

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003092/25
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(25 July 2025)**

Subject: Map of Greater Albania depicted in the official gazette of Albania's Ministry of Defence

A map published in the official gazette of Albania's Ministry of Defence (Gazeta 'Ushtria'), on the occasion of the 147th anniversary of the Berlin Congress, depicts extensive areas of Greece, such as Corfu, Ioannina, Arta, Preveza and Grevena, as being part of National Albania. The way in which the map and these regions are presented refers to the nationalistic theory of 'Greater Albania' and is a practice that is inconsistent with the obligations of an acceding Member State and violates the obligation of good neighbourly relations and the inviolability of borders.

Also considering the problems encountered during the census in relation to the Greek ethnic minority, as well as the issues of the rule of law and electoral irregularities in the Himara region during the repeat municipal elections, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is the publication of such a map in the official gazette of the Ministry of Defence compatible with the duties and obligations of a candidate country?
2. What will the Commission do in the context of accession negotiations to put a stop to the Albanian nationalist rhetoric and the promotion of the nationalist doctrine of Greater Albania, which is at odds with the principle of good neighbourly relations?
3. What measures has the Commission taken to protect the Greek ethnic minority in Albania?

Submitted: 25.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(15 September 2025)**

Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation form an essential part of Albania's European integration process as stated in the 2024 enlargement report ⁽¹⁾, as well as in previous ones. In the context of the accession negotiations, Albania has stated its commitment to good neighbourly relations.

The Commission took note that the map in question was swiftly removed following its initial publication.

As regards the rights of persons belonging to minorities, Albania adopted three bylaws in December 2024, which were necessary to ensure implementation of the relevant framework legislation.

These bylaws addressed the crucial issues of free self-identification and the use of languages for persons belonging to minorities, guaranteeing alignment with European standards and the principle of free self-identification.

Albania needs to ensure effective implementation of its legislative framework, notably by allocating adequate resources to central agencies and local government, staffing and training of local authorities based on annual projections, including, among others, capacities for data collection.

The Commission is now closely monitoring Albania's progress on empowering the State Committee on National Minorities, which needs to be fully functional and have adequate resources and recruitment procedures in line with the recommendations of the Commission and of the framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities' Advisory Committee.

⁽¹⁾ SWD(2024) 690 final.