1st ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BULLETIN
Tirana International Airport
DEAR READERS,

Looking back to the year 2005, the most significant achievement was undoubtedly the successful and smooth takeover of Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza by Tirana International Airport SHPK (TIA)*, on 23 April 2005. This achievement was further complemented by laying the foundation stone of the new passenger terminal on 6 May 2005.

The newly founded airport company managed to meet the commencement date challenges and those accomplished thereafter thanks to the excellent cooperation of its staff with all involved parties, such as the shareholders of TIA, the Government of Albania, the lenders, airlines, the police, other service providers and contractors operating at the Airport.

Passenger figures and aircraft movements are developing very positively and the Airport is witnessing strong growth rates. The Airport is the most important hub of transportation in Albania. During the first nine months of 2006 there were 691,504 passengers traveling through the Airport. Compared to the same period in the 2005, there has been a 13 percent increase of the passengers’ number, while the air traffic movements (ATM) for January to September 2006, are estimated to be 6,038 compared to 5,863 ATM of the same period in 2005.

The expansion program is also advancing very satisfactorily. The Airport is in the process of a fundamental modernization program which will lead to an increase of performance levels and enhancement of the Airport’s environmental management. The inauguration ceremony of the new terminal is foreseen to take place in spring 2007.

This first Environmental and Social Bulletin informs about TIA activities regarding implementation of the environmental management plan as of commencement date and illustrates the progress of the work of TIA towards understanding and protecting the environment.

Yours sincerely,

* formerly Tirana Airport Partners (TAP)
The mission of Tirana International Airport SHPK is to provide Albania with a prestigious international aviation facility offering efficient, safe and first-class service for passengers and airlines. For those visiting this country by air, the first and last impressions will be the capital’s well-managed Airport.

WHY AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BULLETIN?

Tirana International Airport SHPK, as the managing company of Tirana International Airport, is committed to ensure safety and security, improving the level of customer service and the range of what is on offer at the Airport, and to make it into one of the country’s most modern infrastructure facilities.

Until 2007, the Airport will be gradually modernized and expanded in line with growing demand. The new passenger terminal is being constructed currently. The existing terminal is being refurbished and new car parking and cargo facilities are being established. A further expansion stage is likely to take place in the coming years in line with the development of the passenger traffic volumes.

Considering the significant amount of work in the Airport area during the expansion stages, TIA has pledged to respect the environment and the life of local communities, and to minimize potential impacts that might affect the population due to the operation and extension of the Airport. TIA is aware of its important role in assuring the environmental health and safety standards in all surroundings.

For this purpose, every year, Tirana International Airport SHPK will publish an Environmental and Social Bulletin, in order not only to fulfill its obligation as per the relevant Albanian legislation, but also to document the relevant activities and to demonstrate its commitment towards its environmental objectives.

With this publication, the airport company aims at encouraging its business partners in actively joining the company in this very important initiative for a better working environment in accordance with international standards. By doing so, this cooperation will lead to maximization of the social, economic and environmental benefits.

Tirana International Airport SHPK is owned by HOCHTIEF AirPort, one of the world’s leading private airport managers and investors, DEG – Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft, a member of the KfW Banking Group specialized in the financing of corporate and infrastructure investments in Europe, and the Albanian-American Enterprise Fund (AAEF), founded in 1995 by the United States Congress to support Albania’s transition to a free market.
ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

Tirana International Airport SHPK recognizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment in Albania. In March and April 2006 TIA developed and adopted an Environment, Health & Safety Policy (EHS Policy). Environmental, health & safety management is understood in terms of a continuous cycle in which the effectiveness of all measures is subject to regular evaluation. This approach ensures continual improvement and an ever-higher level of operational environmental protection and occupational health & safety.

The EHS Policy describes the goals of the company in general and serves as an orientation to the employees of TIA, its customers and the stakeholders in the vicinity.

The TIA representatives, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Operation Officer have signed on 4 April 2006 the Environment, Health & Safety Policy. Furthermore TIA developed a guideline for environmental, health & safety management as a first step to implement an environmental management system.

