11 November 2013

Belgrade asks its Serbian citizens to go voting on the 17 November in Mitrovica. Three polling stations in Mitrovica in Northern Kosovo will repeat voting due to irregularities that took place during the first round.

<http://www.balkanweb.com/rajoni/2687/thirrjet-e-beogradit-me-pretekste-shoviniste-158203.html>

Economy

EU and US to resume trade deal talks – BBC (UK), 11 November 2013

The EU and US are to begin a second round of negotiations towards creating the world's biggest free-trade deal. Together the US and EU account for about \$30 trillion (£18.7tn) of annual output - almost half the world's total. The EU says a deal could bring annual benefits of 119bn euros (\$159bn; £99bn) for its 28 member states. It is hoped that an agreement could be reached by the end of 2014.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-24895482>

Swiss banks sent an ultimatum to savers – Repubblica (IT), 12 November 2013

In the last days, Swiss banks requested to some of their account holders to provide for information regarding their identities if they want to continue their accounts. In fact, agreements have been reached with Austria and the UK for the accounts to be disclosed. The US, France, Germany and Italy are intentioned to follow the same path. These measures are meant to implement the fight against tax fraud, a phenomenon widely spread in many countries.

http://www.corriere.it/economia/13_novembre_12/banche-svizzere-via-segreto-o-conto-chiudere-fa52a402-4b7c-11e3-9f20-48230e8bb565.shtml

World Bank recommends actions for creating more jobs and making them more accessible – (NOA), Washington, 11 November 2013

Unemployment in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) is high and job creation is weak, despite impressive reform efforts in many countries of the region and a decade of strong economic growth before the 2009 crisis, says a new World Bank report "Back to Work: Growing with Jobs in Europe and Central Asia." "Jobs are key to lifting people out of poverty and ensuring that prosperity is shared by all. Good jobs can also empower people and enhance their voice and participation in society," said Laura Tuck, World Bank Vice

President for Europe and Central Asia. "The jobs challenge in countries of Europe and Central Asia is pressing. But it is not insurmountable; and the good news is that many countries in the region are already showing the way by making the necessary reforms. <http://noa.al/en-post/en/377598.html>