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Answer given by Ms Kos
on behalf of the Commission
(11.8.2026)

The Commission is closely monitoring developments in Albania in the context of its EU accession process and remains in continuous contact with the Albanian authorities and civil society.

In the accession process, the Commission closely follows developments related to fundamental rights, including property rights and the rights of persons belonging to minorities, as well as environmental protection.

Regarding the project in the Pishë Poro–Nartë area, as with all ongoing projects in Albania, it must comply with the benchmarks under Chapter 27 (environment and climate change) of the accession negotiations. The Commission will continue to raise this issue with the Albanian authorities and underline the need for adequate environmental governance, particularly in protected areas.

The Commission has so far received assurances from the Albanian authorities that a full environmental impact assessment will be carried out and that European environmental standards will be respected. The Commission will continue to closely monitor the developments regarding this and other similar large scale projects in Albania.

The Commission recalls that respect for fundamental rights, including property rights and the protection of persons belonging to minorities, is an integral part of the Fundamentals Cluster 1 and is assessed throughout the accession process. Compliance with the relevant benchmarks under both the Cluster 1 and Chapter 27 will continue to be taken into account in the Commission's overall assessment of Albania's progress towards EU membership.