

2025 Commission report on Albania (2025/2250(INI))

Rapporteur: Andreas Schieder (S&D)

COMPROMISE AMENDMENTS

COMPROMISE 1 (on introductory paragraphs)

Amendments that fall if the compromise amendment is adopted:

AM 53 (Tynkkynen), AM 54 (Sell), AM 55 (Gambino et. al.), AM 56 (Valet et. al.), AM 57 (Valchev), AM 58 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 59 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 60 (Tynkkynen), AM 61 (Sell), AM 62 (Gambino et. al.), AM 63 (Gomart), AM 64 (Tynkkynen), AM 65 (Loiseau), AM 66 (Stoyanov), AM 67 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 68 (Sell), AM 69 (Strik), AM 70 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 71 (Kovatchev), AM 72 (Gambino et. al.), AM 73 (Tynkkynen), AM 74 (Sell), AM 75 (Loiseau), AM 76 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 77 (Kols et. al.), AM 78 (Stier), AM 79 (Gambino et. al.), AM 80 (McAllister), AM 81 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 82 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 83 (Tynkkynen), AM 84 (Schieder et. al.), AM 85 (Terheş), AM 86 (Kovatchev), AM 87 (Stoyanov), AM 88 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 89 (Strik), AM 90 (McAllister), AM 91 (Kovatchev), AM 92 (Lakos), AM 93 (Kovatchev), AM 94 (Kols et. al.), AM 95 (Stoyanov)

1. Welcomes Albania's outstanding commitment to EU integration, based on consensus among all political parties and overwhelming support among citizens, and commends the fact that Albania opened all clusters of accession negotiations within just 13 months; ***notes that Albanian citizens' support for EU membership remains consistently high and reflects the strong European aspirations of the Albanian society; encourages the country to maintain the current reform momentum and continue alignment with the European Union acquis, stressing that Albania's progress on the European path contributes to the stability, security and resilience of the European continent;*** (ECR 55, 60, 62)
2. ~~Welcomes~~ ***Takes note of*** Albania's ambition of closing accession negotiations by the end of 2027 and ***welcomes*** the swift progress made in recent years; highlights the need to ensure thorough implementation of legislation; (AM 65 Renew)
3. Notes that the Commission ***and the OSCE/ODIHR report*** assesses Albania's electoral framework as broadly adequate to conduct competitive elections, while reiterating concerns related to the uneven playing field, misuse of administrative resources ***blurring the lines between state institutions and party structures, (Rapporteur) funding of political parties (AM 75 Renew)***, vote-buying allegations and pressure on voters; calls therefore on the majority and the opposition, to pursue constructively and inclusively a comprehensive electoral reform, in close cooperation with civil society, and to fully implement outstanding OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations well ahead of future electoral cycles ***stresses that such reform should strengthen the electoral framework, including on campaign finance***

transparency, equitable media access, safeguards against misuse of administrative resources and effective enforcement; underlines that broad political consensus and genuine implementation are essential to ensure public trust in future elections; (AM 71 EPP, AM 72, 73, 77 ECR)

4. Expresses concern about continued political polarisation and confrontational political discourse, which undermine parliamentary oversight, public trust and the effective functioning of democratic institutions; *encourages political actors to re-engage in constructive parliamentary dialogue, ensuring that the parliament remains the central forum for democratic debate and democratic oversight (AM 80 EPP, similar AM 79 ECR); underlines that a functioning democracy requires meaningful participation of the opposition in parliamentary procedures; (AM 86 EPP) recalls that violent protests have no place in a functioning democracy; (AM 84 S&D)*
5. Encourages stronger parliamentary scrutiny of the executive, enhanced transparency in legislative procedures and more meaningful consultation *at an early stage* (AM 89 Greens) with civil society organisations, social partners and independent institutions; *stresses that progress in the EU integration process should be pursued without compromising on the quality and inclusiveness of reforms; underlines the importance of adequate stakeholder engagement and national ownership in order to ensure sustainable implementation and lasting impact; (AM 69 Greens, similar AM 70, 94 ECR) stresses the importance of strengthening the role and capacities of parliamentary committees, including through improved access to information, expert support and transparent legislative procedures; (AM 90 EPP)*

COMPROMISE 2 (on the chapter 'Rule of law, judiciary and anti-corruption')

Amendments that fall if the compromise amendment is adopted:

