

EN  
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Answer given by Ms Kos  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(24.3.2025)

The Commission has repeatedly raised concerns about the construction of the Vlora Airport in the Vjosa-Narta Protected Area in its annual reports on Albania<sup>1</sup>.

As a candidate country, Albania is required to align its legislation with the EU environmental *acquis* and progressively adopt EU environmental standards. This includes ensuring that a scientifically sound Environmental Impact Assessment is conducted before the approval of any project with potential environmental impacts.

The Commission will continue to follow developments in this area closely and to address these matters with the Albanian authorities in the context of the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Agreement<sup>2</sup> and of the EU accession negotiation process, including by continuing to raise the issue of the implementation of the Bern Convention's recommendation<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> SWD(2020) 354 final, SWD(2021) 289 final, SWD(2022) 332 final, SWD (2023) 690 final and SWD (2024) 690 final.

<sup>2</sup> Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part – Protocols – Declarations, OJ L 107, 28.4.2009, p. 166–502.

<sup>3</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/0900001680ac7963> and <https://rm.coe.int/misc-e-44-standing-committee-final-draft/1680b2bbbb>, p. 13.