

Basic information	
<b>2025/2017(INI)</b> INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Albania  <b>Subject</b> 8.20 Enlargement of the Union 8.20.01 Candidate countries  <b>Geographical area</b> Albania	

Key players			
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">AFET</div> Foreign Affairs	SCHIEDER Andreas (S&D)	18/11/2024

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/01/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/06/2025	Vote in committee		
10/06/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0106/2025	Summary
08/07/2025	Debate in Parliament		
09/07/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0155/2025	Summary
09/07/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
<b>Procedure reference</b>	2025/2017(INI)
<b>Procedure type</b>	INI - Own-initiative procedure
<b>Procedure subtype</b>	Annual report
<b>Legal basis</b>	Rules of Procedure EP 55
<b>Stage reached in procedure</b>	Procedure completed
<b>Committee dossier</b>	AFET/10/01781

Documentation gateway

## European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE769.914	04/03/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE770.101	25/03/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0106/2025	10/06/2025	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0155/2025	09/07/2025	<a href="#">Summary</a>

## European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2025)09-24	24/09/2025	

## Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

### Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
<a href="#">KOVATCHEV Andrey</a>	Shadow rapporteur	AFET	03/06/2025	Albanian politicians
<a href="#">KOVATCHEV Andrey</a>	Shadow rapporteur	AFET	07/04/2025	Albanian politicians
<a href="#">KOVATCHEV Andrey</a>	Shadow rapporteur	AFET	18/03/2025	Mission of the Republic of Albania to the EU
<a href="#">SCHIEDER Andreas</a>	Rapporteur	AFET	19/02/2025	Representation of Albania to the EU
<a href="#">KOVATCHEV Andrey</a>	Shadow rapporteur	AFET	14/01/2025	Albanian politicians

## 2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Albania

2025/2017(INI) - 10/06/2025 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Andreas SCHIEDER (S&D, AT) on the 2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Albania.

The report welcomed **Albania's unwavering commitment** to EU integration, which is the subject of consensus among all political parties, both majority and opposition, and of overwhelming support from citizens, and commended its full and consistent alignment with the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy and its defence of the rules-based international order.

Members welcomed Albania's ambition to **conclude accession negotiations by the end of 2027** and the rapid progress made in recent years, including the opening of two sets of negotiating chapters in 2024. Albania is called upon to **accelerate reforms** aimed at strengthening the rule of law and growing the economy, fighting corruption and organised crime, curbing human trafficking, protecting fundamental rights and advancing freedom of expression, freedom of information and media pluralism and independence.

### ***Democratic institutions, media and civil society***

The report affirmed the shared responsibility of Albanian political forces to strengthen constructive and inclusive political dialogue and overcome the marked political polarisation currently characterising the country. It also recognised the growing threat of malign foreign influence and hybrid interference in Albania's democratic institutions. It welcomed Albania's blocking of Russian disinformation domains, but emphasised the need for a coordinated EU-Albania disinformation response mechanism.

Deploing the deterioration in the situation of free media and independent journalists in recent years, Members called on the Albanian authorities to **ensure transparency in media ownership** and to implement a zero-tolerance policy towards the intimidation of journalists. The authorities must adopt a

legal framework that effectively protects journalists, human rights defenders, environmental activists, and other stakeholders in the face of the worrying increase in SLAPP lawsuits. Members encouraged the Albanian government to strengthen the role of civil society, particularly women's rights organisations, in the EU accession process.

### ***Fundamental rights***

The report found that Albania's legal framework for **combating gender-based violence** is not yet fully compliant with the Istanbul Convention. Violence against women remains a pressing problem, with the number of femicides remaining high. Members called for the strengthening of victim support services, particularly healthcare, funding for shelters, free legal aid, and the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims. It called for stricter enforcement of protection measures and improved judicial responsiveness in cases of gender-based violence, as well as a strong commitment to protecting the rights of LGBTI+ persons.

The Albanian authorities are called upon to **fully respect and protect human rights, including minority rights**, to strengthen institutional mechanisms to prevent discrimination and ensure genuine political participation of all communities, to protect and promote the cultural heritage, languages and traditions of its national minorities and to strengthen institutional mechanisms to prevent discrimination.

### ***Rule of law***

Concerned about the persistence of political interference in the judiciary and the pressure exerted on it, the Members called for urgent measures to **ensure the independence of the judiciary** and the integrity of institutions. The report highlighted that Albania ranks 80th in Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index, which highlights the need for significant progress in **combating high-level corruption**.

