

**Question for written answer E-003004/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Rihards Kols (ECR), Ivaylo Valchev (ECR), Fredis Beleris (PPE), Dominik Tarczyński (ECR), Sebastian Tynkkynen (ECR)

Subject: Rule of law in Albania

The Commission's 2024 report on Albania and multiple independent assessments confirm that political interference in the country's judiciary remains widespread, undermining the sustainability of reforms that are central to Cluster 1 EU accession benchmarks. While the vetting process has removed unfit judges and prosecutors, it has also created severe staff shortages, risking delays and backlogs that weaken trust in the justice system.

Meanwhile, repeated failures to implement Constitutional Court rulings and protect fundamental rights threaten the credibility of Albania's commitment to EU values.

1. How will the Commission ensure that Albania's justice reform delivers a genuinely independent judiciary and is insulated effectively from informal political influence?
2. Does the Commission consider the current vetting process sustainable given the resulting capacity gaps, and what measures are planned to address this shortfall?
3. What concrete measures will the Commission take to hold the Albanian authorities accountable for failing to enforce Constitutional Court rulings and for persistent gaps in access to justice for vulnerable groups?

Submitted: 18.7.2025