

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004244/25**  
**to the Commission**  
**Fredis Beleris (PPE)**  
(29 October 2025)

*Subject:* Backsliding of Albanian Parliament honouring the Communist dictator Enver Hoxha

On 3 October 2025, the Albanian Parliament released an official document honouring figures born or deceased in October for their contributions to the Albanian State. Among them, shockingly, appeared Communist dictator Enver Hoxha — described as a ‘hero of the people’ and ‘hero of socialist labour’.

Hoxha’s totalitarian regime, which lasted from 1944 and 1985, is widely recognised as one of the harshest in Europe, characterised by mass imprisonment, executions, forced labour and pervasive fear. According to Albania’s Institute for the Studies of Communist Crimes and Consequences, around 35 000 people were imprisoned for political reasons. Around 5 500 people were sentenced to death, while another 6 000 were executed with or without trial, their remains never recovered.

Parliament’s resolution of 19 September 2019 on the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe firmly condemns all forms of totalitarian propaganda and glorification. Such gestures of revisionism are particularly concerning given that key issues stemming from the Hoxha era — such as missing persons, unresolved property registration and the legacy of political suppression — remain unaddressed to this day.

In the light of the above, can the Commission clarify:

What steps can be taken to ensure that Albania’s revisionism regarding its totalitarian past does not lead to backsliding in fulfilling its human rights and rule of law obligations as an EU candidate country?

Submitted: 29.10.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission**  
(23 December 2025)

The Commission notes that the Parliamentary Institute, under the Albanian Parliament, circulated an internal document listing national figures to be commemorated in October, which included the former communist leader mentioned in the subject of the question.

The Commission also notes that on 9 October 2025 the Speaker of Albania’s Parliament made a public apology, clarifying that the name of the person mentioned in the subject of the question had been listed only for informational purposes, without any intent to honour or justify the legacy associated with the individual. The Speaker of Albania’s Parliament apologised to the families of victims of the communist regime and announced that procedures would be reviewed to prevent future such incidents.

On the 2025 Europe-wide Day of Remembrance for the victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission underlined that the EU will always stand on the side of those that nurture the soil of human dignity, justice and equality, and stressed that it is a collective responsibility to safeguard these values.

EU enlargement is a merit-based process. Freedom, democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights are at its core. Based on the revised enlargement methodology <sup>(2)</sup>, accession negotiations on Cluster 1 — Fundamentals — are opened first and closed last. Progress on rule of law and fundamentals determine the overall pace of negotiations. The EU opened negotiations with Albania on this cluster on 15 October 2024 <sup>(3)</sup>, based on the progress made, and setting out benchmarks <sup>(4)</sup> Albania has to meet in these areas, which are being closely monitored.

As from 2024 Albania also participates in the annual Rule of Law Report <sup>(5)</sup>, which will support Albania’s reform efforts and accession process and help prepare to continue work on rule of law as a future Member State.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_25\\_1976](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_1976).

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/ef0547a9-c063-4225-b1b4-93ff9027d0c0\\_en?filename=enlargement-methodology\\_en.pdf](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/ef0547a9-c063-4225-b1b4-93ff9027d0c0_en?filename=enlargement-methodology_en.pdf).

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2024/10/15/>.

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/AD-18-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>(5)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/0154dce1-5026-45de-8b37-e3d56eff7925\\_en?filename=59\\_1\\_58088\\_coun\\_chap\\_albania\\_al.pdf](https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/0154dce1-5026-45de-8b37-e3d56eff7925_en?filename=59_1_58088_coun_chap_albania_al.pdf).