



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË

ASSEMBLY

Parliamentary Group of the Democratic Party

No. 1579 Prot.

Tirana, 10 / 04 /2026

Subject: On the obstruction of the role of the parliamentary opposition and the continuous degradation of democratic standards in the functioning of the Assembly

Addressed to: Accredited Embassies in Tirana and International Organizations

Your Excellency, Ambassador,

Albania is at a key moment in its European integration process, which should also serve as an opportunity to strengthen the democratization of Albanian institutions, including the democratic functioning of the Assembly of Albania. Unfortunately, not only is this not happening, but the parliamentary majority, through its actions and inactions, is aiming to eliminate the role of the opposition in Parliament.

The European Commission's 2025 Report on Albania highlights, among other things, that: "Parliament was able to exercise its competences in a partially effective manner. Political polarization, lack of genuine political dialogue, and clashes between the governing majority and parts of the opposition continued to affect parliamentary activity, while public consultation processes remained limited. Parliament is also hindered by limited oversight over the executive, while the politicization of parliamentary appointments to high positions in constitutional bodies or legally established independent institutions remains a serious issue."

Meanwhile, in a public statement of the EU Delegation dated 24 March 2026, it is emphasized that: "The EU Delegation recalls that the opposition has an important role to play in parliament and in the democratic life of the country, including and especially in the context of fundamental reforms."

In response to this obligation within the framework of the European integration process, the Parliamentary Group of the Democratic Party and the opposition as a whole, since the beginning of the XI Legislature, have been constructively engaged in the Assembly of Albania. However, day by day, the majority is preventing us from exercising our responsibilities, aiming to reduce the role of the parliamentary opposition to a mere *façade*.

There is clearly an effort to merge the state with the ruling party, and the parliamentary majority increasingly treats Parliament as a one-party institution, where decisions are dictated not by the force of reason, constitutional responsibility, or legal rights, but by the force of their numbers in Parliament. The majority continues to deny opposition MPs the exercise of their parliamentary rights, hindering them in fulfilling their duty to protect the public interest. To date, our requests for "motions with debate," "interpellations with the Prime Minister or ministers," "hearings" in parliamentary committees, or the establishment of "inquiry committees" have been rejected in the overwhelming majority of cases.

On the other hand, legislative proposals of opposition MPs (including draft laws or amendments) are rejected without any justification, simply because they are proposed by opposition members. In some cases, after rejecting an opposition initiative, the same proposal has later been submitted by a majority MP or the Council of Ministers and subsequently approved by Parliament. This clearly demonstrates that the majority is not interested in constructive political dialogue in the Assembly of Albania.

Furthermore, through unprecedented actions, in a considerable number of plenary sessions, draft laws have been put to a vote without undergoing parliamentary debate, bypassing discussion by MPs and failing to ensure transparency for citizens.

More specifically, in the first 6 months of the XI Legislature, the socialist majority in Parliament has:

- refused to establish **5 inquiry committees** requested by no fewer than 35 MPs, in blatant violation of Article 77 of the Constitution;
- rejected **7 requests for interpellation with the Prime Minister, 2 with the Deputy Prime Minister, and 3 with the Minister of Health;**
- rejected **6 requests for “motions with debate”** on issues of public interest;
- rejected, without any justification, **63 legislative initiatives by opposition MPs** (10 draft laws and 53 amendments), not even approving them in principle;
- restricted the freedom of expression of MPs: **out of 26 plenary sessions, only 10 concluded normally** with all registered speakers allowed to speak before voting;
- denied the right to information for opposition MPs addressed to state institutions, taking no action against violations by executive or local authorities. **Around 20 requests for information remain unanswered.**

Moreover, the parliamentary majority has launched **an open attack against opposition MPs**. Specifically, within 6 months, the Socialist Party Parliamentary Group has submitted 7 requests for disciplinary measures against opposition MPs, all of which were approved—resulting in the **exclusion of 15 opposition MPs from parliamentary proceedings for a total of 295 days** (ranging from 10 to 50 days per MP). Meanwhile, the Democratic Party Parliamentary Group has submitted 4 such requests against majority MPs, none of which have been accepted. This constitutes a clear double standard.

Additionally, in an unprecedented act, the majority unilaterally amended the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and **changed the organizational structure of parliamentary committees without any consultation with the opposition**, effectively imposing a directive originating from the Prime Minister within the Socialist Party Assembly. This action was unanimously declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court; however, the majority has shown clear signs of not intending to implement the Court’s decision. It is now a fact that **Parliament has refused to implement several decisions of the Constitutional Court or opinions of the Venice Commission** when they do not align with the political will of the majority (including the case of MP Olta Xhaçka, whose case remains unimplemented).

