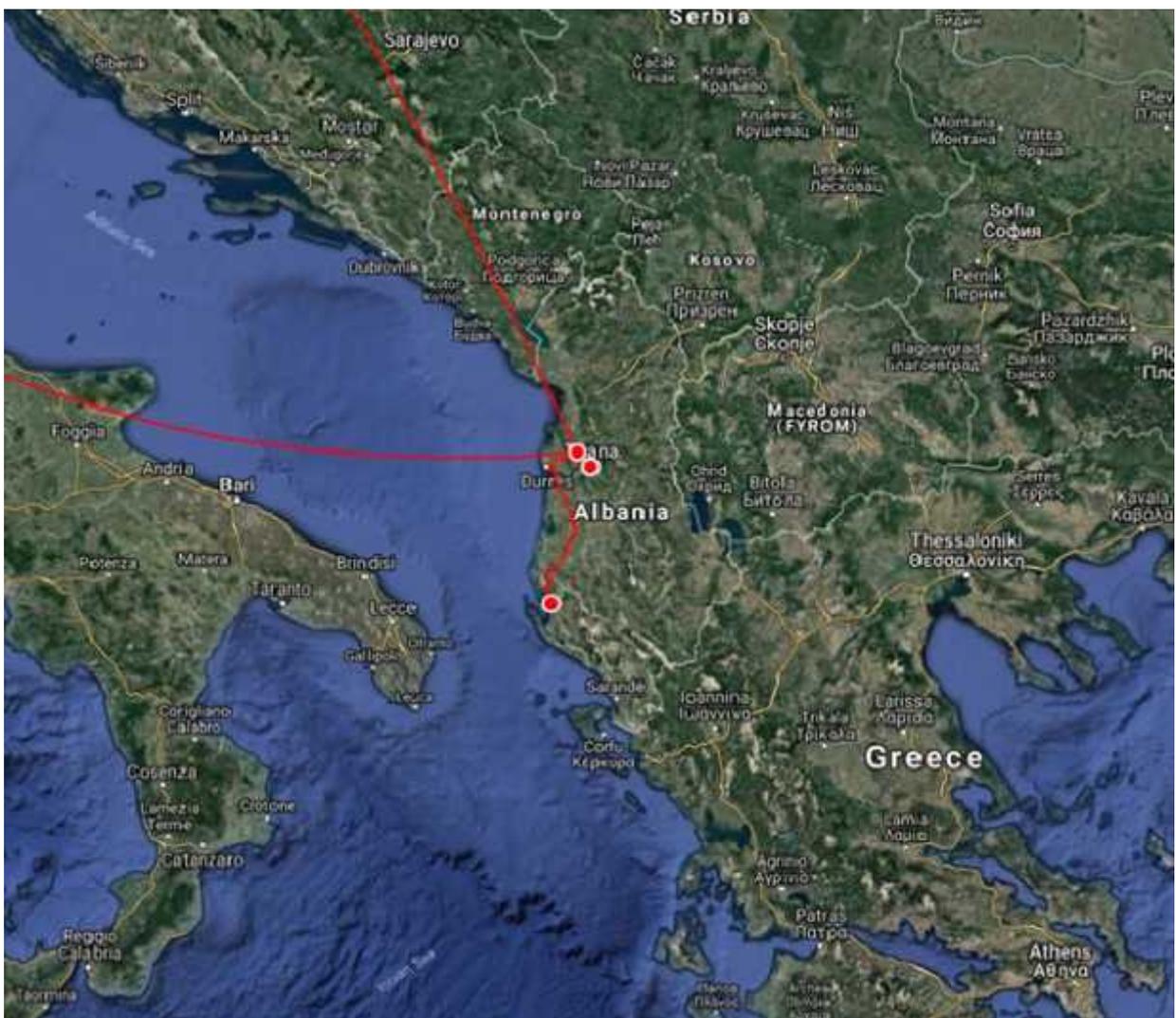


Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union
Directorate for Budgetary Affairs
Secretariat of the Committee on Budgetary Control

