

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

The Commission attaches great importance to protection of fundamental rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and the principle of self-identification, and closely monitors the consolidation of these rights as part of the EU integration process of Albania.

In its 2024 report on Albania¹, the Commission called for implementing legislation to be adopted, in order to address issues of free self-identification of national minorities and the use of minority languages, in line with European standards.

The Commission noted the adoption in December 2024 of three by-laws related to free self-identification and on the use of languages of persons belonging to minorities. The draft by-laws were consulted with relevant stakeholders and Council of Europe experts, including experts of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention on National Minorities, who assessed the draft by-laws as compatible with European standards.

The Commission will continue to monitor the application of the legal framework in compliance with European standards and the principle of self-identification, as part of the accession commitments of Albania² alongside other competent international organisations, including the Council of Europe.

¹ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a8eec3f9-b2ec-4cb1-8748-9058854dbc68_en?filename=Albania%20Report%202024.pdf

² EU Common Position on Cluster 1 Fundamentals Albania,
<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/AD-18-2024-INIT/en/pdf>