The report called on Albania to continue aligning its legal framework, notably its criminal code, with the EU acquis in the fight against organised crime and trafficking in drugs and firearms, as well as in the fight against cybercrime, extremism and terrorist threats. It called on Albania to strengthen the fight against trafficking in human beings and stressed the need to counter the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Members encouraged the European External Action Service and the Commission to continue strengthening Albania's resilience to hybrid threats in the areas of cybersecurity, information manipulation and the protection of critical infrastructure.

### ***Socio-economic reforms***

The report welcomed Albania's commitment to implementing the EU's growth plan for the Western Balkans, which encompasses EU single market integration, regional economic integration, fundamental reforms, and increased financial support. It welcomed Albania's reform agenda on the business environment, human capital, digitalisation, energy and green transition, fundamental rights, and the rule of law.

Members encouraged the Albanian authorities to **reduce the risk of poverty and social exclusion** by improving access to education and housing, as well as to social and healthcare services. They welcomed Albania's accession to the Single Euro Payments Area in November 2024 and commended the improvement in Albania's fiscal performance.

Lastly, the report stressed that Albania needs to redouble its efforts to align with the EU **environmental** acquis, recalling that Albania needs to make considerable efforts to achieve the objectives relating to climate protection, energy efficiency, diversification and greening of energy supply and transport.

## **2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Albania**

2025/2017(INI) - 09/07/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 502 votes to 120, with 64 abstentions, a resolution on the 2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Albania.

Parliament welcomed **Albania's unwavering commitment** to EU integration, which is the subject of cross-party consensus and overwhelming public support, and commended its full and consistent alignment with the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy and its defence of the rules-based international order. Members welcomed Albania's ambition to **conclude accession negotiations by the end of 2027** and the rapid progress made in recent years.

The pace of progress towards EU accession depends on the candidate country's progress in **aligning itself with the EU acquis** and on its being based on the rule of law, good governance and fundamental rights. Albania is called upon to accelerate reforms aimed at strengthening the rule of law and growing the economy, combating corruption and organised crime, curbing trafficking in human beings, protecting fundamental rights and advancing freedom of expression, freedom of information and media pluralism and independence.

### ***Democratic institutions, media and civil society***

Parliament affirmed the shared responsibility of Albanian political forces to strengthen **constructive and inclusive political dialogue** and overcome the marked political polarisation currently characterising the country. It also recognised the growing threat of malign foreign influence and hybrid interference in Albania's democratic institutions. It welcomed Albania's blocking of Russian disinformation domains, but emphasised the need for a coordinated EU-Albania disinformation response mechanism.

Deploing the deterioration in the situation of free media and independent journalists in recent years, Members called on the Albanian authorities to **ensure transparency in media ownership** and to implement a zero-tolerance policy towards the intimidation of journalists. The authorities must adopt a

legal framework that effectively protects journalists, human rights defenders, environmental activists, and other stakeholders in the face of the worrying increase in SLAPP lawsuits. Members encouraged the Albanian government to strengthen the role of civil society, particularly women's rights organisations, in the EU accession process.

### ***Fundamental rights***

Parliament found that Albania's legal framework for combating gender-based violence is not yet fully compliant with the Istanbul Convention. Violence against women remains a pressing problem, with the number of femicides remaining high. Members called for the strengthening of victim support services, particularly healthcare, funding for shelters, free legal aid, and the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims. Members expressed concern about the persistent gaps regarding persons with **disabilities and gender equality**, such as non-alignment or partial alignment with the EU acquis. They urged public institutions to demonstrate a strong commitment to protecting the rights of LGBTI+ people.

Parliament called on Albania to respect the **autonomy of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church** of Albania and to cease all interference in its affairs. It welcomed the adoption of laws on minority rights, including on the use of minority languages, but insisted on their effective implementation, with adequate resources. The Albanian government is urged to fully respect and protect human rights, including minority rights.

Members called on the Albanian authorities to strengthen institutional mechanisms to prevent discrimination and ensure meaningful political participation for all communities. They called on Albania to provide education to national minorities in their mother tongue, including adequate primary and secondary schooling in Greek in areas inhabited by the Greek national minority. Lastly, they called on Albania to preserve the religious and cultural heritage of the Greek Orthodox minority.

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