

**Question for written answer E-002202/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Fredis Beleris (PPE)

Subject: Encroachment on land and properties of the Greek ethnic minority in Zvërnec, Vloa Region, Albania

In the village of Zvërnec, Vloa Region, which is primarily inhabited by members of the Greek ethnic minority, it is alleged that a private company is intervening and encroaching on land and properties that were illegally seized by the communist regime in the 1960s and have not yet been returned to their rightful owners. At the same time, during peaceful protests by residents about the injustice they have suffered, incidents of violence and intimidation by individuals allegedly associated with the company were recorded, even in the presence of police forces. These incidents raise serious questions regarding respect for fundamental freedoms, property rights and the protection of recognised national minorities in a country that is a candidate for accession to the European Union.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of the allegations of violence and intimidation against residents of Zvërnec during peaceful protests and does it intend to seek clarification from the Albanian authorities on the safeguarding of the right to protest?
2. What measures is the Commission taking to protect the fundamental rights of recognised ethnic minorities, including their property rights, in the candidate countries?
3. Given that the Commission is in contact with the Albanian competent authorities, how does it ensure the objectivity of the findings of the Interim Benchmark Assessment Report (IBAR) and annual reports of the Commission?

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