

MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS' COLLABORATION:  
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROJECT BRIEFS

# Albania: Port of Durrës



## Overview

The Port of Durrës is the lifeline of the Albanian economy, opening up the country to international trade and to the 40 million people strong markets of the Mediterranean and the Balkans. The port, built for a different era, is in dire need of modernization and upgrading. The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) invested €18 and €14 million respectively in the project to finance the new terminal building and the upgrading of two important heavily trafficked quays.

This series showcases how the Multilateral Development Banks' collaboration supports the development and implementation of infrastructure investment. This support comes in the form of public sector loans, private sector finance, sector and transaction advice, guarantees, and output-based aid.

## Background

The Port of Durrës is the principle port in Albania, handling roughly 90 percent of the country's international maritime trade tonnage and 85 percent of all the export and import trade of the country. As a vital interface of the country on the Adriatic coast, linking Albania with other Mediterranean countries and Balkan countries, it opens up the country to an additional market of 40 million people. The importance of the Port of Durrës to the Albanian economic development cannot be understated. It directly employs 600 persons. Indirectly, however, it creates thousands of jobs in the transportation, distribution, and banking industries.

The current level of traffic is about 3.8 million tons of cargo per year and approximately 80,000 passengers. Durrës is owned by the state, controlled by the Ministry of Public Works, Transports and Telecommunications. It is managed and operated by the Durrës Port Authority.

## Project Description

The modernization of the Port of Durrës aims to make it competitive in a world of containers, just in time delivery, economies of scale, rapid discharge systems, high security, computerization, and global communications. The project entails the upgrading of a passenger terminal building and the brownfield redevelopment of quays seven and eight. The new terminal building will have peak vehicle handling capacities of 90 arriving/140 departing trucks and 520 arriving/750 departing cars, representing the full load of at least two ferries. There will also be space for 170 trailers. The maximum capacity of the building and facilities will be 1900 passengers on foot.

## Multilateral Development Banks' Role

The project, costing €40 million in total, benefitted from:

- An EBRD loan of €14 million.
- An EIB loan of €18 million.

## Outcomes

The project will increase the capacity of the ferry passenger terminal, improve the adjacent quays, and related infrastructure, and improve the quality of the services provided at these terminals. Additionally, the port will be implemented under the new Port Law, reducing the political interference with port management and incorporating fair competition in cargo handling services.

*For more information please contact:*

*World Bank Group: Nadine Ghannam*

*Email: [Nsghannam@worldbankgroup.org](mailto:Nsghannam@worldbankgroup.org)*

*European Investment Bank: Tim Smit*

*Email: [t.smit@eib.org](mailto:t.smit@eib.org)*

*European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: Olga Rosca*

*Email: [roscao@ebrd.com](mailto:roscao@ebrd.com)*



### Photo Credits

Front: FloKrass/CC BY SA 4.0 Back: Alessandro Giangiulio/CC BY 2.0