AM 96 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 97 (Kyuchyuk), AM 98 (Kovatchev), AM 99 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 100 (McAllister), AM 101 (Tynkkynen), AM 102 (Terheş), AM 103 (Sell), AM 104 (Kovatchev), AM 105 (Terheş), AM 106 (Terheş), AM 107 (Salis), AM 108 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 109 (Tynkkynen), AM 110 (Strik), AM 111 (Valchev), AM 112 (Kyuchyuk), AM 113 (Kovatchev), AM 114 (Schieder et. al.), AM 115 (Tynkkynen), AM 116 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 117 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 118 (Loiseau), AM 119 (Kols et. al.), AM 120 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 121 (Stoyanov), AM 122 (Tynkkynen), AM 123 (Kols et. al.), AM 124 (Kovatchev), AM 125 (Strik), AM 126 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 127 (Meimarakis), AM 128 (Kyuchyuk), AM 129 (Stoyanov), AM 130 Tynkkynen), AM 131 (Kovatchev), AM 132 (Strik), AM 133 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 134 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 135 (Gadi et. al.), AM 136 (Stoyanov), AM 137 (Gambino et. al.), AM 138 (Sell), AM 139 (Kovatchev), AM 140 (Tynkkynen), AM 141 (Strik), AM 142 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 189 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 217 (Strik);

Rule of law, judiciary and anti-corruption

6. Welcomes the continued implementation of the justice reform process, including the vetting of judges and prosecutors, which has contributed to increased accountability and integrity within the judiciary; *commends the High Judicial Council (HJC) for the new appointments of magistrates, contributing to a reduction of vacancies; (AM 97 Renew) underlines that safeguarding judiciary independence remains essential to the rule of law, alongside continued efforts to further enhance accountability, quality and efficiency of the judiciary, (AM 98 EPP) notes, however, persistent challenges related to judicial efficiency, effective enforcement of final court decisions, (AM 102*

ECR) case backlogs, consistency of jurisprudence and attempts to exert undue influence;

- 6 a. *Recalls that parliamentary immunity is part of the constitutional framework designed to ensure the proper functioning of democratic institutions; emphasises that any decisions in this regard should be taken strictly in accordance with constitutional provisions and established legal procedures, without political interference and without undue delay; (AM 96, 104 EPP, similar AM 119 ECR)***
- 7. *Commends Albania for the continuous improvement of the efficiency of the Constitutional Court; calls, however, for further strengthening of the broader (AM 108 Renew) judicial governance bodies and for sustained investment in court infrastructure and digitalisation; recalls that the judiciary continues to face political pressures and threats which risk undermining judicial independence; (AM 107 Left) underlines the importance of timely and full implementation of decisions of the Constitutional Court by both the executive and the legislative powers, as an essential element of the rule of law and institutional balance; (AM 93 EPP, similar AM 99 ECR) (AM 96 EPP)***
- 8. *Regrets that according to the 2025 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index ranking, Albania has fallen to the 91st place, compared to its 2024 ranking at 80th place; (AM 112 Renew) stresses that corruption remains a serious concern and that, despite progress in the legal and institutional framework, Albania must further strengthen dedicated police capacity, (AM 118 Renew) consolidate its track record of investigations, prosecutions and final convictions, particularly in high-level corruption cases; welcomes the adoption of key anti-corruption legislation, including on whistleblower protection and conflict of interest, and calls for its thorough implementation; (AM 114 S&D) welcomes the continued work of specialised anti-corruption and organised crime institutions, including SPAK, and calls for ensuring their sustained independence, adequate resources and operational capacity, without limiting investigative powers and not undermining its work;(AM 100 EPP, similar AM 124 EPP, AM 128 Renew, AM 132 Greens, AM 137 ECR) calls for strengthened efforts to ensure the effective tracing, freezing, confiscation and management of criminal assets, including through systematic financial investigations, improved inter-agency and cross-border cooperation, and the full use of confiscation tools in line with fundamental rights; (AM 110 Greens)***
- 9. *Insists that corruption needs to be addressed at all levels to strengthen citizens' trust in state institutions and allow for a predictable business environment; calls for strengthened transparency, conflict-of-interest controls, integrity risk assessments and targeted preventive measures in high-risk sectors, notably public procurement and concessions, licensing and inspections, as well as construction and spatial planning;(AM 125 Greens)***
- 9a. *Calls on Albania to make decisive progress on the initial registration of property and on fair, commonly accepted compensation, improving the transparency of the state cadastre and the quality of cadastral data in the real estate register, and to ensure that the right to a fair trial and the right to effective judicial protection are respected in cases of expropriation and removal of real estate; (AMs 189, 133 EPP)***
- 10. *Highlights the importance of effectively combating organised crime, including money***

laundering and drug trafficking networks, and calls for intensified cooperation with EU agencies such as Europol and Eurojust; ***calls on the authorities to speed up work on aligning Albania's legal framework on organised crime with the EU acquis, strengthen law enforcement capacity and improve the efficiency of investigations;*** (AM 139 EPP);

