

Beat: News

Five days before the inauguration, Rama gives Sazan to Trump's son-in-law

Albanian Prime Minister Rama signed

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USPA NEWS - On the eve of the inauguration of the president-elect of the United States, Donald Trump, Prime Minister Edi Rama granted strategic investor status to the company associated with his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, for the construction of a luxury resort on the island of Sazan.

The decision was made by the Strategic Investment Committee, KIS, headed by Prime Minister Edi Rama on December 30, accepting the proposal of the company Atlantic Incubation Partners LLC and granting it the status of strategic investor with a special procedure.

According to the KIS decision, an investment of 1.4 billion euros is foreseen on the island and construction is expected to extend to 8 percent of the island or 45 hectares.

"The investment value of the tourist project "Tourist Resort - Sazan Island" meets the criteria provided by the legislation for strategic investments and is expected to be 1.4 billion Euros," the SIC decision states. With the approval of the status, the company associated with Jared Kushner, son-in-law of US President-elect Donald Trump, will have to negotiate a contract with the public company Strategic Investment Corporation.

The act published on the AIDA website shows that the decision was expected to be in favor of the company's request. In fact, in early December 2024, the property that was part of the plan for the deployment of the Armed Forces was removed from the list by the President of the Republic. The KIS decision does not indicate what Albania benefits from the transfer of public property in favor of the American company, but it mentions that a contract will be negotiated with the American company. Plans to build a luxury tourist resort in Sazan and another in Zvërnec by Kushner and his related companies were made public early last year, and Prime Minister Edi Rama spoke out in their favor, telling the New York Times that Kushner's company's interest made him "proud and happy." The projects are being financed by Kushner's investment company Affinity Partners, which is backed by funds from the Saudi Arabian government.

The Albanian government's plans and prior approval were criticized by the opposition for being done to gain political favors in the event of Trump's re-election to the White House and for the lack of transparency and competition.

The SIC decision foresees a series of steps that will be undertaken mainly by state institutions in Albania, to assist the company in securing the property, the necessary documentation and other actions that are expected to be concluded in the next three months. The company, on the other hand, will have to sign a contract with the Strategic Investment Corporation and the Albanian Seaports Development Company sh.a, while it will have to provide water, energy and the like with its own investment.

"The form of state participation in this investment will be realized through the creation of a joint legal entity composed of the Albanian Investment Corporation (AIC), Albanian Seaports Development Company sh.a (ASDC), in the capacity of the state party, and the investment entity Atlantic Incubation Partners LLC, a company under American law," the decision states.

The SIC decision indicates that the status is granted for a period of 10 years and that construction is expected to be divided into three phases. /birn

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