Brussels, 12 September 2018

**Draft report
on the fact-finding mission
of the Budgetary Control Committee (CONT)
to Albania**

7-9 May 2018



source: www.travellerspoint.com

Summary and recommendations

Summary

-) This was the first delegation of the Budgetary Control Committee to Albania. The initial program foresaw a delegation to Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), but due to limited time and logistic problems of transport between Tirana and Skopje, the Committee decided to limit the scope of the delegation to Albania only;
-) The visit to Albania was in a crucial moment, as on 17 April 2018 the Commission issued an unconditional recommendation to the Council to open accession negotiations with the country;
-) The negotiations will most likely be long, as the country still has to demonstrate significant improvement in many sectors of its economy, infrastructure and legal system before it is ready to join the Union;
-) The civil society is very pro-European. EU flags and symbols can be seen in many places, both on public as well as private buildings and vehicles; the political elite unanimously sees the future of the country as a member of the EU;
-) Albania has made tremendous development since 1989, multiplying its GDP over 10 times during this period; the country however still has a long way to go to achieve standard of living closer to the EU average;
-) The needs of Albania to reach an EU level of development are huge and will thus require significant funds per inhabitant; taking however the size and the population of the country, if approved, these sums will not be very significant for the EU budget in the long run;
-) Under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) for the period 2007-2013, the EU provided assistance to Albania with a total allocation of EUR 594 million; for the years 2014-2020, EUR 649.4 million are allocated;
-) The delegation noted and praised the very serious approach of the current authorities on tackling corruption in full cooperation with the EU and the Member States, especially Italy and its Guardia di Finanza;
-) The visit confirmed that the EU funds spent in Albania are used well and efficiently and that the level of irregularities and fraud is not at an abnormal level;
-) Involvement of the European Union in Western Balkans is a game-changer, as it has significantly improved regional interstate relations, despite historical mistrust; providing hope for peace and stability in the region;

Recommendations

-) even though Albania doesn't receive a substantial amount of EU funds, it is questionable where more funds should be allocated until there is the capacity to effectively use additional funds;
-) more expertise in how to use EU funds adequately is needed in Albania, as exposed by the example of "Vlora bypass" project;

-) EU investments should help develop the Albanian job market, reducing pressure on Albanians to emigrate to the EU to find better paid jobs;
-) the delegation praised the international observers acting in the International Monitoring Operation (IMO) led by the European Commission overseeing the entire vetting process of all Albanian judges and prosecutors; the delegation believes that this is an example of "best practice" that could be copied by other candidate countries or other non-EU countries which receive significant EU funds but face problems of sanity of the judicial system;
-) the Commission should focus more on regional and trans-border cooperation, which should stimulate regional integration;
-) neighbouring EU Member States have a crucial role in helping Albania develop; Italy is already doing its share, but it was noted that others could step up their involvement;
-) EU post 2004 Member States can share their savoir-faire with Albania on how to prepare for membership - cooperation between the Polish and Albanian Courts of Auditors (NIK and ALSAI) is a good example, but more such cooperation is needed;
-) As the delegation has not observed any abnormalities in the use of EU funds in Albania, neither a follow-up mission to the country nor post-mission follow-up discussions in the Committee are recommended;
-) As initially the mission foresaw a visit to FYROM (it was postponed due to logistical reasons), a separate visit of CONT to FYROM in the upcoming years is recommended;

Table of contents

1. Introduction	5
2. Overview of EU support to Albania	5
3. Summary account of meetings and visits	8
Annex - Programme including list of participants	17

1. Introduction

A delegation of four Budgetary Control Committee MEPs visited Albania on May 7-9 2018. It was the first CONT delegation to the country. Led by the Committee Vice-Chair Derek Vaughan (S&D, UK), the delegation inspected EU-funded projects and met with national authorities to discuss project management issues and preparations for EU membership.

2. Overview of EU support to Albania

The EU is the biggest donor in Albania. Under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) for the period 2007-2013, the EU provided assistance to Albania with a total allocation of EUR 594 million. The assistance has been predominantly implemented under direct management by the EU Delegation in Tirana. The indirect management modality has been introduced with a pilot approach for the IPA 2013 national programme and it is also applied under IPA 2.

Under IPA II, Albania benefits from pre-accession assistance for 2014-2020 in line with the priorities set out in the indicative strategy paper, with a total indicative allocation of EUR 649.4 million. Interventions are sector-based and support major structural reform efforts in key areas for the EU integration, including the political and economic criteria together with public financial management, public administration strengthening, judicial reform, fight against organised crime and corruption. Economic growth and cohesion is addressed through supporting the implementation of strategies for transport, employment and vocational training, water utilities and local economic development. Albania has prepared the arrangements needed to implement a total of EUR 71 million in support to rural development under the IPARD component of IPA II.