10 a. Welcomes the fact that banks in Albania officially began executing cross-border euro transactions through the SEPA system; commends authorities for their strong efforts in fighting money laundering by adopting the National Strategy on the Fight Against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing 2024-2030; (AM 217 Greens); notes the Cashless Albania initiative aiming to tackle high informality and illicit cash flows; (Rapporteur)

COMPROMISE 3 (on the chapter 'Fundamental rights and media freedom')

Amendments that fall if the compromise amendment is adopted:

AM 143 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 144 (McAllister), AM 145 (Salis), AM 146 (Tynkkynen), AM 147 (Terheş), AM 148 (Lakos), AM 149 (Strik), AM 150 (Valchev), AM 151 (Geadı et. al.), AM 152 (Kovatchev), AM 153 (Kyuchyuk), AM 154 (Strik), AM 155 (Terheş), AM 156 (Terheş), AM 157 (Terheş), AM 158 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 159 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 160 (Ceccardi et. al.), AM 161 (Geadı et. al.), AM 162 (Terheş), AM 163 (Valchev), AM 164 (Kols et. al.), AM 165 (Tynkkynen), AM 166 (Kovatchev), AM 167 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 168 (Valchev), AM 169 (Geadı et. al.), AM 170 (Strik), AM 171 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 172 (Kovatchev), AM 173 (Geadı et. al.), AM 174 (Strik), AM 175 (Kovatchev), AM 176 (Strik), AM 177 (Geadı et. al.), AM 178 (Kovatchev), AM 179 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 180 (McAllister), AM 181 (Tynkkynen), AM 182 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 183 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 184 (Strik), AM 185 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 186 (Salis), AM 187 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 188 (Salis), AM 190 (Salis), AM 191 (Meimarakis et. al.)

Fundamental rights and media freedom

11. Welcomes the fact that according to the 2025 Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index, Albania has increased its ranking from the 99th place in 2024 to the 80th place in 2025; (AM 143 Renew) calls for further efforts to protect freedom of expression and media pluralism, including greater transparency of possible conflicts of interest of media owners, safeguards against political and economic pressure on journalists and effective investigation of threats and attacks against media professionals; calls also for increased transparency of media ownership structures and transparent distribution of state advertising in order to safeguard editorial independence and media pluralism; (AM 144 EPP, similar AM 152 EPP)

11 a. Strongly condemns the hostility against independent journalists and media professionals in Albania, including verbal attacks and anti-media rhetoric by high-ranking officials, smear campaigns, and misogynistic online harassment, often targeting journalists reporting on the rule of law, corruption and justice; (AM 149 Greens) is furthermore concerned by the high number of lawsuits against journalists; welcomes recent changes to the Criminal Code; regrets, however, that they have not led to the full decriminalisation of defamation and insult, in line with European and international standards; (AM 154 Greens)

- 11 b. Calls on the Albanian authorities to promote media and digital literacy as a complementary measure to strengthen the resilience of the information environment, including by integrating media literacy initiatives across the education system, supporting teacher training and modern learning resources, and enhancing cooperation with independent media and relevant EU programmes to promote critical thinking and responsible digital engagement; (AM 148 EPP)**
12. Encourages Albania to strengthen the institutional framework for the protection **and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to ethnic and religious** (AM 162 ECR, AM 166 EPP) minorities and vulnerable groups, including Roma and Egyptians, persons with disabilities, migrant workers and LGBTIQ+ persons, and to ensure effective implementation of anti-discrimination legislation, **improved access to public services and meaningful participation in social, economic and political life (AM 164 ECR, AM 166 EPP)**; is concerned by anti-gender rhetoric present in the political discourse; **notes that the strengthening of the institutional framework for the protection of minority rights must be accompanied by effective measures that ensure the full and effective implementation of those rights in practice; (AM 159 EPP)**
- 12 a. Calls on the Albanian authorities to ensure sustainable access to education in minority languages for recognised national minorities and to support the training of teachers, the development of textbooks and the preservation of cultural identity; (AM 168 ECR, AM 172 EPP)**
- 12 b. Commends the adoption of the Law on Gender Equality which is in line with EU acquis and international human rights standards; (AM 174 Greens) is however alarmed by waves of disinformation and hatred against LGBTIQ+ persons, including smear campaigns against the work of civil society organisations working towards equality for LGBTIQ+ persons; calls on the authorities to hold persons spreading discriminatory rhetoric accountable before the law; (AM 170 Greens) calls for the government to draft legal measures, such as registered partnership, to recognise and protect same-sex couples, as per the government’s commitment in the National Action Plan for LGBTI Persons (2021–2027), and in order to bring Albania’s legislation on human rights in line with EU acquis; (AM 176 Greens)**
- 12 c. Welcomes the recognition of the longstanding historical presence of the Bulgarian community in regions such as Prespa, Gollubordë and Gora, and encourages the Albanian authorities to ensure full respect for their linguistic, cultural and educational rights; (AM 150 ECR) as well as for the other recognised national minorities;(Rapporteur)**
13. **Regrets that persistent issues of discrimination and social exclusion affecting minority groups in Albania, particularly in access to education, employment, and public services, still remain; calls on the government to fully align anti-discrimination policies and minority rights with the EU acquis;** underlines the need to improve access to justice **and political participation**, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups; (AM 179 Renew)
- 13a. Highlights also the importance of preserving sites of memory related to the communist dictatorship and supporting remembrance and educational initiatives that promote historical awareness and strengthen democratic culture, particularly among younger generations; (AM 180 EPP)**

