

Question for written answer E-005153/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Commission measures to protect the Greek minority in Albania

On 27 July the Albanian authorities, in violation of any concept of the rule of law, began demolishing tourist properties in Drymades in Himarë district belonging to members of the Greek ethnic minority.

This demolition work was undertaken by way of derogation from the provisions of Albanian law and before the final court rulings had been issued.

Bearing in mind:

- the EU's commitment to promoting respect for persons belonging to minorities, as provided for in the 2012 Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy,
- the rule of law and the protection of minority rights, which is explicitly linked to the protection of the property rights of members of minorities, are at the heart of European enlargement policy and constitute fundamental pre-accession criteria which Albania has to fulfil if accession negotiations are to begin,
- the fact that Albania has to strengthen the legal regime ensuring the protection of minorities, and in particular the protection of the right to property,

Will the Commission say:

- Does it consider that Albania's attitude is in line with European standards on the treatment of minorities or the pre-accession criteria that the country is required to fulfil? Do these actions constitute a violation of internationally recognised minority rights?
- What direct initiatives will it take to protect the Greek minority and ensure compliance by Albania with the pre-accession terms?