Main implementation modalities: EU assistance towards Albania is implemented under different arrangements depending on the sector and the specific objectives to achieve. Key projects in the area of rule of law, notably PAMECA, EURALIUS and IMO assistance missions, are currently implemented through grants with Member States. Technical assistance is also provided via twinning or service contracts. Sector budget support facilitates long-term reforms in the sectors public financial management (2014), public administration reform and employment (2015), and anti-corruption and transport (2016) is envisaged in other sectors such as justice reform and the rule of law/fight against drugs. Infrastructure projects for the environment and transport sectors are financed via the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

IPA II (2014-2020)

Pre-accession assistance II 2014-2020

Albania (EUR million)	TOTAL 2014-2020
Democracy and governance Strengthening democratic institutions; reforming the civil service and public service delivery; better economic governance; improving public financial management; empowering civil society (e.g. non-state, voluntary organizations).	223.5
Rule of law and fundamental rights Independent, efficient judiciary; helping police fight organized crime; tackling corruption; respecting human rights conventions	97.0
Environment and climate action Alignment with EU law and standards; better treatment of waste and water; controlling air pollution	68.0
Transport Better infrastructure and regional connectivity; improved road safety; increased interoperability (cross-border technical compatibility).	56.0
Competitiveness and innovation Supporting business competitiveness; greater market integration; improving the business environment; developing tourism	44.0
Education, employment and social policies Providing effective vocational training; better employment services and labor market policy; inclusion of vulnerable people; efficient health and social services	69.0
Agriculture and rural development More competitive farming and food sector; application of food safety standards; better quality of life in rural areas	92.0
TOTAL	649.4

Pre-accession assistance II 2014-2017 with flagship projects

IPA II for ALBANIA 2014-2017		
Budget committed	EUR 323 million	60 %
Budget contracted	EUR 193 million	22 %
Budget disbursed	EUR 71.6 million	18%
SECTORS	AMOUNT	FLAGSHIP PROJECTS
<u>Democracy and Governance</u>	EUR 130 million	EUR 42 million in budget support for the implementation of the PFM strategy aimed at improving planning and control of public expenditures, improving tax administration and strengthening transparency and external audit.

<p><u>Rule of law and fundamental rights</u></p>	<p>EUR 53 million</p>	<p>EUR 12.5 million for the consolidation of the Justice System in Albania (EURALIUS V) which is creating the condition for a constant monitoring of the quality and effectiveness of the work of the judges and prosecution (vetting).</p> <p>EUR 13 million for the consolidation of the law enforcement agencies (PAMECA) is improving the performance and investigation capacity of the Albanian state police (ASP) and the general prosecutor office (GPO) in tackling serious and organised crime and drug trafficking in a proactive manner.</p>
<p><u>Environment, climate change and energy</u></p>	<p>EUR 4 million</p>	
<p><u>Transport</u></p>	<p>EUR 24 million</p>	<p>EUR 24 million sector budget supports for the implementation of the transport strategy aimed at supporting the implementation of standards for safety maintenance through the accreditation of Road Safety Inspection and the preparation and implementation of maintenance and repair programs.</p>
<p><u>Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development</u></p>	<p>EUR 82 million</p>	<p>EUR 47 million to promote sustainable tourism and economic growth in a number of pilot cultural and natural heritage locations. Main actions include: development of new integrated tourist packages, training to improve local capacity to build cultural and natural offering, small infrastructure improvements and conservation and restoration works of selected heritage assets. The model will be extended to other locations, which will be selected based on their needs and potential for local development.</p>
<p><u>Education employment and social policies</u></p>	<p>EUR 30 million</p>	<p>EUR 30 million sector budget support for the implementation and employment strategy aimed at improving the competences of VET teachers and teacher trainers; extending the VET offer to vulnerable and marginalized groups and upgrade the employment services.</p>

3. Summary account of meetings and visits

3.1 Meeting at the Ministry of Finance and Economy

Day 1 - Monday, 7 May 2018

Meeting with H.E. **Mr Arben Ahmetaj**, Minister of Finance and Economy and **Mr Erjon Luci**, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy, National Authorising Officer



The delegation listened to the Ministers and asked them questions on the current situation of the country.