- 13 b. Welcomes Albania's vibrant and constructive civil society which plays a crucial and positive role in the reform process; encourages the government to build collaborative relationships, genuinely implicating civil society in a transparent legislative process from an early stage onwards; (AM 184 Greens) regrets, however, that civil society organisations in Albania continue to face challenges and receive limited public funding; (AM 153 Renew) calls on the government furthermore to ensure an enabling, safe and non-discriminatory environment for civil society; (AM 186 Left)**
- 13 c. Is concerned that according to the 2025 World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report ranking, Albania has fallen from the 23rd place in 2024 to the 36th place in 2025 globally, indicating a widening gender gap; regrets that the legal framework for combating gender-based violence is not yet aligned with the Istanbul Convention; urges the government to enhance support services for victims, particularly in healthcare, shelter funding, free legal aid, and reintegration and rehabilitation programmes; (AM 185 Renew)**
- 13 d. Is concerned with the fact that the National Agenda on the Rights of the Child (NARC) 2021-2026 is not yet fully implemented and access to justice for children is hindered by delays, limited legal aid, and inadequate institutional coordination; regrets that the majority of children in Albania, remain at risk of poverty; calls the Albanian authorities to effectively implement the NARC by providing assistance to children facing exclusion and poverty; (AM 187 Renew)**

COMPROMISE 4 (on the chapter 'Public Administration reform and governance')

Amendments that fall if the compromise amendment is adopted:

AM 192 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 193 (Kovachev), AM 194 (Stoyanov), AM 195 (Tynkkynen), AM 196 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 197 (Kols et. al.), AM 198 (Tynkkynen), AM 199 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 200 (Geady et. al.), AM 201 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 202 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 203 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 204 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 205 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 206 (Kyuchyuk et. al.)

Public administration reform and governance

- 14. Acknowledges progress in public administration reform, including strategic planning and coordination; welcomes the adoption of the Cross-Cutting Strategy on Public Administration Reform (PAR) 2025-2030; (AM 192 Renew) stresses, however, that further efforts are required to ensure merit-based recruitment and depoliticisation of the civil service, including the adoption and the implementation of a new legislative framework for the civil service; (AM 193 EPP)**
- 14 a. Is concerned, that the legal framework for public procurement as well as company law legislation are not fully aligned with the EU acquis; calls on authorities to continue their efforts to fully align Albania's legislation with the EU acquis; (AM 199 Renew); calls for strengthened parliamentary oversight, independent audits and full transparency in public procurement procedures, in order to ensure compliance with EU standards on competition, data protection and anti-corruption (AM 131 EPP);**

- 14 b. Welcomes the ongoing work of the cross-party parliamentary committee on territorial reform (*Rapporteur*); stresses that any reform in this area should be conducted through an inclusive process and based on objective socio-economic criteria and European standards of local self-government; (AM 197 ECR)**
15. Calls for improved policy planning, evidence-based decision-making and transparent budgetary processes, including strengthened parliamentary oversight of public finances; ***insists on improving the financial resources, administrative capacity and fiscal autonomy of local authority units; (AM 201 Renew)***
- 15 a. Commends the Albanian authorities for the recent adoption of the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2025-2030; welcomes the alignment of the current Law on cybersecurity with the EU NIS 2 Directive; commends the authorities for adopting an updated list of operators of critical and important information infrastructure; (AM 203 Renew)**
- 15 b. Welcomes Albania's continuous improvement of data transmission to Eurostat; calls on authorities to further increase the production and distribution of high-quality data; (AM 205 Renew)**
- 15 c. Commends the government for adopting the new laws on trademarks and patents; calls on the authorities to fully align Intellectual property law with the EU acquis and continue strengthening it; (AM 206 Renew)**