On the other hand, the European Commission’s 2025 Report identifies as a concern the “politicization of parliamentary appointments to high positions in constitutional bodies or independent institutions.” By completely excluding the opposition from the selection and appointment processes, the majority has managed to politicize every independent institution and

control 100% of appointments. This amounts to a total capture of the state by the governing majority. **In the first 6 months of the XI Legislature, 11 appointments to independent institutions have been made—all solely by the majority through a unilateral process.**

Even more concerning is the fact that the **opposition is excluded from the integration process**, having no information about the Assembly's agenda on draft laws required for legislative alignment, nor detailed information on the implementation of obligations in the accession negotiations. According to Law No. 15/2015 "On the role of the Assembly in the European Union integration process," as amended, and Article 103/1 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, the Council of Ministers must inform Parliament about the integration process as a form of parliamentary oversight. However, **the Council of Ministers has refused to fulfill its legal obligations by not reporting to Parliament by 31 January, as required by law.**

Attached you will find a **detailed Report** on all the issues outlined above.

Your Excellency, Ambassador,

The political stance of the majority—to block every constitutional right of the opposition, reject every legislative initiative, exclude it from appointment processes and from the integration process—renders the role of opposition MPs not only negligible but merely a façade of a false normality that undermines the very principles and minimum standards of democratic parliamentarism. This situation seriously calls into question the very purpose of the opposition's continued presence in Parliament. If the opposition cannot debate issues of public interest, cannot exercise oversight over governance, cannot propose laws or amendments for the benefit of citizens, and if its constitutional rights are disregarded, then its role becomes purely formal, failing to fulfill its democratic responsibilities.

We wish to inform you that, although we remain committed to acting within the democratic institutional framework, we will never accept the destruction of parliamentarism or the denial of our constitutional rights. A country that aspires to join the European Union, yet violates the basic rules of democratic coexistence within Parliament—where both majority and opposition have their respective roles and responsibilities—cannot be anything more than a propaganda of false normality. We want Albania to move toward the European Union not through empty propaganda, but through genuine standards and institutions that function democratically, starting from the institution that forms the core of our Republic—the Assembly of Albania.

In light of the above, one fundamental question remains: Considering all the obstacles described above, how can the opposition fulfill its important role in Parliament and in the democratic life of the country?

Gazment BARDHI



CHAIRMAN

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
PARLIAMENT

Parliamentary Group of the Democratic Party

No. 1579/Prot.
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Tirana, on 10 / 04 / 2026

REPORT

**ON THE OBSTRUCTION OF THE ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION
AND THE CONTINUOUS DEGRADATION OF DEMOCRATIC STANDARDS IN THE
FUNCTIONING OF THE PARLIAMENT**

Addressed to: Mr. Niko Peleshi
Speaker of the Parliament of Albania

For information: Embassies of partner countries / organizations accredited in Albania

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Albania is at a key moment in its European integration process, which should also serve as an opportunity to strengthen the democratization of Albanian institutions, including the democratic functioning of the Parliament of Albania. Unfortunately, not only is this not happening, but the parliamentary majority, through its actions and inactions, is aiming to eliminate the role of the opposition in Parliament.

There is clearly an attempt to merge the state with the ruling party, and the parliamentary majority is increasingly treating Parliament as a one-party institution, where decisions are dictated not by the force of reason, constitutional responsibility, or legal rights, but by the force of their numbers in Parliament. The majority continues to deny opposition MPs the exercise of their parliamentary rights, preventing them from fulfilling their duties to protect the public interest. To date, our requests for “debate motions,” “interpellations with the Prime Minister or ministers,” “hearing sessions” in parliamentary committees, or the establishment of “inquiry committees” have been overwhelmingly rejected¹.

¹ Of the oversight mechanisms requested by the opposition over a 6-month period, only the following were accepted: (i) 6 requests for interpellation (of which 2 by GPPD; 2 by GPPL; 2 by independent opposition MPs); (ii) 3 question-and-answer sessions (of which 1 by GPPD, 1 by GPPL, and 1 by an independent opposition MP); and (iii) 1 motion with debate – regarding the report of the OSCE-ODIHR on the elections of May 11, 2025 (requested by GPPD).

On the other hand, legislative proposals by opposition MPs (including draft laws and amendments) are rejected without any reasoning, simply because they are proposals from opposition MPs. In some cases, it has even been observed that after rejecting an opposition initiative, the same proposal is later introduced by a majority MP or the Council of Ministers and subsequently approved by Parliament. This clearly shows that the majority is not interested in constructive political dialogue in the Parliament of Albania.

Furthermore, through unprecedented actions, in a considerable number of plenary sessions, draft laws have been put to a vote without undergoing parliamentary debate, bypassing discussion by MPs and failing to ensure transparency for our citizens.

Mr. Speaker,

The European Commission's 2025 Report on Albania emphasizes, among other things, that: "Parliament was able to exercise its functions in a partially effective manner. Political polarization, lack of genuine political dialogue, and clashes between the governing majority and parts of the opposition continued to affect parliamentary activity, while public consultation processes remained limited. Parliament is also hindered by limited oversight of the executive, while the politicization of parliamentary appointments to high-level positions in constitutional bodies or independent institutions remains a serious issue."

Meanwhile, in a public statement dated March 24, 2026, the EU Delegation underlined that: "The EU Delegation recalls that the opposition has an important role to play in parliament and in the democratic life of the country, including and especially in the context of fundamental reforms."

