

Informational Material disseminated on 11/21/2017 to Congressional Staff of members who sit on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on behalf of our client the Socialist Party of Albania.

Ballard Partners

Albania Update

RW

Robert Wexler



Reply all |

Tue 11/21/2017 11:25 AM

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I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding Albania.

This material is distributed by Ballard Partners on behalf of the Socialist Party of Albania. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

- **Albania Prepares to Increase Troops in Afghanistan**

- Albania is willing to send more troops to Afghanistan, in response to President Trump's new strategy in Afghanistan.

- Albania is showing its continued support of US military operations in the area.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/16/c_136614828.htm

- **€800,000,000 Worth of Investments in Albania in 2017-2018**

- €800,000,000 in Albania over the next year to build the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline.

- The pipeline is part of the Southern Gas Corridor which will carry gas from Azerbaijan, through Greece and Albania, and then to Italy.
- €1,500,000,000 is expected to be invested in Albania throughout the project.
<https://sofiaglobe.com/2017/10/03/tap-800-million-euro-worth-of-investments-in-albania-in-2017-2018/>
- **Visegrad Group Supports the EU Membership Bid of Western Balkans**
 - Visegrad countries met with Western Balkans countries to discuss accelerating EU enlargement processes to meet security challenges in Europe.
 - Visegrad countries urge to set a target date for Albanian accession talks, and praise Albania's progress, especially on justice reform.
<https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2017/10/11/visegrad-group-supports-eu-membership-bid-western-balkans/>
- **Albania & Luxembourg Enhance Cooperation**
 - Albanian Minister for European and Foreign Affairs Bushati met with Luxembourg Minister Asselborn to strengthen and intensify cooperation between the two countries.
 - Luxembourg fully supports Albanian integration into the EU, which may occur in 2018.
<https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2017/10/03/bushati-asselborn-albania-open-negotiations-2018/>
- **Hungary Urges EU to Start Accession Talks with Albania & Macedonia**
 - Hungary urges a start date to be designated for accession talks with Albania and Macedonia, and for the talks to begin no later than the first quarter of 2018.
<https://seenews.com/news/hungary-urges-eu-to-start-accession-talks-with-albania-macedonia-586856>
- **European Commission Praises Albania as Good Neighbor**
 - European Commission praised Albania's efforts for cooperation regionally.
<https://www.eureporter.co/world/2017/10/11/commission-praises-albania-as-good-neighbour/>
- **Kosovo and Albania – Cooperation in the Field of Defense**
 - Cooperation between the Ministry for Kosovo Security Forces and Albania's Ministry of Defense will increase in the fields of education, training, and joint exercises between their militaries.
<https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2017/10/05/kosovo-albania-cooperation-field-defence/#>
- **Albania's GDP Expands More than 4% in Q2**
 - Mining, tourism, construction, energy, water, and trade helped the Albanian economy grow for the second consecutive quarter.
 - GDP grew 4.06% in the second quarter.
 - Prime Minister Rama hopes to achieve annual growth of over 5% during his four-year term.
<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/albanias-gdp-expands-more-than-4-percent-in-q2-20170929-00621>
<https://seenews.com/news/albanias-gdp-to-grow-by-39-in-2017-imf-585642>
- **The Capital of Albania Has Transformed into a Lively, Affordable Destination**
 - Tourism is beginning to soar in the Balkan countries, with Tirana, Albania being recognized as a lively affordable destination for travel.
<https://www.vogue.com/article/where-to-go-in-tirana-albania>

- **Albania: Staff Concluding Statement on the 2017 Article IV Mission**

- IMF says that Albania's economy is strengthening as result of tourism, energy-related FDI, EU trading partners, and domestic demand.

- GDP growth projected to increase 3.9%.

<http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/10/02/ms100217-albania-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2017-article-iv-mission>

All the best,

The Honorable Robert Wexler

Rebecca Benn

From: Rebecca Benn
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 11:52 AM
Subject: Dominican Republic News Update

I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Dominican Republic.