Mr Ahmetaj presented a list of successes of his government to the CONT delegation: the decrease of the budget deficit and the amount of national debt, the fiscal consolidation reform, the public finance management reform, administrative reform, justice reform and others. The Minister underlined that his government is very actively fighting against organised crime and corruption. He did mention a few delays, for example in procurement. Mr Ahmetaj praised the regional cooperation in the Western Balkans, which is improving both on political and economic levels. The Minister has welcomed good cooperation with some of the EU Member States, which help diffuse competence and know-how. This is very useful at the beginning of the EU-Albania accession negotiations. He estimated that the negotiations with the EU could last 5 to 8 years.



3.2. Meeting at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Meeting with H.E. **Mr D. Bushati**, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs



The Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs underlined the importance of the current period for his country, as the EU has decided to open accession negotiations with Albania. He was looking forward to the success of the upcoming summit in Sofia. Mr Bushati informed the CONT delegation that he is fully aware that the administrative capacities of the country need to improve ahead of the negotiations in order to make them a success. He firmly believes that there is no alternative for Albania other than EU Membership. The Minister indicated that implementation of rule of law is still

occasionally a challenge in Albania. Replying to the question of the MEPs on the amount of aid needed for Albania, the Minister indicated that the third bailout pack for Greece was 8 times higher than the 7 year EU aid program for the whole of Western Balkans. Referring to Greece, the Minister mentioned that there are still outstanding issues linked to the Second World War with Greece that needs to be settled before membership. Unfortunately, the Minister noted lack of cooperation from the Greek side.

3.3 Meeting with the International Monitoring Operation

Presentation of the **International Monitoring Operation (IMO)**, support to the process of temporary re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors:

-) Mr Ferdinando Buatier de Mongeot, IMO International Observer
-) Mr Theo Jacobs, IMO International Observer
-) Mr Zoltan Venczel, IMO Project Manager

This is a unique project aiming at sanitising the Albanian judicial system. The delegation met with the international observers who are members of the International Monitoring Operation (IMO) for overseeing the vetting of judges and prosecutors.

On 22 July 2016 the Albanian Parliament adopted by unanimity the constitutional amendments that kick-started the judicial reform process. An Annex to the Constitution was also adopted to discipline the process of "Transitional Qualification Assessment" for all members of the judiciary – an extraordinary process for the re-evaluation of all judges and prosecutors within the judiciary of Albania. The ground for the implementation of this process was then further disposed with the adoption of necessary secondary legislation. This was approved by the Parliament of Albania on 30 August 2016 as Law 84/2016 on the transitional re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania ("Vetting Law"), which entered into force on 8 October 2016.

The re-evaluation process (that started in October 2017) is carried out along three respective components: (1) asset assessment, (2) background assessment and (3) proficiency assessment.

1. The **asset assessment** aims at the declaration and audit of assets, including the legitimacy of the source of their creation, financial obligations, including private interests, for the assessee and persons related to him or her.
2. The **background assessment** aims at the verification of assesses declarations and other data with the purpose of identifying assesses with inappropriate contacts with persons involved in organised crime, in accordance with the principles and conditions provided for in Article DH of the Annex to the Constitution.
3. The **proficiency assessment** aims at evaluating assesses according to their ethical and professional capacities in compliance with the Vetting Law and with the legislation that regulates the status of judges or prosecutors. Those assesses who are found unable to exercise their functions will be requested to either consolidate their skills or leave the profession.

The bodies handling the re-evaluation exercise (vetting organs) are four first-instance Commissions and one second-instance appeal chamber.

As provided in Article B of the Annex to the Constitution, and as further disposed in the Vetting Law, an International Monitoring Operation (IMO) supports the re-evaluation process.

The IMO includes partners within the framework of the European integration process and Euro-Atlantic cooperation and is led by the European Commission. The international observers deployed for the monitoring of the actual re-evaluation process operate in the field as long-term experts. International observers are embedded in the four commissions and the appeal chamber, they have access to all files and information and have the right to request or present evidence.