In response to this obligation within the framework of European integration, the Parliamentary Group of the Democratic Party and the opposition as a whole have been constructively engaged in the Parliament of Albania since the beginning of the 11th Legislature. However, day by day, the majority is preventing us from exercising our responsibilities, aiming to reduce the role of the parliamentary opposition to a mere façade.

In every democratic country, one of the key functions of Parliament—usually exercised by the opposition—is oversight. Taking into account the findings of the European Commission's 2025

Report, which emphasizes that “Parliament is also hindered by limited oversight of the executive,” we have done everything to fulfill this responsibility using the mechanisms allowed by the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure. However, our rights have been consistently denied. This repeated behavior demonstrates a long-term strategy by the socialist majority to limit opposition rights to the point of their complete elimination.

More specifically:

I. In the 6 months of operation of the Parliament of Albania in the XI Legislature, you have refused the establishment of 5 Parliamentary Inquiry Committees requested by no fewer than 35 MPs, not accepting any request for the establishment of an Inquiry Committee, in flagrant violation of Article 77 of the Constitution. According to Article 77, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, the Parliament has the right and, at the request of one quarter of its members (35 MPs), has the obligation to establish an inquiry committee to examine a specific issue. The same right is also guaranteed by Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

According to the Constitution and several decisions of the Constitutional Court of Albania²: (1) Parliamentary inquiry committees are an effective oversight mechanism that operates exclusively within the supervisory competence of Parliament and are established for specific issues functionally related to the legislative power. Their establishment, when requested by one quarter of MPs, is mandatory. (2) In a parliamentary democracy, it is not the majority that oversees governance—this is the duty of the opposition. Therefore, this constitutional right of the minority to establish inquiry committees must remain inviolable. (3) It is true that the Constitutional Court has emphasized that the right to conduct parliamentary inquiries is not unlimited; its limitation lies in ensuring that the object of the inquiry respects constitutional principles and standards. However, the Court has also emphasized that, when the majority claims that the object of the inquiry violates these standards, it is obliged to propose alternative formulations, enabling the minority to reformulate its request in accordance with them.

In all cases, the opposition has expressed its willingness to accept any alternative formulation by the parliamentary majority regarding the object of the inquiry, and on your part this has been

² See Decisions No. 30/2014 or 57/2015 of the Constitutional Court of Albania.

refused. As a result, the majority, through a political vote³, has denied the constitutional right of the opposition to establish these Inquiry Committees (5 rejected⁴ and 0 approved):

1. Request for the establishment of Inquiry Committee No. 2892 Prot., dated 13.10.2025 – on the control of the legality of actions and inactions of central and local government bodies regarding the use of state resources for electoral purposes in the general elections of May 11, 2025.
2. Request for the establishment of Inquiry Committee No. 2991 Prot., dated 20.10.2025 – on the verification of the legality of actions of Albanian public officials in relation to the former FBI special agent Charles McGonigal.
3. Request for the establishment of Inquiry Committee No. 3117 Prot., dated 28.10.2025 – on the control of legality in the administration of EU funds under the IPARD II program.
4. Request for the establishment of Inquiry Committee No. 1404 Prot., dated 01.04.2026 – on the control of the legality of actions/inactions of the Albanian Road Authority (ARRSH) in the implementation of investments in road infrastructure.
5. Request for the establishment of Inquiry Committee No. 1440 Prot., dated 03.04.2026 – on the control of legality in the functioning of the National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI), the measures taken for the protection of citizens' personal data, and the risks to national security as a NATO member state.

II. In the 6 months of operation of the Parliament of Albania in the XI Legislature, you have rejected 7 requests for interpellation with the Prime Minister and 2 requests for interpellation with the Deputy Prime Minister. Meanwhile, requests for interpellation with Ministers or question–answer sessions with them are outside the constitutional deadline for their

³ The repeated rejection of the opposition's request to establish parliamentary inquiry committees led to a deep parliamentary crisis in the previous legislature during the period October 2023 – February 2024, which required the intervention of our international partners to resolve the crisis and restore democratic normality in Parliament.

⁴<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202510150854280185K%C3%ABrkes%C3%AB%20e%20PD%20p%C3%ABr%20komision%20hetimor%20p%C3%ABr%20zgjedhjet%20e%2011%20majit.pdf>;

<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202510281417342783Kerkesa%20e%20grupit%20parlamentar%20te%20PD.pdf>;

<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202511031210070200K%C3%ABrkes%C3%AB%20nr%20prot%203117.pdf>;

<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202604031153412170Kerkese%20%28prot%201404%29.pdf>;

<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202604031259336188Kerkese%20%28prot%201440%29.pdf>;

implementation (for illustration: **3 requests for interpellation with the Minister of Health** or 2 requests for question–answer sessions with the same minister).

This action is in contradiction with Article 80, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, which stipulates that: “The Prime Minister and every other member of the Council of Ministers is obliged to respond to interpellations and questions from deputies within three weeks.” Likewise, this action is in contradiction with Articles 90, 92, 95, 96 and 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament.

