

**Question for written answer E-003217/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Emergency measures in Albania and Rule of Law

In an update on the situation in Albania published on 2 March 2020¹, the Commission focuses on judicial reform, the fight against corruption, and police cooperation in fighting organised crime, before reaffirming the recommendation – already made in April and June 2018 – that accession negotiations with the country begin.

However, on 31 January 2020, the Albanian Government announced a series of measures – for immediate effect – relating to the penal code and the police, although the Albanian Constitution only allows such action in a state of emergency².

On 27 February 2020, the Albanian President lambasted these laws, warning that Albania was at risk of becoming ‘the North Korea of Europe’³. On 19 February, he called for the government to be overthrown⁴.

In the Balkan Insight article cited above, the Albanian Minister of Justice insisted that the European authorities had been consulted on these measures, but the embassies concerned have denied this⁵. Was the Commission informed of the substance of these laws, and does it consider them consistent with EU Rule of Law acquis?

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/update-on-the-republic-of-albania.pdf>

² <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/02/01/albania-emergency-laws-criticized-as-non-constitutional/>

³ <https://www.euronews.com/2020/02/27/albania-president-ilir-meta-my-country-is-becoming-the-north-korea-of-europe>

⁴ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/albania-president-appeal-topple-government-ilir-meta-impeachment-a9344826.html>

⁵ ‘The EU embassy told BIRN it had “not seen the Normative Act adopted today and cannot comment at this point”.’; <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/02/01/albania-emergency-laws-criticized-as-non-constitutional/>