

**Question for written answer E-004754/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Media laws in Albania and EU accession negotiations

Susanne Schütz, Director of the Western Balkans Department in the Foreign Ministry of Germany, announced the upcoming European Conference on the accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia ¹. In this connection, she highlighted the 'new media law' in Albania, which was said not to correspond to the best international standards in this area.

Albania has indeed adopted two laws, incorporated in the legislative package against defamation, in particular Law No 97/2013, which is currently being examined by the Venice Commission.

1. Does the Commission agree with the above opinion expressed by Ms Schütz?
2. In the context of the accession negotiations, how does the Commission intend to require Albania to comply with the best international standards referred to above?

¹ Albania media law potential obstacle on EU path, German official says, bne IntelliNews, 11 août 2020.