According to Article 90 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament, “1. Every deputy has the right to ask questions to the Prime Minister or any other member of the Council of Ministers. Deputies submit their questions to the Speaker of Parliament, who informs the member of the Council of Ministers to whom the question is addressed.” On the other hand, Article 92 provides that: “1. At the beginning of each plenary session, at least 45 minutes are devoted to the question session, unless otherwise specified in the work calendar. The member of the Council of Ministers is obliged to answer questions at the beginning of each plenary session. The Prime Minister is obliged, once a week, to answer questions for 30 minutes.”

Furthermore, Article 96 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament provides that: “1. An interpellation is a written request addressed to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister or any other member of the Council of Ministers to obtain explanations regarding the motives, objectives and stance of the Council of Ministers or regarding important aspects of their activity. The interpellation is submitted to the Speaker of Parliament, who immediately informs the member of the Council of Ministers to whom the request is addressed. 3. They are scheduled to be held in plenary session, as a rule, in the three following Mondays from the date of submission.”

Accountability in Parliament of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and ministers is not optional, but an obligation under the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, in accordance with the principle of separation and balance of powers. Accountability is not a delegable process, whether it takes place before judicial bodies or before Parliament. This is because accountability is not a right or competence (that can be delegated), but an obligation of the public official (that cannot be delegated).

We draw your attention to the fact that in the 6 months of this Legislature, you have rejected the following interpellations requested with the Prime Minister (7 rejected⁵, 0 accepted):

1. Request for interpellation No. 2648 Prot., dated 29.09.2025 – on the influence of organized crime on the economy and its strengthening through permits, licenses or public funds granted by government authorities.
2. Request for interpellation No. 2921 Prot., dated 14.10.2025 – on the demolition campaign of illegal constructions, outside the legally prescribed procedures and without a final court decision.
3. Request for interpellation No. 240 Prot., dated 19.01.2026 – on measures taken by the Government for the protection of personal data administered by AKSHI.
4. Request for interpellation No. 1046 Prot., dated 09.03.2026 – on the functioning of the Albanian Investment Corporation in the administration of public property.
5. Request for interpellation No. 1176 Prot., dated 18.03.2026 – on the suspension of the license of the state airline company Air Albania.
6. Request for interpellation No. 1177 Prot., dated 18.03.2026 – on the cancellation of the tender for the new Port of Durrës in Porto Romano.
7. Request for interpellation No. 1439 Prot., dated 03.04.2026 – on institutional verification standards and measures taken for the implementation of the Anti-Mafia Law and anti-money laundering legislation in the decision-making of the National Council of Territory and Water (KKTU).

Likewise, you have rejected the following interpellations requested with the Deputy Prime Minister (2 rejected⁶, 0 accepted):

⁵ <https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202509301047589573Interpelanc%C3%AB.pdf>;
<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202510161443306393Interpelanc%C3%AB.pdf>;
<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202601211010549567Interpelance%20%28prot%20240%29.pdf>;
<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202603111856331659Kerkese%20per%20interpelance%20%28znj.%20I.%20Tabaku%29.pdf>;
<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202603191124494583K%C3%ABrkes%C3%AB%20p%C3%ABr%20interpelanc%C3%AB%20me%20Kryeministrin%20e%20Shqip%C3%ABris%C3%AB%2C%20zotin%20Edi%20Rama%20k%C3%ABrkuar%20nga%20deputet%C3%ABt%20Agron%20Shehaj%20dhe%20Erald%20Kapri%20%28prot%201176%29.pdf>;
<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202603191125286819K%C3%ABrkes%C3%AB%20p%C3%ABr%20interpelanc%C3%AB%20me%20Kryeministrin%20e%20Shqip%C3%ABris%C3%AB%2C%20zotin%20Edi%20Rama%20k%C3%ABrkuar%20nga%20deputet%C3%ABt%20Agron%20Shehaj%20dhe%20Erald%20Kapri%20%28prot%201177%29.pdf>;
⁶ <https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202511051009322462K%C3%ABrkes%C3%AB%20p%C3%ABr%20interpelanc%C3%AB%20urgjente.pdf>;
<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202510161445139636Interpelanc%C3%AB.pdf>;

1. Request for interpellation No. 2922 Prot., dated 14.10.2025 – on explanations regarding the procedure of the Thumanë–Kashar project.
2. Request for interpellation No. 3227 Prot., dated 03.11.2025 – on explanations regarding the procedure of the Llogara Tunnel project.

Furthermore, you have exceeded the constitutional three-week deadline for the following interpellations requested with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture (4 not completed within the deadline⁷, 0 accepted):

1. Request for interpellation No. 531 Prot., dated 06.02.2026 – on the severe situation at the Oncology Hospital at QSUT.
2. Request for interpellation No. 772 Prot., dated 20.02.2026 – on the severe condition of the Regional Hospital of Lushnjë.
3. Request for interpellation No. 926 Prot., dated 02.03.2026 – on the management of the health system and the situation regarding medicine supply in hospitals.
4. Request for interpellation No. 4093 Prot., dated 16.12.2025 – on the mismanagement of IPARD funds in the agriculture sector.