COMPROMISE 5 (on the chapter 'Socio-economic reforms and environment')

Amendments that fall if the compromise amendment is adopted:

AM 207 (*Everding et. al.*), AM 208 (*Valet et. al.*), AM 209 (*Stoyanov*), AM 210 (*Tynkkynen*), AM 211 (*Fragkos et. al.*), AM 212 (*Meimarakis et. al.*), AM 213 (*Kols et. al.*), AM 214 (*Kyuchyuk et. al.*), AM 215 (*Stoyanov*), AM 216 (*Kovatchev*), AM 218 (*Kovatchev*), AM 219 (*Strik*), AM 220 (*Kovatchev*), AM 221 (*Kyuchyuk*), AM 222 (*Meimarakis et. al.*), AM 223 (*McAllister*), AM 224 (*Tynkkynen*), AM 225 (*Kyuchyuk et. al.*), AM 226 (*Tynkkynen*), AM 227 (*Fragkos et. al.*), AM 228 (*Strik*), AM 229 (*Salis et. al.*), AM 230 (*Kyuchyuk et. al.*), AM 231 (*Tynkkynen*), AM 232 (*Kovatchev*), AM 233 (*Salis*), AM 234 (*Strik*), AM 235 (*Kyuchyuk et. al.*), AM 236 (*Strik*), AM 237 (*Kyuchyuk et. al.*), AM 238 (*Salis*), AM 239 (*Salis*), AM 240 (*Strik*), AM 241 (*Kyuchyuk et. al.*), AM 242 (*Strik*), AM 243 (*Salis et. al.*), AM 244 (*Strik*), AM 245 (*Strik*), AM 246 (*Strik*), AM 247 (*Strik*), AM 248 (*Strik*), AM 263 (*Valchev*), AM 305 (*Schieder et. al.*)

Socio-economic reforms and environment

16. Welcomes Albania's engagement in implementing the EU's Growth Plan for the Western Balkans; notes, however, that structural weaknesses persist, including informality, limited productivity growth and a challenging business environment; ***regrets that the large informal economy impedes the business environment and competition; (AM 216 EPP)*** reiterates the importance of improving the transport infrastructure between the Western Balkan countries and ***further developing train and air*** (based on AM 218 EPP) connections with EU Member States; ***commends the authorities for providing VAT exemption for projects financed by the European Union in Albania; (AM 153 Renew)***

- 16 a.** *Recalls the potential of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans to enhance regional connectivity through rail and road; in that respect urges the authorities in all countries to complete Corridor VIII connecting Albania, North Macedonia and Bulgaria; (AM 218 EPP, similar AM 263 ECR)*
- 16 b.** *Calls for the implementation of a comprehensive FDI Screening mechanism as a strategic initiative for protecting national interests, enhancing security, and ensuring predictability for investors and consistency with EU standards; (AM 220 EPP, 213 ECR)*
- 16 c.** *Highlights that the internal control system of the Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC) remains partially effective; calls on Albania to increase the accountability and transparency of state-owned enterprises by making their annual financial performance reports publicly available; calls on authorities to fully implement recommendations of the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution (ALSAI); (AM 237 Renew)*
- 16 d.** *Welcomes the adoption of the Strategy for the modernisation and harmonisation of Albanian customs information systems with the EU systems for the period 2025-2030; commends the authorities for their efforts to meet EU standards by harmonising and improving customs infrastructure; (AM 235 Renew, similar AM 214 Renew)*
- 16 e.** *Commends the authorities for aligning the private pension fund legislation with the EU acquis; calls on Albania to complete its alignment with the EU acquis on insurance, capital markets, securities markets, investment funds and financial market infrastructures; (AM 235, 241 Renew)*
- 16 f.** *Warmly welcomes the Commission proposal to open negotiations to extend the EU 'roam like at home' regime to the Western Balkans and calls on the Council to swiftly authorise the opening of negotiations with the Western Balkan partners; (AM 219 Greens, similar AM 232 EPP, AM 305 S&D)*
- 17.** *Highlights the importance of investing in education, skills development and innovation to support sustainable growth and social cohesion; commends the government for the adoption of legislative acts to reform higher education and for the continuous implementation of the National Strategy for Education 2021-2026; calls on the authorities to finalise the implementing legislation for the Law on cultural heritage and museums; (AM 221 Renew) encourages policies aimed at reducing youth emigration and brain drain and strengthening opportunities for young professionals through improved labour market conditions, education reform and innovation support; (AM 223 EPP)*
- 17a.** *Calls for further development and effective implementation of the social housing framework in Albania, based on the continuation and improvement of the “National Strategy for Social Housing 2016–2025”, so as to ensure stable and decent living conditions for lower-income and vulnerable groups; underlines, in particular, the importance of accessible and affordable social housing for young people, including students and apprentices, as it supports their geographic mobility, access to education and training, and successful integration into the labour market; (AM 239 Left)*

