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Answer given by Ms Kos
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.8.2026)

The Commission is closely following developments in Albania and it is aware of the protests referred to by Honourable Member. The Commission also notes that the protests have been largely peaceful. Freedom of assembly and expression are fundamental rights and core European values and should be respected. The Commission monitors closely fulfilment of such fundamental rights and values, and it is in continuous contact with the Albanian authorities and civil society.

In the context of the accession process, the Commission monitors and reports also on property rights and on the rights of persons belonging to minorities in its annual report on Albania. The annual report 2026 is currently being drafted and will reflect the Commission's assessment of Albania's progress in these areas since 2025.

All documents drafted by the Commission, including the Interim Benchmark Assessment Report, the Interim EU Common Position and the annual reports, follow a precise methodology which requires the very regular consultation of a wide variety of interlocutors other than the Albanian authorities. The insights of international organisations, civil society organisations, independent agencies, monitoring bodies and experts are taken in due consideration when making assessments of Albania's progress.