III. In the 6 months of operation of the Assembly of Albania in the XI Legislature, you have rejected **6 requests for the development of a “motion with debate”** on issues that are of interest to Albanian citizens. The motion with debate is one of the forms of parliamentary oversight provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

Specifically, in Article 98 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, it is provided that: “1. *A chair of a parliamentary group or at least 7 Members of Parliament may submit a motion for the purpose of holding a debate in the Assembly on a specific issue and, at the end of it, may propose the adoption of a resolution or declaration, the text of which is attached to the request for the*

⁷ <https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202603041432341141Interpelance.pdf>;
<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202602251001412056Kerkese%20per%20interpelance%20me%20ministren%20e%20Shendetesise%20dhe%20Mbrojtjes%20Sociale%2C%20kerkuar%20nga%20deputeti%20Saimir%20Korreshi.pdf>;
<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202602091139024915K%C3%ABrkes%C3%AB%20p%C3%ABr%20interpelanc%C3%AB%20k%C3%ABrkuar%20nga%20deputeti%20K.%20Hoti.pdf>;
<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202512180949043218Interpelance%20%284093%20prot%29.pdf>

motion. 2. The request for a motion is submitted to the Speaker of the Assembly, who within 3 days convenes the Conference of Chairs to decide on the date of holding the motion in plenary session. If the date is determined by agreement in the Conference of Chairs, it is announced to the Assembly in the next plenary session. If in the Conference of Chairs no agreement is reached among the chairs of the parliamentary groups, the Speaker of the Assembly submits the request to the plenary session, proposes a date for holding the motion, and asks the Assembly to decide by open vote after hearing one speaker in favor and one against for no more than 10 minutes. In any case, the debate cannot be held later than 30 days from the date the motion is submitted.”

According to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, it is clear that when a “motion with debate” is requested by a chair of a parliamentary group or at least 7 Members of Parliament, its holding is mandatory. The only issue that is subject to discussion, in the Conference of Chairs or in the plenary session, is only the date of holding the debate and the overall speaking time.

For this issue as well, the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly have set the maximum time within which the debate must be held, which is no later than 30 days from the date of submission of the motion. In no case does the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly allow the plenary session to decide whether or not the “motion with debate” should be held, because it is an independent control mechanism from the will of the parliamentary majority. As a result, your repeated action in all rejected cases of putting to a vote whether or not the request for holding a “motion with debate” should be accepted is in open contradiction with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, because you cannot put to a vote whether the rights of minority Members of Parliament should be respected⁸.

⁸ The Rules of Procedure provide only one case that allows for the rejection of oversight mechanisms, and this has been left under the authority of the Speaker of Parliament. If the MPs who requested them do not agree with the Speaker’s decision, the matter is decided by the plenary session. Specifically, this case is provided in paragraph 3 of Article 89 of the Rules of Procedure, which states: “3. The Speaker of Parliament has the right not to accept questions, interpellations, or motions that are formulated in inappropriate language, raise issues that are not under the responsibility of the Council of Ministers, infringe upon the honor, private life, or personality of an individual or institution, are in contradiction with the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, or questions and interpellations that have already been addressed, or motions that have been discussed or decided upon for the same reason within the session. When the MP does not agree with the Speaker’s opinion, the matter is submitted to Parliament, which, after hearing the opinion of the Speaker and the requesting MP for no more than 10 minutes, decides by open vote and without debate.” In all Debate Motions rejected during this Legislature, there has been no such claim from the Speaker of Parliament, and therefore the rejection was made through a political vote in violation of the law.

Specifically, during this Legislature, where you have rejected these requests for the development of a “Motion with Debate” requested by the opposition (6 rejected⁹; 1 accepted and 1 in process):

1. Request for Motion with Debate No. 2628 Prot., dated 26.09.2025 – on the priorities of the Government in the political program of the Council of Ministers regarding Albania’s advancement towards the EU.
2. Request for Motion with Debate No. 2659 Prot., dated 29.09.2025 – on measures taken by the Government for the recognition of the Serbian genocide in Kosovo.
3. Request for Motion with Debate No. 2731 Prot., dated 03.10.2025 – on measures taken by the Government to ensure the proper management of EU funds of the IPARD program.
4. Request for Motion with Debate No. 2912 Prot., dated 14.10.2025 – on the availability of medicines for the treatment of oncological diseases according to the findings of the report of the State Supreme Audit Institution.
5. Request for Motion with Debate No. 3397 Prot., dated 11.11.2025 – on the lack of determination of a minimum living standard and its impact on the socio-economic rights of citizens, according to reports of the Ombudsman.
6. Request for Motion with Debate No. 3526 Prot., dated 14.11.2025 – on measures taken by the Government in the fight with zero tolerance against organized crime.

