

To:

European Parliament – Delegation to the EU–Albania SAPC

European External Action Service

European Commission (DG NEAR, DG FISMA, DG TAXUD)

EU Member State Parliaments

EU and Member State Ambassadors in Tirana

Partners in the international community

Subject: Concerns Regarding the “Fiscal Peace Package” and Risks to Albania’s Rule of Law and EU Alignment

Excellencies,

Honourable Members,

We, the undersigned Members of the Albanian Parliament and of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC), are writing to convey our profound concern regarding the draft legislation currently promoted by the Albanian Government under the title “**Fiscal Peace Package**”.

Although presented as a fiscal reform designed to support citizens and promote economic regularisation, the package contains provisions that constitute, in substance and effect, a **fiscal amnesty**, extending broad legalisation opportunities for undeclared income and assets. In its current form, the initiative presents **high risks for money laundering, corruption proceeds, and the inflow of illicit capital into the formal economy**.

As members of the SAPC, we have a formal obligation under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement to **monitor Albania’s alignment with the EU acquis**, oversee rule-of-law developments, and alert EU partners when legislative actions risk undermining the integrity of the accession process.

It is within this mandate—and with full respect for our institutional responsibilities—that we raise the concerns outlined here.

Despite its neutral title, the package creates mechanisms for declaring undeclared assets and income with minimal verification, limited documentation, and heavily reduced penalties. Such

provisions mirror previous amnesty proposals repeatedly rejected by the European Commission, the IMF, OECD, and MONEYVAL.

The proposal would enable the **legalisation of assets of unknown or criminal origin** by offering **simplified procedures** with insufficient due-diligence safeguards. Under EU AMLD standards, such a framework is incompatible with:

- the risk-based approach required by EU AML directives,
- FATF recommendations 10, 22, and 24,
- Albania's commitments under the SAA and the new EU Enlargement methodology.

Rather than encouraging long-term voluntary tax compliance, the package **rewards non-declaration** and undermines honest taxpayers and businesses, expanding the already significant informal sector.

In a context where high-level corruption investigations are ongoing, and where political exposure remains insufficiently monitored, such an amnesty risks becoming a **mechanism for recycling corruption proceeds**, weakening public trust and the integrity of institutions.

The EU's revised enlargement methodology places rule of law, public administration, and economic governance at the centre of negotiations, with **reversibility** as a guiding principle.

This initiative directly affects several clusters:

- **Cluster 24 – Justice, Freedom, Security:**

The package contravenes AML/CFT standards and endangers Albania's performance under MONEYVAL follow-up.

- **Cluster 4 – Internal Market:**

By enabling distortion of fair competition and risking inflows of illicit capital, it affects compliance with EU market standards.

- **Cluster 5 – Public Procurement & Statistics:**

Lack of transparency in declared assets reduces data reliability and undermines oversight.

The European Commission, IMF, and EU Member States have consistently opposed fiscal amnesties in Albania precisely because of these structural risks.

We respectfully encourage our European and international partners to **undertake independent verification**, including **on-the-ground consultations** with:

- representatives of the Albanian Government,
- the Parliamentary Opposition,

- civil society organisations,
- financial intelligence, anti-corruption, and AML experts,
- the EU Delegation and Member State embassies

Only a transparent, inclusive, and evidence-based assessment can ensure that reforms in Albania support, rather than undermine, the accession process.

We respectfully call upon EU institutions and Member State governments to

1. **Scrutinise the proposal**, including through technical assessments by DG NEAR, DG FISMA, DG TAXUD, and the EU Delegation
2. **Engage with the Albanian Parliament**, particularly the SAPC, to ensure alignment with EU acquis and international AML/CFT standards.
3. **Encourage the Government of Albania to withdraw or fundamentally redesign the package**, replacing it with measures that promote transparency, fair taxation, and long-term compliance.
4. **Monitor this reform within the framework of Cluster 24**, given its direct relevance to AML/CFT obligations.

Our objective is not confrontation, but the defence of Albania's path toward the European Union, which requires strict adherence to the rule of law, transparency, and the prevention of illicit financial flows.

We reaffirm our full commitment to Albania's European future. This commitment obliges us to speak openly when legislative actions put at risk the integrity of our institutions and the standards of the EU accession process.


We stand ready to cooperate with all partners, provide further documentation, and facilitate dialogue to ensure that Albania adopts sound, credible, and EU-aligned fiscal and financial policies.

With highest consideration,

Members of the Albanian Parliament

Members of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC)

J. Nishe Te Doku
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Vangit Inu Gajah
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