3.4 Working breakfast with Ambassador Vlahutin

Day 2 - Tuesday, 8 May 2018

Working breakfast with **Ms Romana Vlahutin** Head of EU Delegation

During a working breakfast Ms Romana Vlahutin, Head of the EU Delegation in Albania, shared with the CONT MEPs her views on the current political and economic situation in Albania, the evolution of the EU-Albania relations in the last years and the regional cooperation on EU funded projects in the Western Balkans. The Ambassador presented also the vast scope of activities of the EU in Albania to celebrate the Schuman declaration of 9 May, which this year has been especially outstanding due to the decision of opening the negotiation process with Albania. The Members posed a number of questions regarding the problems of spending of EU funds in Albania and fund absorption capacities of the country.



3.5 Visiting the Vlora Employment Office

Visit to Vlora Employment Office (sector budget support) **Ms Mariana Cani**, Director



In 2015 the New National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2014-2020 and its Action Plan were adopted in Albania, offering a new and detailed framework for the promotion of employment and the strengthening of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system. IPA assistance during the period 2007-2015 has amounted to 37 million EUR for the VET sector and 20 million EUR for employment. Its objectives include increasing the quality of education improving professional skills of the Albanian labour force in accordance with

the development of the economy, increase coverage of Vocational and Educational training, inclusion of marginalized groups in the labour market, improving the curricula in accordance with EU criteria and encouraging the compliance of the institutional framework with the international standards.

The amount indicatively allocated for Albania for 2014-2020, for employment, education and social policies is 69 million EUR, of which 30 million EUR are financing the sector budget support to the National Employment and Skills strategy (NESS) from 2016 to 2018 (IPA 2015).

The new Albanian Employment and Skills Strategy (NESS 2014-2020) has committed to modernize national employment services and adapt provisions to the different phases of the economic cycle, improve responsiveness of national employment services to serve jobseekers and employers with different needs, implement effective labour market programs adapted to the specific characteristics of regional and local labour markets; and promote appropriate regulation that bolster cooperation between public employment services and private employment agencies.

The Labour Office (LO) in the town of Vlora, which was visited by the CONT delegation, is a regional office covering the south-west part of Albania. The Office has been completely refurbished in 2015, including new desks and computers, occupying a ground floor of a building with a large common space for specialists. Central online vacancy database has been created so that job-seekers can access it also through the terminal at the premises. There is a self-service area with vacancy announcements. The Office is composed of a Director and 14 trained staff. It serves an area of 190 thousand inhabitants. There are 5200 registered unemployed persons for the region and about 2800 in Vlora itself. Back in 2015 there were 12.000 registered unemployed (the drop was largely due to clearing the register).

The office deals with all types of programs and training. Annually, around 1300 unemployed people are trained. Vulnerable groups receive special attention. With regard to the challenges, mobility seems to be an issue in this region. Seasonal jobs are offered to unemployed individuals during the tourist season, but people have to live at the seaside close to the facilities. The accommodation is usually solved somehow by the employers or the job seekers themselves, but it remains problematic.



3.6 Visiting the Vlora Waterfront project

Visit to Vlora Waterfront project (direct management) **Mr Erik Qirjaqi**, Albanian Development Fund Project Manager



Upon signature of IPA 2013 FA, the EU agreed to fund the reconstruction of the Vlora Waterfront following the request made by the Albanian Development Fund representing the Government of Albania. The Waterfront in Vlora is among the largest EU funded projects in Albania projects on reconstruction of urban infrastructure. The project was considered a priority for the Government aiming at improving the living conditions of Vlora inhabitants by upgrading the urban infrastructure and existing space, creating new public areas, providing cleaner environment and increasing attractiveness for tourism.

Works for Vlora waterfront cost 11.77 million EUR, of which 9.47 million EUR under an EU grant funded by IPA 2013. Works started on 13 June 2015 and were completed on 25 September 2017. The project inauguration was organized on 11 November 2017 with participation of EU Commissioner Hahn and the Prime Minister of Albania.

The new waterfront has considerably increased the touristic potential of the city. Vlora has a scenic bay where Adriatic and Ionian seas meet and long beaches. During the transition period, it was marked by informal developments cutting access to the sea and creating an overall unattractive and polluted environment. The regeneration of the waterfront has allowed tourists and inhabitants to reclaim the seafront, which can now host numerous activities and events. The regeneration of the waterfront supports the current touristic boom in Albania as Vlora is one of the few places where proper touristic infrastructures exist.

The design preparation has been funded by the Albanian Government. The designer was selected through an international urban design competition procedure. The company "XDGA" was selected as the winning design team by an international jury.



