

AD 83/26

LIMITE

CONF-ALB 14

ACCESSION DOCUMENT

Subject: EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION
- Chapter 20: Enterprise and industrial policy

EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION

Negotiating Chapter 20: Enterprise and industrial policy

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 Albania or the EU on a specific chapter of the negotiations will in no way prejudice the position which may be taken on other chapters;

agreements reached in the course of negotiations on specific chapters, even partial ones, may not be considered as final until an overall agreement has been reached for all chapters;

as well as to the requirements set out in points 2, 3, 5, 10, 14, 16, 23, 26, 31, 38, 39, 45, 46, 47 and 48 of the Negotiating Framework.

The EU encourages Albania to continue the process of alignment with the EU *acquis* and its effective implementation and enforcement, and in general to 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 2/25 CONF-ALB 2 REV 1 and AD 73/26 CONF-ALB 11 accepts the EU *acquis* under Chapter 20 as in force on 1 July 2026 and that it will be ready to implement it by the date of its accession to the European Union.

The EU notes that Albania is aligned with **horizontal aspects of EU industrial policy**. The EU invites Albania to continue implementing these horizontal aspects. The EU welcomes the adoption of the Business and Investment Development Strategy (BIDS), which embeds the twin transition and industrial resilience into industrial transformation. The EU notes that the BIDS is largely aligned with the principal orientations of the EU guidelines as presented in recent communications¹ on industrial policy. The EU encourages Albania to monitor the implementation of the BIDS and report regularly on progress.

The EU notes that in the field of **enterprise policy and instruments**, Albania is largely aligned with the EU small and medium enterprises (SME) policy and instruments. On SME policy, the EU welcomes that the BIDS will provide a comprehensive coherent framework and encourages its implementation to ensure that the skills system respond to SME productivity needs. The EU welcomes the implementation of the SME Test to limit the legislative burden on SMEs.

The EU welcomes Albania's alignment to the *acquis* on **late payments**. The EU encourages Albania to implement the provisions of the Late Payments Directive².

The EU invites Albania to further explore the opportunities within the Single Market Programme or its successor programme under the next multiannual financial framework, notably regarding clusters and the European Enterprise Network, with an emphasis on green and digital transition and industrial resilience. The EU recalls Albania needs to terminate by the end of the year the strategic investment law and adopt the unified investment law that will be fully in line with the *acquis*, providing a comprehensive investment regime which will be essential in enabling public-private and business partnerships.

¹ COM(2017) 479, COM(2020) 102 and COM(2021) 350 final

² 2011/7/EU

The EU notes Albania's progress in implementing EU **sectoral policies**. The EU welcomes Albania's good progress on aligning with the EU *acquis* in several industrial sectors. The EU calls upon Albania to strengthen the sustainable development and management of its tourism sector, including through improved tourism data and the monitoring of tourist flows, while fully safeguarding environmental protection and natural and cultural assets and ensuring that tourism development benefits local communities in an inclusive manner. The EU urges Albania to further align its tourism policies with the 2026 Council Conclusions on "Building a sustainable and competitive tourism for the future"³ and the upcoming EU Strategy for Sustainable Tourism as well as with its international environmental commitments. The EU also invites Albania to step up efforts especially in sectors where further alignment with the EU *acquis* is required, including construction, mining, Critical Raw Materials (CRM), defence and the steel industry. Given Albania's potential in CRM production, the EU encourages Albania to implement the EU CRM Regulation⁴ before accession.

The EU encourages Albania to continue strengthening its administrative capacity in key implementation areas. The EU welcomes the establishment of a structured governance architecture for this policy including the interministerial coordination mechanisms.

In view of the above, the EU holds that Albania has met the requirements of the closing benchmark for this chapter as set out in the EU Common Position (AD 6/25 CONF-ALB 6).

³ ST 9075/26

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2024/1252

The EU expects Albania to strengthen its institutions and strategies to **fight corruption**. The EU recalls the need for Albania to intensify efforts in the fight against corruption in the field of industry and enterprise, amongst others through offering transparent, efficient and accountable digitalised public services, including the land registry, to ensure the efficiency and transparency of public procurement and of support to business, and to fight against the informal economy.

* * *

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 *acquis* will continue throughout the negotiations. The EU underlines that it will devote particular attention to monitoring all specific issues mentioned above, including 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 *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.

The EU notes that Albania, in its negotiating positions AD 2/25 CONF-ALB 2 REV1 and AD 73/26 CONF-ALB 11 accepts the *acquis* under Chapter 20 as in force on 1 July 2026.

The EU notes that Albania declares that it will continue the alignment process with the *acquis* and that it will be ready to implement it by the date of its accession to the European Union.

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