18. Underlines the key importance of genuine social dialogue for delivering benefits of enlargement to different segments of the population; **welcomes the improvement of database transfer and early connection with EURES, which were made possible by the full alignment of the national list of occupations with the ESCO multilingual classification of skills, competences and occupations**; regrets, however, (AM 225 Renew) the low frequency of National Labour Council meetings; calls for strengthening of the tripartite consultation process, including adequate trade union representation; stresses the need to further support capacity building of social partners;
- 18 a. Calls for increased efforts to foster compliance with EU labour law and the EU occupational health and safety framework, including the full implementation of non-discriminatory policies and equality measures, and urges the relevant national authorities to ensure effective monitoring, enforcement and adequate sanctions in cases of non-compliance; (AM 238 Left)**
- 18 b. Underlines that progress towards the accession requires an actual track record of implementation and enforcement of the environmental acquis, notably on environmental assessments, nature protection laws and public participation rights; (AM 228 Greens)**
19. **Takes notes of the government's announcement to reform the waste management sector, centralising and improving waste collection and management**; notes, however, with concern the Commission's assessment that there had been no progress on environment and climate change over the past year; **urges the Albanian government to prioritise the implementation of climate adaptation strategies, the development of renewable energy sources, and support sustainable economic growth; (AM 230 Renew)**
- 19 a. Deeply regrets the extension of the 2015 Law on Strategic Investments, in view of its provisions enabling accelerated permitting procedures and reduced environmental scrutiny, which risk adversely affecting protected areas and other environmentally sensitive zones; (AM 240 Greens) Calls for repealing the 2024 amendments to the Law on Protected Areas, which allow the development of large-scale tourism infrastructure within protected areas and transfer key governance and decision-making competences to the National Council of Territory, thereby weakening environmental oversight; (AM 242 Greens)**

COMPROMISE 6 (on the chapter 'Foreign policy and regional cooperation')

Amendments that fall if the compromise amendment is adopted:

AM 249 (Tynkkynen), AM 250 (Valchev), AM 251 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 252 (Ceccardi et. al.), AM 253 (Schieder et. al.), AM 254 (Gambino et. al.), AM 255 (Tynkkynen), AM 256 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 257 (Gambino et. al.), AM 258 (Terheş), AM 259 (Valchev), AM 260 (Tynkkynen), AM 261 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 262 (Geadı et. al.), ~~AM 263 (Valchev)~~, AM 264 (Terheş), AM 265 (Tynkkynen), AM 266 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 267 (Geadı et. al.), AM 268 (Terheş), AM 269 (Geadı et. al.), AM 270 (Tynkkynen), AM 271

(Geadí et. al.), AM 272 (Tynkkynen), AM 273 (Geadí et. al.), AM 274 (Tynkkynen), AM 275 (Salis), AM 276 (Ceccardi et. al.), AM 277 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 278 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 279 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 280 (Gambino et. al.), AM 281 (Kols et. al.), AM 282 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 283 (Valchev), AM 284 (Stoyanov), AM 285 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 286 (Kovatchev), AM 287 (Gál), AM 288 (Tynkkynen), AM 289 (Fragkos et. al.), AM 290 (Gambino et. al.)