IV. In the 6 months of operation of the Assembly of Albania in the XI Legislature, a total of 26 plenary sessions have been held, of which only 10 plenary sessions have concluded normally and voting has taken place at the end of all discussions of the registered deputies who were scheduled to speak (19 February, 12 February, 3 February, 27 January, 22 January, 11 December, 4 December, 19 November, 30 October, 27 October). Meanwhile, 8 plenary sessions

⁹<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202510011001064525K%C3%ABrkes%C3%AB%20p%C3%ABr%20mocion%20me%20debat.pdf>;

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<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202510150913278751K%C3%ABrkesa%20p%C3%ABr%20mocion.pdf>;

<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202511041805180233Kerkese%20per%20mocion%20per%20zhvillim%20debat.pdf>;

<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202511131104387406Kerkese%20per%20mocion%20me%20debat%2C%20prot%203397.pdf>;

<https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/202511170938079788Mocion%20per%20zhvillim%20debat%2014%20nentor%202025.pdf>;

were interrupted without concluding discussions, proceeding to voting without parliamentary debate on draft laws (2 April, 12 March, 5 March, 18 December, 6 November, 16 October, 9 October, 18 September), while another 8 plenary sessions had no proper agenda (of which 3 were on voters' issues – 30 March, 2 March, 2 December; 3 of an organizational nature – 12 September, 16 September, 24 September; and 2 without agenda, only notification/approval of minutes – 29 September; 17 March).

Proceeding to voting on draft laws without allowing deputies to discuss their content is an act in open contradiction with the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and also undermines the citizens' right to transparency and the obligation of deputies to be accountable to their voters. We bring to your attention that such an act violates the constitutional right of freedom of expression of deputies and parliamentary democracy in decision-making, depriving deputies of the opportunity to clarify their position on the draft law.

On the other hand, such an act is in contradiction with Articles 49 and 66 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. Article 49 of the Rules provides that: "For procedural matters, the floor is given immediately. Procedural matters are requests related to the implementation of the Rules of Procedure, requests containing proposals for changes or additions to the approved agenda, requests for the interruption or postponement of the plenary session or of discussions, as well as requests related to the manner of decision-making or voting."

Clearly, this provision does not envisage as a procedural matter subject to voting the possibility of proceeding to a vote without concluding the discussions of the registered deputies. A proposal may be voted on to interrupt or postpone the session or discussions, but under no circumstances does it provide for the possibility that the interruption of discussions be accompanied by the possibility of proceeding to a vote without the discussions being completed.

This rule is further reinforced by Article 66 of the Rules, which provides that: "1. In case serious disruption of order occurs in the plenary session hall, chaos is created and requests for maintaining order are not taken into account, the chairperson of the plenary session leaves his/her seat and the plenary session is considered suspended. 2. If after the resumption of the session, chaos continues again, the chairperson of the plenary session suspends the session for a certain period of time or

closes it. 3. In case of closure of the plenary session, the Assembly meets in the earliest plenary session with the same agenda.”

V. In the 6 months of operation of the Assembly of Albania in the XI Legislature, opposition deputies have undertaken 71 legislative initiatives (specifically: they have proposed 18 draft laws and 53 amendments to draft laws submitted to the Assembly). Of these, so far **63 legislative initiatives** have been considered and have proceeded to voting (8 draft laws have not yet begun the review and approval procedure), and all **have been rejected** without any justification. Specifically:

- 10 draft laws were considered but rejected and 0 were approved.
- 53 amendments were considered but rejected and 0 were approved.

This fully demonstrates that the current majority promotes political polarization and confrontation and is against genuine political dialogue in the interest of citizens. Specifically, your decisions not to approve even in principle the draft laws proposed by the opposition are as follows:

1. Decision “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On some additions and amendments to Law No. 34/2019, dated 17.06.2019, ‘On the administration of seized and confiscated assets’, as amended””.
2. Decision No. 44/2026 “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On an amendment to Law No. 68/2017 ‘On local self-government finances’, as amended””.
3. Decision No. 43/2026 “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On an amendment to Law No. 9975, dated 28.7.2008, ‘On national taxes’, as amended””.
4. Decision No. 20/2026 “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On an addition to Law No. 80/2015 ‘On higher education and scientific research in higher education institutions in the Republic of Albania’””.
5. Decision No. 23/2026 “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On the necessity of conducting laboratory analyses for food contaminants””.
6. Decision No. 21/2026 “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On an addition to Law No. 92/2014 ‘On value added tax in the Republic of Albania’, as amended””.
7. Decision No. 18/2026 “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On amendments to Law No. 27/2018 ‘On cultural heritage and museums’””.

8. Decision No. 22/2026 “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On the status of miners in the Republic of Albania’”.
9. Decision No. 7/2026 “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On amendments and additions to Law No. 7895, dated 27.1.1995, ‘The Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania’, as amended””.
10. Decision No. 93/2025 “On the non-approval in principle of the draft law ‘On an addition to Law No. 10129, dated 11.5.2009, ‘On civil status’, as amended””.

VI. The majority in the Parliament has undertaken **an open attack against opposition deputies** in order to prevent them from participating in the work of Parliament, following a practice with two different standards for majority deputies and opposition deputies.

Specifically, in the first 6 months of the functioning of the XI Legislature, the Parliamentary Group of the Socialist Party has submitted 7 requests for the imposition of disciplinary measures against opposition deputies, all of which have been accepted¹⁰ – **excluding 15 opposition deputies from parliamentary proceedings with a total exclusion time of 295 days** (exclusions ranging per deputy from 10–50 days over 6 months). Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Group of the Democratic Party has submitted 4 requests for disciplinary measures against majority deputies, **none of which have been accepted**¹¹, even though the violations were the same or even more serious.

