

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004583/25
to the Commission
Jordan Bardella (PFE)
(17 November 2025)**

Subject: Albania's accession to the EU

According to the 5 November 2025 issue ⁽¹⁾ of *Le Point*, Albania's accession to the EU is on track, with Tirana hoping to conclude negotiations at the end of 2027.

1. What guarantees has the Commission received from Albania regarding:- putting an end to the lax approach to granting visas to third-country nationals, in particular those from North Africa and Turkey?- combating corruption and drug trafficking when, according to a report from France Info on 4 February 2025, 'Albanian networks are some of the strongest-growing criminal organisations'.
2. In the Commission's view, given the latest advances in the ongoing accession process, how long will it now be until Albania can become a full member of the EU?

Submitted: 17.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(10 April 2026)**

The accession progress is based on the Interim Benchmarks set out in the EU Common Position on Cluster 1: Fundamentals ⁽¹⁾, which sets the pace of the negotiations and covers, *inter alia*, key areas such as the fight against organised crime and corruption, as well as drug trafficking and visa policy alignment. In this context, the Commission is closely monitoring Albania's progress.

The Commission maintains regular dialogue with the Albanian authorities to ensure that relevant laws and structures are in place for the country to align with and implement the EU standards on the fight against corruption and drug trafficking, as well as migration management and visa policy.

In this regard, among others, Albania made recent progress with the adoption of a visa policy roadmap to align with the EU's visa policy in November 2025 and adopted a Schengen Action Plan to prepare the implementation of the Schengen *acquis* upon accession in December 2025.

The Commission is committed to supporting Albania's EU accession process and to propose close of negotiating chapters once all conditions are met.

After the closure of negotiations, membership shall be the subject of an agreement between the EU Member States and the applicant State ⁽²⁾.

¹ https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/elargissement-de-l-ue-les-locomotives-les-trainards-et-les-parias-05-11-2025-2602449_24.php

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/AD-18-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union.