This material is distributed by Ballard Partners on behalf of the Dominican Republic. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

- **Haiti - DR: Agreement on Improving Bilateral Trade Relations**

- The Dominican Republic and Haiti met to improve the business & investment climate between the two countries, strengthen the communication channel, and to help foster binational trade.

- The Dominican Republic expressed interest in Haiti ratifying the Caribbean-European Union Economic Partnership agreement, which would help create free trade zones between the two countries.

- <http://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-22392-haiti-dr-agreement-on-improving-bilateral-trade-relations.html>

- **UAE's DP World & Dominican Republic Discuss Attracting FDI**

- DP World CEO met with President Medina to discuss expansion of the Port of Caucedo and its logistics operations, in hopes the growth plan will attract more FDI.

- \$400 million has been invested in DP World, and the company is now looking to expand further to build another 400m berth, to ensure its future as a major hub regionally and globally.

- The government is also looking into an online trade service that will streamline the customs process and develop an electronic port community system.

- [http://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/UAEs DP World Dominican Republic to attract foreign investment-WAM20171012091034989/](http://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/UAEs_DP_World_Dominican_Republic_to_attract_foreign_investment-WAM20171012091034989/)

- <http://www.seatrade-maritime.com/news/americas/dp-world-to-expand-port-and-logistics-facilities-in-dominican-republic.html>

- <https://www.porttechnology.org/news/dp-world-to-build-dominican-republic-berth>

- http://www.dailyshippingtimes.com/news-upload/upload/fullnews.php?fn_id=18052

- **Dominican Republic Irrigates Organic Bananas Using Solar Energy**

- A new photovoltaic irrigation system has been installed in the Dominican Ecological Centre, and it is more efficient than the conventional irrigation system that wasted water and washed away important nutrients.

- The new solar energy irrigation system eliminates the need to use the conventional system, which used a pump that ran on fossil fuels.

- <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/182996/Dominican-Republic-irrigates-organic-bananas-using-solar-energy>

- **President of Dominican Republic to Address UNWTO Conference in Jamaica**

- President Medina pledged to increase the number of international tourists visiting the Dominican Republic to 10 million by 2022.

- The Dominican Republic is acknowledged as the most popular tourist destination in the Caribbean.

- <https://stluciatimes.com/2017/09/28/president-dominican-republic-address-unwto-conference-jamaica>

- **Dominican Republic's First Energy Storage Arrays Help Island's Grid to Prevent Blackouts**

- AES Dominicana's new battery-based energy storage arrays helped maintain grid reliability during hurricanes Irma and Maria, showing the ability to work during extreme conditions.
- The arrays are the first of their kind in Central America and the Caribbean.
- The energy storage arrays not only improve efficiency and stability of the national electricity system, but the arrays also, save millions in state funds, which can be used for public health, education, and security.
- AES Dominicana's storage arrays help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while protecting vulnerable regions from blackouts during extreme weather.

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20171017005627/en/Dominican-Republic%E2%80%99s-Energy-Storage-Arrays-Island%E2%80%99s-Grid>

<https://www.energy-storage.news/news/dominican-republic-energy-storage-stayed-resilient-during-hurricanes-irma-a>

<https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/3019366/aes-claims-grid-battery-prevented-dominican-rep-hurricane-blackouts>

https://markets.ft.com/data/announce/detail?dokey=600-201710170800BIZWIRE_USPRX_BW5627-1

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2017/10/19/aes-deploys-20-mw-of-storage-in-the-dominican-republic/>

- **Dominican Republic Trains Central American Armed Forces**

- The Dominican Ministry of Defense is training Central American service members on human rights and international humanitarian law.

- More than 27,000 attendees have been trained since 2000.

<https://dialogo-americas.com/en/articles/dominican-republic-trains-central-american-armed-forces>

- **Free Trade Zones in the Dominican Republic Bring Unprecedented Rate of Exports**

- Free-trade zones in the Dominican Republic have led to \$5 billion worth of exports in the last year, which shipped to 131 countries, and accounts for 58% of the country's total exports.

- Currently there are 57 free-trade zones throughout the country and 565 companies, which create more than 160,000 jobs.

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=20177&SEO=free-trade-zones-in-dom-rep-with-unprecedented-rate-in-exports>

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