VII. The European Commission, in its 2025 Report on Albania, identified as a concerning issue the “*politicization of parliamentary appointments to high positions in constitutional bodies or independent institutions established by law.*” In response to this concern, in order to address it, the Parliamentary Group of the Democratic Party, through letter no. 3759 Prot., dated 02.12.2025, proposed a transparent process for the appointment/election of independent institutions, which included constructive consultation of all parliamentary groups in the Assembly, with the aim of preserving the independence of these bodies and respecting the principle of meritocracy. This would create the necessary premise to maintain citizens’ trust in these bodies.

¹⁰ Please refer to the decisions of the Ethics Secretariat dated 19.9.2025; 20.10.2025; 10.11.2025; 23.12.2025; 5.3.2026; 9.3.2026; and 7.4.2026.

¹¹ Also, refer to the decisions of the Ethics Secretariat dated 10.11.2025; 15.12.2025; 9.3.2026; and 7.4.2026.

We wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Assembly of Albania is involved in the procedures for the appointment/election of independent bodies, in order to maintain the balance between powers and to ensure that, in no case, independent institutions are identified with the governing majority. This is mainly guaranteed through the involvement of the opposition in this process. By completely excluding the opposition from the process of selection/appointment of constitutionally established or legally created independent institutions, the majority has managed to politicize every independent institution and to control 100% of all appointments in independent institutions (including collegial bodies, where parliamentary rules and tradition have aimed at a proportional division of appointment proposals between the majority and the opposition). This implies the total capture of the state by the governing majority, undermining the principle of separation and balance of powers, enshrined in Article 7 of the Constitution.

Furthermore, since the publication of the 2025 Report on Albania by the European Commission, the current majority has not undertaken any steps to address the concern regarding the politicization of parliamentary appointments to high positions in constitutional bodies or independent institutions established by law. Even after the publication of the Report, the majority has continued unilaterally to dictate/propose/vote alone all appointments in independent institutions.

In the first 6 months of the functioning of the Assembly of Albania in the XI Legislature, **11 appointments have been made in independent institutions, all of which were carried out solely by the majority through a unilateral process**, as follows:

- 5 members of the Supervisory Council of the Bank of Albania - decisions 24-27/2026 and an expected decision of 9.4.2026;
- Ombudsman - decision no. 111/2025;
- Member of the Board of the Financial Supervisory Authority (AMF) - decision no. 102/2025;
- Civil Service Commissioner - decision no. 103/2025;
- Member of the Competition Authority Commission - decision of 2.4.2026;
- Member of the Steering Council of the Electronic and Postal Communications Authority (AKEP) - decision of 2.4.2026;
- Chair of the Competition Authority Commission – expected decision of 9.4.2026.

VIII. The opposition is excluded from the integration process, having no information regarding the Parliament's agenda for the draft laws that need to be approved in the framework of the approximation of legislation, as well as no detailed information on the implementation of obligations under the National Plan for European Integration, the progress of the accession negotiation process, and the management of funds from the European Union and other donors.

According to Law no. 15/2015 "On the role of the Assembly in the process of integration of the Republic of Albania into the European Union", as amended, as well as Article 103/1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Council of Ministers must inform the Assembly about the European integration process, as a form of parliamentary oversight over the process of integration into the European Union. **The Council of Ministers has refused to fulfill its legal obligations and no measure has been taken on your part.**

Specifically, according to point 1 of Article 18 of Law no. 15/2015, the Council of Ministers, by January 31 of each year, submits to the Assembly a detailed report on the implementation of obligations under the National Plan for European Integration, the progress of the accession negotiation process, and the management of funds from the European Union and other donors, for the previous year. The report is reviewed in a plenary session, at the end of which the Assembly adopts the relevant resolution. We draw your attention to the fact that, although we are in the month of April, the Council of Ministers has not fulfilled this obligation.

On the other hand, according to point 2 of Article 18 of Law no. 15/2015, the Council of Ministers, no later than three weeks after the publication of the European Commission Progress Report, reports to the Assembly on the findings, recommendations, the current situation of political, economic and social developments in the country, as well as on concrete commitments for fulfilling the recommendations. The report is reviewed in a plenary session, at the end of which the Assembly adopts the relevant resolution. We draw your attention to the fact that, although more than 4 months have passed since the publication of the European Commission Progress Report for 2025, the Council of Ministers has not fulfilled this obligation.

Furthermore, according to point 3 of Article 18 of Law no. 15/2015, the Council of Ministers and the minister responsible for negotiations with the European Union inform the plenary session of

the conclusions on the negotiation of a chapter or group of chapters following the intergovernmental conference with the European Union.

