

**Question for written answer E-003099/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ioannis Lagos (NI)

Subject: Praise for Rama from the President of the Commission, while Beleri is unlawfully detained

For some 100 days now, the mayor-elect of Himara, Fredi Beleri, who is a member of the Greek minority in southern Albania, has been detained in prison in Albania on a charge of bribing voters. As part of the general violation of the Greek minority's rights in southern Albania, the Rama government, by directly interfering in the Albanian legal process and on the basis of an unsound charge, imprisoned mayor-elect Beleri. The Rama government's sole aim was to ensure that its own candidate for the office of mayor of Himara, who was defeated in the elections, should hold onto the seat so as to carry on seizing properties, exercising influence and intimidating the Greek minority. Despite Edi Rama's flagrant violation of Beleri's rights through manipulation of the legal process and disregard for the principle of popular sovereignty, on 15 October 2023, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen chose to sing his praises in a post on X in which she stated, among other things, that Albania's progress towards accession was proceeding smoothly.

In view of this:

Does the Commission consider that the way Beleri and the Greek minority in general are treated by the Rama government constitutes evidence that Albania respects the rule of law as laid down in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union?

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