



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

The Acting Deputy Director-General

Brussels,
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Mr Gazmend Turdiu
Secretary General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Albania

By email: albanian.ec1@skynet.be

Dear Mr Turdiu,

At our recent Senior Officials' meeting on 6 May 2010, we discussed the final Commission services' assessment of the fulfilment by Albania of the criteria of the roadmap towards visa liberalisation. I would once again like to congratulate you and your services on the very significant progress made by Albania across all areas. While the large majority of the benchmarks have been met, the Commission services' assessment identified the need for further progress in the following areas:

- the development of a strategy and policy to support the reintegration of Albanian returnees;
- the strengthening of capacities of law enforcement and the effective implementation of the legal framework for the fight against organised crime and corruption, including through the allocation of adequate human and financial resources;
- the effective implementation of the legal framework in the area of the confiscation of organised crime assets.

The Commission services will therefore continue to verify progress on these three issues and carry out an additional expert mission. To that end, I would like to ask you to kindly submit a **report** on progress made in those areas **by 25 June 2010**. With a view to helping your services to prepare such a report as well as to identifying possible actions still to be taken in those areas, you will find in annex a list of elements that, within the framework of the roadmap, would be used by the Commission services as terms of reference for the expert mission.

Depending on progress reported by Albania, we could foresee the mission to be held in the first half of July. The timing of this mission should be agreed in consultation with you during the coming weeks.

In addition to verifying the progress made in the fulfilment of these outstanding requirements, the Commission will also monitor the progress made as regards the issuance of identity

documents to refugees. Sustainable implementation of all benchmarks of the visa liberalisation dialogue will be important and the Commission will further monitor this across all areas of the dialogue.

Preparation is ongoing for a Commission legislative proposal to lift the short-term visa obligation for the citizens of Albania on the condition that the outstanding benchmarks will be met. Following its adoption, the Commission will transmit the proposal to the Council and the European Parliament and keep these institutions fully informed of the progress made by Albania in meeting the outstanding requirements. On this basis, the Council and the European Parliament would then decide on the final adoption.

Finally, allow me to once again congratulate your country for the progress achieved so far in the visa liberalisation process and to encourage the Albanian authorities to continue activities in order to fulfil the remaining benchmarks.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Louis De Brouwer

Annex 1: List of elements

Annex 2: Final Commission services' assessment of the fulfilment by Albania of the criteria of the roadmap for visa liberalisation

List of elements

1. Development of a strategy and policy to support the reintegration of Albanian returnees (Block 2):

- Finalisation of the inter-ministerial assessment study and the adoption of decision laying down the basis for Albania's reintegration policy.
- Adoption of a **specific strategy** for the sustainable reintegration of Albanian citizens readmitted from the EU, which should:
 - take into account the inter-ministerial study carried out as well as existing experience of non-governmental organisations;
 - include concrete measures in areas such as information, education and training, documentation, housing and social support, in particular for vulnerable groups;
 - involve all relevant state agencies in the reintegration process, in particular the National Employment Service and clearly define their competences and responsibilities.
- Adoption of an **action plan** for the implementation of the abovementioned strategy including:
 - capacity-building for relevant agencies;
 - allocation of financial and human resources;
 - regular monitoring of the implementation of the strategy

2. Strengthening capacities in the area of law enforcement and effective implementation of the legal framework for the fight against organized crime and corruption, including through allocation of adequate human and financial resources (Block 3):

- Reporting on effective implementation of the Action Plans and legal framework for the fight against organised crime
- Strengthening the administrative and investigative capacities of the law enforcement authorities. Amongst other measures, the following should be considered:
 - providing specialised **training** aimed at enabling the development of more proactive **investigative means** and **intelligence-led investigations** (e.g. case management, handling of international cases, identification of victims of trafficking)
 - Strengthening **human resources** in relevant police structures, in particular in the units dealing with **trafficking in human beings** and **drugs**
 - Continuing efforts to develop and efficiently use the MEMEX criminal information system as a tool for intelligence-led policing, including continued training to its users and efforts to extend access to the system
- Improving **operational cooperation** in the fight against organised crime between central and local police structures on the one hand, and the prosecution and the police on the other. This shall include initiatives to:
 - Providing **joint training** to the prosecution and the police

- implementing the Order of 25 January 2010 of General Director of State Police regarding the coordination of work between central and local structures for the fight against trafficking in human beings
- Reporting on the continued implementation of the 2010 Action Plan and the legal framework for the fight against **corruption**.
- Reporting on investigative and judicial activities undertaken by the competent authorities in cases of organised crime and corruption

3. Effective implementation of the legal framework for the confiscation of organized crime assets (Block 3):

- Ensuring that adequate human resources and training are provided to the structures working on the implementation of the **new law on the confiscation of organised crime assets**, and adopting relevant implementing legislation
- Reporting on sustainable development of the structures involved in the confiscation of organised crime assets and on investigative and judicial activities undertaken.