The reporting obligation of the Council of Ministers is also detailed in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, where Article 103/1 provides that:

1. *The Assembly monitors the work of the Council of Ministers regarding the implementation of obligations for the European integration process and of independent constitutional and legally established institutions, in accordance with Articles 18–20 of the legislation in force on the role of the Assembly in the process of integration of the Republic of Albania into the European Union.*
2. *At the beginning of each year, the Assembly examines the detailed report of the Council of Ministers on the integration process, according to the National Plan for European Integration.*
3. *After the submission of the report, the Speaker of the Assembly immediately forwards it to the responsible committee for review. The committee organizes a hearing session to review the report and, at the end, drafts the resolution proposal to be submitted to the plenary session.*
4. *The Assembly holds a debate session and at the end adopts the relevant resolution.*
5. *The Assembly, no later than two weeks after the submission of the Council of Ministers' report on the findings and recommendations of the European Commission Progress Report, holds a plenary session, at the end of which the relevant resolution is adopted.*

Although the legal provisions are clear, the Council of Ministers, through inaction, has refused to fulfill these obligations, thereby preventing the Assembly as a whole, and the opposition in particular, from exercising its supervisory role in the framework of the European integration process. This action also undermines the transparency that the Council of Ministers must ensure regarding the integration process, preventing Albanian citizens from being informed about the progress of this process, which is supported by the overwhelming majority of Albanians.

XI. Also, in an unprecedented act, the majority unilaterally **changed the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and, without any consultation with the opposition**, altered the organizational structure of the parliamentary committees, imposing on the opposition an instruction from the Prime Minister in the Assembly of the Socialist Party. This action was unanimously found to be

unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court on 23 February 2025, but the majority has given all signs that it will not implement the decision of the Constitutional Court.

It is now a fact that the Assembly has **refused to implement several decisions of the Constitutional Court or opinions of the Venice Commission** when they have not been in line with the political will of the majority (we recall here the case of the mandate of MP Olta Xhaçka, the decision of the Constitutional Court¹² and the opinion of the Venice Commission¹³, which remain unimplemented). The non-implementation of decisions of the Constitutional Court is a serious violation of Article 132 of the Constitution.

X. According to the Constitution and the law on the status of the deputy, state institutions are obliged to inform the deputy on matters requested by them within 15 days from the submission of the request. This right of deputies is continuously not respected by the bodies of the executive and local government. Specifically, there are over 20 requests for information sent by opposition MPs that have received no response from state institutions. This makes it impossible for deputies to exercise oversight over state activity of the executive and local authorities¹⁴.

Specifically, it appears that the requests for information from deputies have been refused as follows:

- 6 requests without information from MP Enno Bozdo;
- 6 requests without information from MP Albana Vokshi;
- 1 request without information from MP Xhelal Mziu;
- 8 requests without information from MP Belind Këlliçi.

¹² https://www.gjykatakushtetuese.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/vend.01_23.pdf

<https://www.gjykatakushtetuese.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/vend.5524.pdf>

¹³ [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2024\)040-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2024)040-e)

¹⁴ For illustration, please refer to the letters dated 11.12.2025; 13.01.2026; 13.01.2026; 26.01.2026; 17.02.2026; and 09.03.2026 from MP Enno Bozdo addressed to the Ministry of Economy, AIDA, the Ministry of Finance, and KESH. Likewise, the requests from MP Albana Vokshi dated 31.10.2025, 25.09.2025, 08.09.2025, 17.12.2025, 16.04.2025, and 16.04.2025 addressed to the Municipality of Tirana, the State Cadastre Agency, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education. Also, refer to the request dated 13.03.2026 from MP Xhelal Mziu addressed to the Ministry of Infrastructure. Furthermore, consider the requests submitted on 12.11.2025, 13.11.2025, 11.11.2026, 29.12.2025, and 26.03.2026 by MP Belind Këlliçi, addressed to the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Municipality of Delvinë, the Municipality of Sarandë, the Municipality of Vau i Dejës, the Municipality of Gjirokastër, the Municipality of Tirana, the Municipality of Elbasan, and the Municipality of Tropojë.

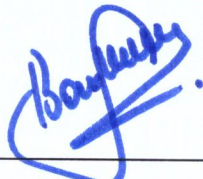
Mr. Speaker of the Assembly,

The political stance of the majority to block every constitutional right of the opposition, the refusal of any legislative initiative, its exclusion from the process of appointments in independent institutions, or its exclusion from the integration process, makes the role of opposition MPs in Parliament not only insignificant, but above all a façade of a false normality, which undermines the very basic principles and standards of democratic parliamentarism. This situation seriously calls into question the very purpose of the opposition's continued presence in Parliament. If the opposition cannot discuss matters of public interest, cannot exercise oversight over governance, cannot propose laws or amendments in the interest of citizens, and if its constitutional rights are disregarded, then its role becomes purely formal, failing to fulfill its democratic responsibilities.

We wish to inform you that, although we remain committed to acting within the democratic institutional framework, we will never accept the dismantling of parliamentarism or the denial of our constitutional rights. A country that seeks to join the European Union, but violates the basic rules of democratic coexistence within Parliament — where the majority and the opposition each have their respective roles and responsibilities — can be nothing other than propaganda of a false normality. We want Albania to move towards the European Union not through empty propaganda, but through genuine standards and democratically functioning institutions, starting from the institution that constitutes the essence of our Republic – the Assembly of Albania.

In light of the above, one question remains essential: Taking into account all the aforementioned obstacles, how can the opposition play its important role in parliament and in the democratic life of the country?

Gazment BARDHI



CHAIR

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY