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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENLARGEMENT AND EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

B – Western Balkans
B.3 – Albania, North Macedonia

Brussels
ENEST.B.3/SB

Subject: Follow-Up on Developments in Albania: Academic Solidarity with Students, Fundamental Rights and Accountability

Dear Dr Muka, dear Members of Diaspora Akademike,

Thank you for sharing the collective statement issued by Albanian researchers, academics and diaspora professionals in support of the student and civic protests currently underway in Albania.

The European Commission acknowledges the concerns raised in your statement and would like to thank you for your continued attention to the state of reforms in Albania, particularly in the areas of science and research (Chapter 25 of the accession negotiations) and education and culture (Chapter 26), as well as to the safety, well-being and long-term prospects of the Albanian youth.

In your statement, you mention the main grievances that have led Albanian students to protest. I would like to reassure you that the European Commission has monitored and sought to address some of these matters in the framework of the accession negotiations with Albania under Chapters 25 and 26. As part of the negotiations for Chapter 26, in particular, Albania was required to show that it has put in place the necessary institutional and policy frameworks and corresponding budget planning and anti-corruption measures to fulfil EU policy objectives in education and training, including vocational education and training, youth, sport and culture.

In its Common Position on Chapter 26 (1), the EU also underlined the need for Albania to continue improving the quality and inclusiveness of its education system. Notably, Albania was encouraged to increase public spending on education, pursue measurable improvements in students' basic skills, work towards full implementation of the Bologna Process key commitments for higher education and further align with the Tirana Communiqué, and improve lifelong learning. Importantly, the EU also invited Albania to continue prioritising youth participation and emphasized the need to take stronger measures against corruption in education and culture and implement strong integrity safeguards for appointments within key educational agencies.

The European Commission rigorously monitors Albania's progress in these areas and will continue to do so throughout the accession negotiations through its annual enlargement

(1) European Union Common Position AD-47-2026-INIT

package report and, henceforth, through twice-yearly monitoring for the closed chapters. Furthermore, the labour market participation of young people continues to be addressed in the framework of the ongoing accession negotiations for Chapter 19, which covers social policy and employment.

Thank you once again for sharing your views and for your engagement on these matters. Your points are duly noted and appreciated as a valuable civic initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Sigrid BRETTEL
Head of Unit

Electronically signed on 30/10/2026 16:26 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121