Question for written answer E-000340/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)

Subject: Violation of the right to self-determination by the Albanian Government

The three recent Albanian Government decrees (Këshillit të Ministrave, 26/12/2024) on the application of Law 96/2017 "On the protection of national minorities"[1] constitute significant obstacles to the recognition of the Greek minority.

The Albanian Government is essentially cancelling the right to self-determination and discouraging the registration of minorities. Specifically, it sets and imposes criteria and procedures (note the term "claims", instead of "feels"); audit committees do not ensure that the nationality request is fully accepted, due to the absence of documents of origin from 2010; there is reference to data concerning the arbitrary and illegal registration of thousands of Greeks as being Albanian nationals, either from the formation of Albania (1913) or previously denounced censuses; the pyramid of approval up to ministerial level is time consuming; and the examining committee comprises first and foremost institutional agents, raising reasonable concerns about a lack of transparency.

Since these practices violate the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities,

1. What actions does the Commission intend to take to ensure that Albania complies with its international obligations regarding respect for the right to self-determination?

2. Will the Commission link Albania's development and progress in the accession negotiations - and the whole process - with requiring immediate reform of these practices?

Submitted: 27.1.2025

[1] https://www.kryeministria.al/newsroom/vendime-te-miratuara-ne-mbledhjen-e-keshillit-te-ministrave-date-26-dhjetor-2024/.