

Exemption from customs duties when moving personal items into/out of Albania

In the past few months, a number of new missionaries have had problems with customs tax when either bringing their personal belongings into Albania, or when away from Albania.

The Albanian Law allows for an exemption from customs duties on your personal belongings when changing your normal place of residence to Albania, or when moving from Albania. A copy of the law is available from the website <http://www.dogana.gov.al/doc/SendetVetiakeDetyrim.pdf> or from the AEP office.

In order to qualify for the exemption you need the following documentation:

- a) A request for an exemption from customs duties (AEP provides this on request), together with a list of household items, and signed by the person who is changing their place of residence.
- b) A notarised photocopy of your passports
- c) Copy of Family certificates (birth certificates)
- d) A residential certificate from the city where you lived before (if leaving Albania) or where you will live in Albania.
- e) Leje Qendrimi (residence permit) from the country you are moving to, valid for the period of your stay. You need the original document along with a translated and notarized copy (if leaving Albania).
- f) Documents proving continuous residence for at least one year from the country you are coming from/or leaving such as: lease contract, certificate from the municipality or city, etc.. You need the original documents along with a translated and notarised copy.

Other advice we have received includes:

- Household items need to be used and in reasonable quantities for personal or family needs.
- Keep your list of items simple (ie books, clothing, kitchen items etc)
- Declare these as personal items, and value them for what they are worth second-hand.
- **Do not** confuse the value of your belongings with the replacement insurance value – and keep your insurance documents separate.
- Have someone with you at the border that speaks fluent Albania to help you.

An alternative method of bringing in your personal belongings is to bring it in through VUSh and Hope for Albania as Humanitarian Aid.

For more information on this option contact Peter Maris at Hope for Albania.

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