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Answer given by Ms Kos

on behalf of the European Commission

(4.8.2025)

In the 2024 Report¹, the Commission noted that Albania's alignment with the EU *acquis* on nature protection is advanced but expressed concerns about legislative changes made by Albania in the same sector which risk compromising Albania's ecological and biodiversity value including potential Natura 2000 sites, in conflict with EU standards. These entail the extension of the 2015 legislation on strategic investments and its potential biodiversity which may lead to tourism or industrial investments in protected areas, and amendments to the Law on Protected Areas to permit activities like water extraction for irrigation and construction of tourist resorts within those areas.

The Commission attaches great importance to the rule of law, which is a fundamental part of Albania's accession process and is monitored in the context of Cluster 1 – Fundamentals and the Annual Rule of Law Report, as well as to environmental protection, which is monitored under negotiation Cluster 4 - Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity. Through the enlargement process and the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)², the Commission is and will continue to closely follow the consolidation of rule of law rights in Albania, including property rights, as well as environmental protection. In the SAA sub-committee meeting on transport, environment, energy and regional development which took place on 24 June 2025, the Commission enquired with the Albanian authorities about alignment with the nature protection *acquis* and the Llamani Beach case, on which the Commission remains in contact with the Albanian authorities.

¹ Albania 2024 Enlargement Report, SWD(2024) 690 final, p. 17-18; 85-86, available at https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a8eec3f9-b2ec-4cb1-8748-9058854dbc68_en?filename=Albania%20Report%202024.pdf.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02009A0428%2802%29-20210901>.