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Answer given by Ms Kos
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.9.2026)

The Commission is closely monitoring Albania's progress in aligning with the EU *acquis* and has taken good note of the Parliament's resolution of 17 June 2026 on Albania regarding the Vjosa-Narta protected area and Chapter 27 (Environment and Climate Change).

Under Chapter 27, Albania has to align its legislation with the EU environmental *acquis*, including the Environmental Impact Assessment[1] and the Strategic Environmental Assessment[2] Directives, as well as the Birds[3] and Habitats[4] Directives. Furthermore, the closing benchmarks, which were formally adopted by the Member States at an Intergovernmental Conference on 16 September 2025 explicitly require Albania to align with the EU nature protection *acquis*, including by repealing incompatible provisions introduced through amendments to the Law on Protected Areas and terminating the 2015 legislation on Strategic Investments. They also require Albania to demonstrate adequate capacity to manage future Natura 2000 sites and to ensure effective conservation measures preventing habitat and species deterioration.

The Commission is in continuous contact with the Albanian authorities and civil society regarding the Narta-Sazan area and conveyed its expectation for a full environmental impact assessment to be carried out in line with European environmental standards.

[1] Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, pp. 1–21.
[2] Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, pp. 30–37.
[3] Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, pp. 7–25.
[4] Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, pp. 7–50.