The works included the construction of a road section of about 4 km until the tunnel section and its adjacent promenade of about 3 km along the coastline. The works have also included the construction of public squares, parking areas, parks, concrete structures to support and protect the road and promenade, drainage and irrigation networks, electrical lights system for the whole area, promenade and public squares, sports terrains as well as provision of the related urban furniture.

The EU, in cooperation with ADF and the Vlora Municipality, has organized an art competition for this project. The art competition gave Albanian artists an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and get public exposure.

The art works proposed have been submitted on 25 October 2017 and the nominated jury completed the evaluation process. The announcement of prices was organized in November 2017 on the occasion of the visit of Commissioner Hahn.

3.7 Visiting the “Vlora bypass” project

Visit of the “Vlora bypass” project (indirect management) Mr. Matteo Colangeli Head of EBRD Office in Albania, Mr Dimitris Tsolkas, Supervisor, Mr Ermal Nuri, Albanian Road Authority Project Manager

The IPA 2011 programme includes 17 million EUR for construction of Vlora bypass which is implemented via a Contribution Agreement signed with EBRD. In addition, EBRD and EIB are contributing a maximum of 18 million EUR each to this project.

In parallel, a supervision contract has been signed and managed by the EU for an amount of 1.66 million EUR under which 85% of the resources have been used.

The works contract is implemented by Albanian Roads Authority in line with EBRD guidelines. Works had started but have been terminated two years after commencement, in April 2017, due to poor performance of the contractor who was also in charge of another parallel running works contract for construction of Fieri bypass funded by the EBRD and EIB.

The Contribution Agreement with EBRD is extended until November 2018 in line with the deadline for implementation of IPA 2011.

Both works for Fieri and Vlora bypasses are under re-tendering process launched by ARA in November 2017, and according to the original forecast works should have been started in both bypasses (Fieri and Vlora). The re-tendering of Vlora bypass works process is still at pre-qualification phase and the Prequalification Evaluation Report (PER) has not yet been approved by EBRD.

EBRD sent an official letter to the Minister of Finance and Economy and the Minister of Infrastructure and Energy asking for feedback on the way forward for project procurement.

Delays on re-tendering cause further delays in implementation of the project and may result on losing the IPA contribution.

3.8 Visiting the National Parliament of Albania

Day 3 - Wednesday, 9 May 2018

Meeting **Mr Genc Pollo**, Chair of the Parliament EU Integration Committee and **Ms Grida Schqima** Deputy Chair of the Parliament EU Integration Committee

The CONT delegation met with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the EU Integration Committee. As these members represent parliamentary opposition, their picture of the country is significantly different to the one presented by the governmental official two days before.



They underlined the fact that there is a backslide in the fight with corruption and that there have been cases where OLAF started inquiries, which had not happened before. The members mentioned the case of the Vlora bypass, which for them is a clear case of misuse of EU funds. They also complained about the EU budget support as there is no information on the disbursement of funds.

3.9 Visiting the Albanian Supreme State Audit Institution

Meeting with **Mr Bujar Leskaj**, Chairman of the Albanian Supreme State Audit Institution

As it is customary, the CONT delegation met with the Albanian State Audit Institution - ALSAI. The Chairman informed proudly that ALSAI is already 93 years old but it has been modernised by the law of 2014. It is fully independent and in full compliance with the Mexico and Lima declarations. However, he indicated that the 2014 law doesn't provide sufficient strength to the aspect of efficiency in the audit work, this should be better secured in future legislation.



Another weak point mentioned by Mr Leskaj is the limited follow-up of the cases highlighted by ALSAI by the government.

In general, Mr Leskaj underlined that the laws in Albania are well made, but the implementation is not always correctly done.



3.10 Visiting the "Food safety lab" project

Visit to the "Food safety lab" **Mr Agim Ismaili**, General Director of National Food Authority

The creation of the National Food Authority (NFA) in Albania was based on the strategic priorities set out in the European Commission's "White Paper on Food Safety". The NFA was sanctioned in the Law No 9863 of 28.01.2008 "On Food", while its organisation and functioning was approved by the Decision of the Council of Ministers No 1081 of 21.10.2009. The National Food Authority is the body responsible for the official controls on food safety.

The EU supports the establishment and consolidation of the National Food Authority through various programmes funded under CARDS and IPA.

