



## Albania's democratic authoritarianism

Interview with  
Dr. Bernd Fischer

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## Albania: letting its EU prospects slip?

By Marjje Korreissen

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## Ethno-rock to represent Albania at 2013 Eurovision

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# Albania in 2013: Elections, taxes and last chances

Reviewing some of the most important trends of 2012, Tirana Times looks at 2013 to predict what is likely to happen in the country's political and economical landscape in the new year.

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## Albanians hope 2013 will offer much needed push in EU progress

Albanians are hoping next year will bring a much-anticipated push forward in the country's stalled EU bid. EU senior officials have been urging the Albanian parties to cooperate and comply with the 12 requirements needed to move the bid forward, but to no avail. The Democrats in power say the opposition Socialists did not agree to pass three laws on the judicial system and the parliament procedures.

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## New fiscal package reduces tax burden

Several amendments proposed by the opposition Socialist Party including the replacement of the current 30 percent flat tax on salaries and corporate tax with a progressive taxation system, and the removal of VAT on chemical fertilizers and medicines were rejected.

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## Kurum offers Euro 110 million for four hydropower plants

For Kurum, one of the country's largest electrical consumers, the purchase of the HPPs will considerably reduce power costs in its EU-based steel plant. Meanwhile, the opposition fears this will mean canceling the privatization.

### EDITORIAL

## The vital importance of 2013

Twenty-thirteen marks a crossroads in Albanian history. Will the country go toward a fully-fledged capitalist liberal democracy, or will it head down the darker path of post-communist authoritarianism?

As the New Year arrives in Albania, the country faces many challenges and important dates, but none other than June 23 will be as important to Albania's future.

Albania will hold parliamentary elections for the seventh time on that day and the events that lead up to the day and those that follow will decide whether the country has it within itself to become a fully-fledged capitalist liberal democracy or whether it will head down the darker path of post-communist authoritarianism.

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