

**CONFERENCE ON ACCESSION
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION
– ALBANIA –**

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ACCESSION DOCUMENT

Subject: EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION
- Chapter 30: External relations

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

ALBANIA

EU COMMON POSITION

(In response to additional information provided by Albania)

Cluster 6: Negotiating chapter 30

External relations

EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION

This position of the European Union is based on its general position for the Accession Conference with Albania AD 5/22 CONF-ALB 2 and is subject to the negotiating principles endorsed therein, in particular:

- any view expressed by either party on a chapter of the negotiations will in no way prejudice the position which may be taken on other chapters;
- agreements - even partial agreements - reached during the course of the negotiations on chapters to be examined successively may not be considered as final until an overall agreement has been established;
- the requirements set out in points 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 14, 16, 23, 31, 38, 39, 45, 46, 47 and 48 of the Negotiating Framework.

The EU encourages Albania to continue the process of alignment with the *acquis* and its effective implementation and enforcement, and in general develop already before accession, policies and instruments as close as possible to those of the EU.

The EU notes that Albania, in its positions AD 24/24 (CONF-ALB 7) and AD 43/26 CONF-ALB 5, accepts the EU *acquis* under chapter 30 as in force on 1 May 2026, and that Albania declares that it will be ready to implement it by the date of its accession to the European Union.

The EU notes Albania's alignment with the EU *acquis* in the field of the **common commercial policy**. The EU recalls the need for Albania to ensure that its international agreements are brought into conformity with the EU *acquis* by the date of accession and that all directly binding EU legislation in the field of EU common commercial policy is effectively applied from the day of accession. The EU invites Albania to enhance its administrative capacity in that regard. The EU notes Albania's commitment to ensure the compatibility of its position in multilateral and bilateral contexts with EU stances under common commercial policy by the date of accession. The EU also invites Albania to closely cooperate with the European Commission on all changes to trade policy in the pre-accession period and to align itself with the policies and positions of the EU towards third countries and within international organisations, including in all negotiations in the World Trade Organization. The EU encourages Albania to join the group of WTO members that during MC14 signaled their intention to implement the E-Commerce Agreement (ECA) as soon as possible. The EU expects Albania to conclude its accession to the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA).

The EU underlines that it is the responsibility of Albania to ensure that, upon accession, all its international agreements, and in particular all trade related agreements or bilateral investment treaties between Albania and third countries, are in conformity with the *acquis*. The EU recalls that Albania will be required to terminate by the date of accession all existing bilateral agreements between Albania and third countries, and all other international agreements concluded by Albania which are incompatible with the obligations of EU membership.

The EU positively notes Albania's commitment to denounce all its free trade agreements in their entirety by the date of accession and to ensure that all agreements on trade, investment and economic cooperation and other relevant agreements are brought into conformity with the *acquis*.

The EU notes that to this end, Albania adopted a comprehensive Action plan with a comprehensive inventory of its international agreements with a view to bringing these agreements into conformity with the *acquis* from the day of accession.

In view of the above, the EU holds that Albania has met the requirements of the second closing benchmark for this chapter as set out in the EU Common Position (AD 25/24 CONF-ALB 8).

Albania is invited to keep the EU informed about the content of any negotiations in this regard with third countries and to closely coordinate any such negotiations with the Commission. The EU underlines that any new trade-related agreement which Albania may conclude with a third country between now and the date of accession should include a provision which enables Albania to terminate the agreement, before accession, without need for compensation of any kind by the EU and takes note of Albania's commitment in this respect. The EU notes that Albania will need to apply the EU external tariff for all products and the EU trade liberalisation in services, from the day of accession.

The EU notes the overall alignment of Albania's legislation with the Regulation (EU) 2021/821 on the **export control of dual-use items**. The EU invites Albania to maintain a clear distinction between the mechanisms governing dual-use and military items, and to continue aligning with the updates of the Regulation (EU) 2021/821, in particular with regard to the list of dual-use items subjected to control included in Annex I. The EU invites Albania to enhance its administrative capacity and staff preparation to effectively apply the EU rules in this field at the time of accession.

