

**Question for written answer E-003917/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

**Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE), Terry Reintke (Verts/ALE), Jutta Paulus (Verts/ALE),
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE), Nicolae Ștefănuță (Verts/ALE), Daniel Freund
(Verts/ALE), Anna Strolenberg (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Albania's protected areas, strategic investments and mountain package laws and its compliance with Chapters 27 and 23 benchmarks

The Chapter 27 benchmark requires Albania to continue aligning with the nature-protection acquis, 'including by repealing the incompatible provisions enacted through amendments to Law No 21/2024 and by terminating Law No 55/2015', and to ensure the capacity to manage the Natura 2000 network, 'including by granting appropriate protection status to designated areas'. A submission received by the Commission (dated 10 September 2026) states that Law No 20/2025 (the Mountain Package) designates 141 672 hectares within legally protected areas and 113 608 hectares within candidate Natura 2000 sites for privatisation, conditional on industrial, economic or tourism investment by the possessor or investor.

1. Has the Commission received an environmental package from Albania repealing Law No 21/2024's incompatible provisions and Law No 55/2015, and what happens if the repeal is not adopted in 2026?
2. Does the Commission consider the Mountain Package to be compatible with the benchmark's requirement of appropriate protection status for designated areas, and would repealing the 2024 amendments alone satisfy it while the Mountain Package remains in force?
3. Has the Commission assessed the Mountain Package against the Chapter 23 benchmark, and does recognising possession without documentation, subject only to public notice, satisfy the requirement to inform parties of competing claims so they can seek justice?

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