Foreign policy and regional cooperation

20. Commends Albania's continued full alignment with the EU's common foreign and security policy, including restrictive measures, Albania's continued engagement in CSDP missions and operations, and its constructive role in promoting regional stability, **which confirms the country's strong Euro-Atlantic orientation (AM 257 ECR); welcomes the enhanced cooperation on security and defence issues through the EU-Albania Security and Defence Partnership and Security and Defence Dialogues; (AM 253 S&D) stresses the importance of further cooperation such as joint training initiatives, shared intelligence capabilities, and enhanced border security measures to address regional and global security challenges; (AM 251 Renew, similar AM 254 ECR)**
- 20 a. **Stresses that participation in international initiatives and organisations should remain consistent with EU values, regional stability and Albania's European integration objectives; emphasises the importance of transparency and appropriate parliamentary scrutiny in decisions related to international commitments; (AM 281 ECR)**
21. Underlines the importance of good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation as essential components of the enlargement process and welcomes Albania's active participation in regional initiatives; **underlines the need for deeper security cooperation within the Western Balkans, fostering closer coordination among regional partners to combat organised crime, cyber threats, and hybrid challenges; (AM 277 Renew); recognises the strategic importance of the Adriatic-Ionian region for European security and economic stability; calls on Albania to enhance its maritime security capabilities in coordination with the EU and NATO, including strengthening naval infrastructure, improving surveillance systems, and intensifying efforts to combat illicit activities such as human trafficking; encourages deeper cooperation within EU coastal states to ensure the protection of critical maritime routes and environmental sustainability in the region. (AM 279 Renew)**
- 21a. **Warns that initiatives developed outside the EU framework, including the so-called "Open Balkan" initiative, risk creating parallel structures that could undermine the Berlin Process and the EU's Common Regional Market; (AM 286 EPP)**

COMPROMISE 7 (on the chapter 'EU support')

Amendments that fall if the compromise amendment is adopted:

AM 291 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 292 (Schieder et. al.), AM 293 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 294 (Ceccardi et. al.), AM 295 (Tynkkynen), AM 296 (Sell), AM 297 (Gomart), AM 298 (Kovatchev), AM 299 (Schieder et. al.), AM 300 (Strik), AM 301 (Stoyanov), AM 302 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 303 (Kovatchev), AM 304 (Schieder et. al.)

EU support

22. Welcomes EU financial and technical assistance to Albania under IPA III and the Reform and Growth Facility, and stresses that such support must remain firmly linked to concrete reform implementation and measurable results; ***calls for strengthened EU support for regional security initiatives that enhance stability and resilience across the Western Balkans; (AM 293 Renew) welcomes the European Peace Facility bilateral assistance measures in support of Albanian armed forces which enhance Albania's potential to contribute to EU CSDP missions and operations. (AM 292 S&D)***
- 22 a. ***Calls for strengthened oversight and meaningful participation of civil society organisations, business associations and social partners in all stages of the Western Balkans Reform and Growth Facility, including the design of reform measures, implementation of projects and monitoring of results; (AM 300 Greens)***
- 22 b. ***Calls on the EU to provide additional financial and technical assistance to Albania, to support sustainable rural development and reduce the urban-rural divide in line with EU cohesion policies; (AM 302 Renew)***
- 22 c. ***Expresses concern over the serious irregularities identified by OLAF in the implementation of the IPARD II programme in Albania; underlines the importance of ensuring full transparency, accountability and effective control mechanisms in the use of EU financial assistance, in order to safeguard the Union's financial interests and maintain public trust; (AM 298 EPP) and calls for the immediate implementation of the necessary corrective measures; (AM 291 EPP)***
- 22 d. ***Calls on the Commission to continue providing clear guidance on reform priorities and to ensure transparent and rigorous monitoring of the reform progress; calls on the Commission furthermore to set up an information campaign in all Member States and in Albania to explain the positive impact of enlargement to citizens; (AM 299 S&D)***
- 22 e. ***Encourages the European Commission, together with the European External Action Service to further help boost Albania's resilience against hybrid threats, in the area of cyber security, information manipulation and protection of critical infrastructures; stresses the need to improve coordination and address disinformation and hybrid threats that seek to undermine the EU perspective by more strategically underscoring the EU's relevance to people in the Western Balkans; (AM 303 EPP)***
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23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the President of the European Council, to the Council, to the Commission, to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and to the President, Government and Parliament of the Republic of Albania.

COMPROMISE 8 (on citations)

Amendments that fall if the compromise amendment is adopted:

AM 2 (Ceccardi et. al.), AM 3 (Kovatchev), AM 4 (Valet et. al.), AM 5 (Valet et. al.), AM 6 (Tynkkynen), AM 7 (Tynkkynen), AM 8 (Tynkkynen), AM 9 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 10 (Kyuchyuk et. al.), AM 11 (Kyuchyuk et. al.)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part¹,
- having regard to Albania’s application for EU membership, submitted on 24 April 2009,
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III)²,
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans³,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 5 February 2020 entitled ‘Enhancing the accession process – A credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans’ (COM(2020)0057),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 8 November 2023 entitled ‘New growth plan for the Western Balkans’ (COM(2023)0691),
- having regard to the Reform Agenda of Albania submitted under the EU’s Reform and Growth Facility, as approved by the Commission on 23 October 2024,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 8 July 2025 entitled ‘2025 Rule of Law Report’ (COM(2025)0900), accompanied by the Commission staff working document entitled ‘2025 Rule of Law Report – Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Albania’ (SWD(2025)0928),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 4 November 2025 entitled ‘2025 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy’ (COM(2025)0690), accompanied by the Commission staff working document entitled ‘Albania 2025 Report’ (SWD(2025)0750),
- having regard to the final report of 23 October 2025 by the Election Observation Mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on Albania’s

¹ OJ L 107, 28.4.2009, p. 166, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2009/332/oj.

² OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>.

³ OJ L, 2024/1449, 24.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1449/oj>.

- parliamentary elections of 11 May 2025,
- having regard to the declaration of the EU-Western Balkans summit held in Brussels on 17 December 2025,
 - ***having regard to the EU-Western Balkans summits, held in Sofia, Zagreb and Brdo pri Kranju in 2018, 2020 and 2021, and their declarations, (AM 3 EPP)***
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Albania,
 - ***having regard to its resolution of 11 March 2026 on the EU enlargement strategy, (AM 7 ECR)***
 - ***having regard to the 2025 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, (AM 11 Renew)***
 - ***having regard to the World Press Freedom Index 2025 Report of Reporters Without Borders, (AM 9 Renew)***
 - ***having regard to the 2025 Global Gender Gap Report of World Economic Forum, (AM 10 Renew)***
 - having regard to Rule 55 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A10-0000/2026),

COMPROMISE 9 (on all recitals)

Amendments that fall if the compromise amendment is adopted:

AM 12 (Gomart), AM 13 (Sell), AM 14 (Valet et. al.), AM 15 (Tynkkynen), AM 16 (Sell), AM 17 (Tynkkynen), AM 18 (Valet et. al.), AM 19 (Valchev), AM 20 (Tynkkynen), AM 21 (Sell), AM 22 (Tynkkynen), AM 23 (Kovatchev), AM 24 (Valet et. al.), AM 25 (Tynkkynen), AM 26 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 27 (Tynkkynen), AM 28 (Terheş), AM 29 (Tynkkynen), AM 30 (Tynkkynen), AM 31 (Tynkkynen), AM 32 (Tynkkynen), AM 33 (Tynkkynen), AM 34 (Sell et. al.), AM 35 (Meimarakis et. al.), AM 36 (Tynkkynen), AM 37 (Lakos), AM 38 (Terheş), AM 39 (Gomart), AM 40 (Valchev), AM 41 (Terheş), AM 42 (Valchev), AM 43 (Valchev), AM 44 (Kovatchev), AM 45 (Sell), AM 46 (Valet et. al.), AM 47 (Stier), AM 48 (Ceccardi et. al.), AM 49 (Valet et. al.), AM 50 (Ceccardi et. al.), AM 51 (Valet et. al.), AM 52 (Valet et. al.)

- A. whereas EU enlargement remains a strategic investment in peace, security, stability and democratic and socio-economic development across the European continent;
- B. whereas Albania has maintained a clear ***and consistent*** (AM 19 ECR) strategic orientation towards EU membership and has demonstrated full alignment with the EU's common foreign and security policy (CFSP), ***including on EU restrictive measures against Russia and Belarus and by supporting Ukraine in UN General Assembly resolution votes;***(AM 17 ECR)
- C. whereas Albania has been an EU candidate country since 2014, began accession negotiations in July 2022, successfully completed the screening process in

November 2023 and opened all negotiation clusters between 15 October 2024 and 17 November 2025;

- D. whereas the 2025 Commission Report on Albania confirms that the country continues to make progress in most accession-related areas, while underlining the need for deeper, more consistent and irreversible reforms;
- E. whereas the credibility of the enlargement process depends on strict conditionality, merit-based progress and the effective implementation of reforms, rather than formal adoption of legislation alone; ***whereas Albania's EU accession depends on lasting, in-depth and irreversible reforms across the 'fundamentals' area, starting with the rule of law and the functioning of democratic institutions; whereas the quality of a country's necessary reforms determine the timetable for accession; (AM 23 EPP)***
- F. whereas strengthening democratic institutions, judicial independence, anti-corruption efforts, media freedom and fundamental rights, ***including minority rights***, (AM 35 EPP) remains essential for Albania's accession trajectory;
- F a. whereas safeguarding the integrity of democratic processes has become a central element of the Union's enlargement policy; whereas Albania's Parliament adopted in July 2025 the country's first National Strategy against foreign interference and disinformation; (AM 37 EPP)***
- G. whereas the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations ***of 23 October 2025 following the parliamentary elections of 11 May 2025 and previous recommendations*** to further improve the conduct of elections in Albania have not yet been fully addressed;