



28.3.2018

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition No 0475/2017 by M.E. (German), on behalf of G.G., bearing 7 signatures, on amending Albania's 'safe country of origin' status**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner wants the European Parliament to cease classifying Albania as a safe country of origin. The State structures are unstable and have been subverted by criminal gangs even in the highest office. Intimidation and physical persecution are a constant presence. Revenge killings are commonplace.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 31 August 2017. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 28 March 2018

With its proposal for a *Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin for the purposes of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and the of Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, and amending Directive 2013/32/EU of 9 September 2015*<sup>1</sup> and its proposal for a *Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing common procedures for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU (Asylum Procedure Regulation) of 13 July 2016*<sup>2</sup> the Commission proposed the establishment of an EU common list of safe countries of origin that includes Albania. The Commission considers that, at the time of making its proposals, Albania met the conditions for being designated as a safe country of origin set out in Annex I of *Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (Asylum*

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1 COM(2015)452 final.

2 COM(2016)467 final.

Procedures Directive) and Article 47 of the proposal for an Asylum Procedure Regulation respectively, for the reasons set out in the explanatory memoranda and recitals of the respective proposals.

### Conclusion

It is for the European Parliament to make its assessment, during the legislative process, of whether a country proposed by the Commission to be designated as a safe country of origin does indeed meet the conditions for being designated as a safe country of origin, based on the information in the Commission's proposals and the range of sources of information referred to in Article 37(3) of the Asylum Procedures Directive and Article 47(2) of the proposed Asylum Procedure Regulation respectively.