WATER QUALITY AND WASTE WATER TREATMENT

TIA operates two wells for groundwater abstraction. In autumn 2005 the airport company conducted water quality analyses from two ground water wells in the Concession Area. The objective of the analyses was to get a clear picture of the current water quality airside and landside to plan the potable water supply for the Airport. Sampling and analyses were contracted with a respective Albanian institute and for some special parameters in addition with a certified German laboratory, and were carried out between October 2005 and February 2006. The results show that the quality of the ground water is good and that there is no identification for a possible contamination. No analyzed parameter exceeded the allowed limits of the Albanian Standard for Potable Water (STAH 3904:1997).

The new sewage system will be established as a comprehensive, autonomous system for sewage and waste water treatment. The sewage treatment plant will – at the initial stage – be able to cover the design peak loading figures for up to 1.5 million passengers per year. The plant will fulfil European requirements and standards. The construction process for the sewage treatment plant is under way.
AIR QUALITY

Two sources (emitters) of air pollutants were analyzed at Tirana International Airport:

- The first source of pollution is currently the construction site for the new terminal building and its ancillary facilities.
- Aircraft pollutants are produced by aircraft at take-off and landing and by ground handling vehicles.

In August 2005, TIA conducted an analysis of air quality at the Airport and at the current construction site for the new terminal building.

The results show that the air quality at the Airport is good and no analyzed parameter (Ozone, Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)) exceeds the allowed limits as foreseen in Albanian Decision No. 804/2003 and applicable European limits.

The 24 hours monitoring profiles of the pollutants Ozone and Sulphur Dioxide for Sample 1 (next to existing terminal) is shown in the two diagrams.

In the graphs above, results show that the air quality at the Airport is good and no analyzed parameters exceed the allowed limits.
As part of the TIA waste management strategy, shortly after commencement date the illegal waste dump area airside was cleaned in an extensive action. Collection, daily removal and disposal on an approved state owned landfill is now contracted with a licensed waste management company. The new waste collection containers also minimize attractiveness for birds, dogs and cats and help to avoid population of these animals.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY

With the EHS Policy, Tirana International Airport SHPK committed itself to safe and environmentally responsible airport operations and development. During the construction and operation of all Airport facilities, protection of the environment and providing high levels of quality and service standards remain the main objectives. Sample of this commitment is a detailed new emergency plan which has been prepared and was approved by General Directory of Civil Aviation in December 2005. TIA also bought a new Follow Me car to fulfill international standards. New uniforms for the staff were purchased in Germany and are in accordance with European standards regarding safety and quality.

EHS AWARENESS TRAINING

In April 2006 an EHS Awareness Training was carried out in Tirana for key members of the TIA team. The training was organized with support from HOCHTIEF AirPort. The staff was trained by an experienced environmental manager of Hamburg Airport. The company is aware that all personnel whose work may have an impact upon the environment should receive appropriate training in line with the EHS Policy and all other relevant objectives and targets of TIA.
The ruins of Preza castle, located in the airport’s vicinity. Tirana International Airport SHPK will sponsor a tourism development plan for the community.
Photos: TIA/Jutta Benzenberg

TIA SPONSORING PROGRAM

Tirana International Airport SHPK, as the managing company of the Airport, wants to meet its social responsibilities for its surrounding by sponsoring distinguished projects, therefore making a remarkable contribution in enhancing tourism in Albania. TIA has identified a tourism development plan for the community of Preza as a suitable sponsoring project.

TIA is aware of the importance of tourism for Albania’s future. The Mediterranean climate with hot dry summers favors this industry. Numerous beaches but also mountains and national parks are a good potential for the country’s tourism. Such potential needs to be developed.

Strategic measures are necessary to establish tourism as an important pillar of the country’s economic, political and social development.

Early October 2006, Tirana International Airport SHPK launched a Request for Proposal with a specific subject: tourism development plan for the community of Preza.

Aiming at providing the necessary consulting services to design a plan for a mid-term development of Preza, TIA will select a consulting company and lead the project to the implementation phase and onwards. This project is expected to be completed within the year 2007. Media and PR activities are also planned to introduce this project and investment to the public.

The development plan will help to show the community ways and possibilities to enhance its tourism potential, but at the same time it will be a good tool to raise public awareness about the company’s commitment towards its vicinity, partners and clients.