The infrastructure has been improved through the support of IPA 2010 programme where nine regional offices and laboratories of the NFA have been almost totally built from scratch at a cost of approximately 4.3 million EUR. Besides the offices for staff, the buildings include the laboratory space to cover physical, chemical and microbiological analysis on food and pest diagnosis in plants and animals.



Site	Type of construction	Total internal area of the buildings and laboratories	Cost in EUR
Elbasan	New construction and rehabilitation	1,268 m2/320 m2	351,880.69
Korça	New construction	1656 m2/330 m2	499,944.52
Shkodra	New construction	1653 m2/330 m2	515,584.36
Dibra	New construction and rehabilitation	1,275 m2/300 m2	440,627.02
Tirana	New construction	1,839m2/380 m2	514,934.68
Durres	New construction	1,412 m2/330 m2	465,302.23
Fier	New construction	1,095 m2/370 m2	460,969.31
Vlora	New construction	1,516 m2/280 m2	556,762.03
Gjirokastra	New construction and rehabilitation	1,330 m2/330 m2	488,738.02

Following the assistance from IPA 2013 programme, the laboratory system underwent restructuring i.e. out of nine NFA regional laboratories, 3 were selected as major ones to carry out screening analysis. The rest of regional laboratories are considered as support laboratories with the analytical capacity reduced.

**Fact-finding mission
of the Budgetary Control Committee to Albania
7 - 9 May 2018**

FINAL PROGRAMME

Members of the delegation:

1. Derek VAUGHAN - (Head of Delegation, S&D, GB)
2. Joachim ZELLER (EPP, DE)
3. Ryszard CZARNECKI (ECR, PL)
4. Wolf KLINZ (ALDE, DE)

European Court of Auditors

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10. Suvi LEINONEN, ALDE

Interpreters

11. Daiu MAKSIM (Team Leader)
12. Gjebrea LISENA
13. Lilaj-Qazimi ALBANA
14. Ertrit PUKA (DG LINC, Technician)

Languages covered

EN, Albanian

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Monday, 7 May 2018

Early afternoon	Arrival of CONT Mission at Mother Teresa Airport
15:00 - 15:30	Meeting with EU Delegation
15:30 - 16:30	Meeting with H.E. Mr Arben Ahmetaj , <i>Minister of Finance and Economy</i> and Mr Erjon Luci , <i>Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy, National Authorising Officer</i>
17:00 - 18:00	Meeting with H.E. Mr D. Bushati , <i>Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs</i>

18:30 - 19:30 Presentation of the International Monitoring Operation (IMO), support to the process of temporary re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors
Mr Ferdinando Buatier de Mongeot, IMO International Observer
Mr Theo Jacobs, IMO International Observer
Mr Zoltan Venczel, IMO Project Manager

20:00 Return to hotel

Night in Tirana

Tuesday, 8 May 2018 (Tirana-Vlora)

08:00 - 08:40 Working breakfast with **Ms Romana Vlahutin** *Head of EU Delegation*

8:45 Departure from hotel by bus

08.45-12.00 Driving to Vlora

12:00 - 12:45 Visit to Vlora Employment Office (sector budget support)
Ms Mariana Cani, *Director*

13:05 - 14:05 Private lunch at **Joni Restaurant** (each participants pays for himself/herself)

14:10 - 15:00 Visit to Vlora Waterfront project (direct management) **Mr Erik Qirjaqi**, *Albanian Development Fund Project Manager*

15:15 - 16:30 Visit of the "Vlora bypass" project (indirect management) **Mr. Matteo Colangeli** *Head of EBRD Office in Albania*, **Mr Dimitris Tsolkas**, *Supervisor*, **Mr Ermal Nuri**, *Albanian Road Authority Project Manager*

16:30 - 19:30 Driving to Tirana

19:30 Return to hotel

Night in Tirana

Wednesday, 9 May 2018

8:30 Departure from hotel

9:00 - 10:00 Meeting **Mr Genc Pollo**, *Chair of the Parliament EU Integration Committee* and **Ms Grida Schqima** *Deputy Chair of the Parliament EU Integration Committee*

10:15 - 11:15 Meeting with **Mr Bujar Leskaj**, *Chairman of the Albanian Supreme State Audit Institution*

11:30 - 13:00 Visit to the "Food safety lab" **Mr Agim Ismaili**, *General Director of National Food Authority*

13:30 Arrival at the Mother Teresa Airport (**end of mission**)