Albania also needs to apply the EU export credit rules and ensure effective enforcement of EU trade defence measures upon accession. The EU takes note of Albania's ongoing efforts to join the **Wassenaar Arrangement**, which can facilitate preparations to implement the *acquis* for dual-use items. In this respect, the EU welcomes the submission by Albania of the formal application to join the Wassenaar Arrangement in June 2025. The EU takes note that as of June 2025 Albania is confirmed as unilateral adherent to the **Australia group**. The EU also invites Albania to ensure its early accession to the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

In view of the above, the EU holds that Albania has met part one of the requirements of the first closing benchmark for this chapter as set out in the EU Common Position (AD 25/24 CONF-ALB 8).

The EU notes the alignment of the legislation governing the **screening of foreign direct investments (FDI)** in Albania with the Regulation (EU) 2019/452 on FDI screening. The EU also stresses the importance for Albania to continually align and effectively implement its legal framework with the EU *acquis* and invites Albania to ensure the necessary administrative capacity to enforce controls.

In view of the above, the EU holds that Albania has met part two of the requirements of the first closing benchmark for this chapter as set out in the EU Common Position (AD 25/24 CONF-ALB 8).

The EU notes that in the area of **foreign policy instruments**, Albania is not party to the **Kimberley Process**. The EU further notes that Albania will automatically become party to the Kimberley Process from the date of accession to the EU. Therefore, the EU invites Albania to continue its preparations, including legislative alignment, in order to ensure, from the date of accession, to apply the rules governing the Kimberley Process.

The EU notes Albania's implementation of legislation aligned with the Regulation (EU) 2019/125 on **anti-torture**, as amended. The EU underlines the need for efficient enforcement of the rules laid down in this Regulation to be ensured upon accession.

In view of the above-mentioned alignment of the national legislation with the Regulation (EU) 2021/821 on the export control of dual-use items, the Regulation (EU) 2019/452 on FDI screening and implementation of the legislation aligned with the Regulation (EU) 2019/125 on anti-torture, the EU holds that Albania has met the requirements of the first closing benchmark for this chapter as set out in the EU Common Position (AD 25/24 CONF-ALB 8).

The EU notes that in the field of **external action policy**, Albania is committed to the EU policy and principles guiding its international partnerships. The EU takes note of the information provided regarding Albania's preparations in the area of development policy and of its plans to meet EU requirements. The EU encourages Albania to continue to build up the administrative and financial capacity needed to fulfil its commitments, including doing its part to reach EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) targets.

The EU notes that in the field of **humanitarian aid policy**, Albania is committed to the EU policy and principles guiding the provision of humanitarian aid. The EU notes that humanitarian contributions are still decided on a case-by-case basis in the absence of a national legislative framework. The EU takes note of Albania's plans to establish a legal framework covering humanitarian aid policy to third countries in line with EU policies and principles. The EU encourages Albania to build up the financial and administrative capacity needed to fulfil its commitments.

The EU notes that regarding the **fight against corruption in external relations**, Albania has a legal framework in place for fighting corruption in its criminal law as well as the laws governing the prevention and detection of corruption in specific provisions. The EU encourages Albania to continue the fight against corruption through effective enforcement of the anti-corruption measures, including preventive measures and awareness-raising. The EU also invites Albania to strengthen the integrity of its administration in order to address the risk of corruption in the implementation of legislation in this chapter.

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In view of the above considerations, the EU notes that, at this stage, this chapter does not require further negotiations.

Monitoring of progress in the alignment with and implementation of the EU *acquis* will continue throughout the negotiations. The EU underlines that it will devote particular attention to monitoring all specific issues mentioned above with a view to ensuring Albania's administrative capacity, full legal alignment, as well as effective implementation and enforcement of the *acquis* in this chapter. Particular consideration needs to be given to the links between the present chapter and other negotiation chapters. A final assessment of the conformity of Albania's legislation with the EU *acquis* and of its implementation capacity can only be made at a later stage of the negotiations. In addition to all the information the EU may require for the negotiations in this chapter, and which is to be provided to the Conference, the EU invites Albania to provide regularly detailed written information to the Stabilisation and Association Council on progress in the implementation of the *acquis* and in the strengthening of its administrative capacity.

In view of all the above considerations, the EU will, if necessary, return to this chapter at an appropriate moment.

Furthermore, the EU recalls that there may be new *acquis* between 1 May 2026 and the conclusion of the negotiations.