

**ON THE ACTIVITY
OF THE SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE
AND DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING
THE GOOD GOVERNANCE, ANTI-CORRUPTION
AND RULE OF LAW REFORM**



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**SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
“FOR DEEPENING REFORMS IN GOOD GOVERNANCE,
RULE OF LAW AND ANTI-CORRUPTION FOR ALBANIA 2030
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION”**

Transparency of the Special Parliamentary Committee's Activity and Public Information

One of the main principles of the Special Parliamentary Committee's activity is transparency and real-time public information on all the Committee's activities. This is achieved not only through publishing all information on the Parliament's website, but also through early efforts to establish a dedicated and integrated website for the Special Committee.

In implementing the principle of transparency and to make information more accessible, as per the Committee's decision dated on 21 June 2024, the Technical Secretariat and IT experts worked throughout August to build the online site and the public communication platform. This virtual space, dedicated to the Committee, will document its activity and ensure public transparency and the inclusion of all key actors and stakeholders in this process. The site will become operational in the first half of September 2024.

MASl.al has been conceived as a dynamic site that aims to both ensure the transparency of the Committee's work and to foster high interaction with the public and involve various individuals who wish to contribute.

In the "Public Consultation" space, there are specific sections for asking experts, conducting various surveys, and consulting on issues or initiatives that will arise during the Committee's work. Additionally, the Committee's various calls for participation from interest groups or the public will be published here.

Anyone interested to register can access a dedicated space to periodically receive publications or updates according to the three main pillars: Good Governance, Anti-Corruption, and Rule of Law.

Documents produced by the Committee can be found in a special corner of the site, accessible to everyone. This includes decisions from each meeting, minutes and various reports that will be prepared during the Committee's mandate.

In the "Media" section there are specific categories for announcements on each meeting, news or committee's statements, a gallery of photos and videos, as well as the monthly newsletters summarizing the committee's activities.

The public also has access to information about the composition of the High-Level Experts Group and the Technical Secretariat, under the three pillars. Additionally, the public can access information on the main partners of this committee's work and access the "Projects" section, which includes the complete file of guiding documents for the experts' work. The Analytical Document and the Action Plan, as two final products of the committee's work, will also be published there later.

The “Questions and Answers” section is dedicated to clarifying matters for anyone interested in learning more about the Special Committee’s goal, objectives, mandate, its link to European integration, etc.

The process for drafting the Analytical Document has started

In August, the High-Level Experts Group and the Technical Secretariat, engaged with the Special Committee on Good Governance, Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law, began to work on drafting the Analytical Document. This document aims to present an assessment/analysis of the current situation in the areas of good governance, anti-corruption and rule of law.

During the middle of August and beginning of September, the expert groups were engaged in familiarizing themselves with, scanning and analyzing the available documentation, identifying assessments, findings, issues and relevant recommendations for the three areas under the Special Parliamentary Committee’s scope of work.

The HLEG experts, arranged into three subgroups: (i) good governance, (ii) anti-corruption, and (iii) rule of law, have been reviewing and consulting the documents provided by the Technical Secretariat as a reference for drafting the Analytical Document. These core references include, first and foremost, the findings, assessments and recommendations of the European Commission’s Progress Report on Albania and the screening report on the I clusters “Fundamentals” (the Screening Report); the “Public Administration Reform 2023-2030” roadmap; the draft “Inter-sectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy 2024-2030”; the “Rule of Law” roadmap; as well as reports, findings and assessments published by civil society organizations operating in Albania, various international organizations, and official sources from public administration institutions.

The volume of documents made available to the experts is vast. Specifically, the Good Governance Subgroup will need to review over 100 documents with approximately 5,000 pages. The Anti-Corruption Subgroup will need to scan and analyze around 120 documents comprising about 7,000 pages, while the Rule of Law Subgroup will have to scan around 90 documents with about 5,000 pages.

Meetings of the High Level Experts Groups

The High-Level Experts Group held a series of periodic meetings in August to discuss the progress of the analysis and the upcoming work plan. During August, particularly in the second half, the HLEG subgroups, held a series of meetings to organize their internal work, dividing tasks according to their expertise to cover specific components, etc. This was also a good opportunity to hear the experts' opinions and suggestions on how to introduce their approach to the analysis, including relevant findings and issues, especially with regard to the structure of the Analytical Document.

In total, around 14 meetings were held in August by the High-Level Experts Group on the three pillars of the Special Parliamentary Committee.

Involvement of international experts and Albanian ones living abroad

At the end of July and the beginning of August, to ensure the full inclusion of all international government and non-government actors and to benefit from the expertise of the Albanian experts living abroad, invitations for participation and collaboration were sent to a total of 83 actors. Of these, approximately 49 institutions and international organizations, as well as foreign experts and Albanian ones living abroad, expressed during August, high levels of interest in collaborating and contributing to the 'Reform for good governance, anticorruption and rule of law, by submitting relevant documentation which has been managed by the Committee's staff.

Fifteen diplomatic representations and international organizations, experienced in consolidating democracy and strengthening the rule of law have expressed their interest to contribute with expertise and documentation to provide the highest standards and best practices from other countries. They consider the reforms cycle of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Good Governance, Anti-Corruption, and Rule of Law to be timely and crucial for Albania's secure path to EU membership.

The OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the World Bank and others are preparing their working methodology for ensuring the necessary expertise.

Three prestigious universities, well known in law, good governance, anti-corruption, and EU law have expressed their willingness to institutionally collaborate with the group of academics who will serve as consultants in this reform process, such as the College of Europe, the International Anti-Corruption Academy based in Austria, the University of Salento's Law Department, and others.

During this period, 12 foreign academics, well known experts in these fields, have expressed their interest to contribute with their expertise from law universities in Germany, Britain, Italy, Austria, etc. A number of foreign experts and magistrates from the U.S., Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Croatia, have also shown interest in being involved in this process as external consultants.

To date, 22 Albanians living abroad—professors and experts with experience in anti-corruption, law and good governance, have expressed their interest in being part of this important process for the country. Albanian academics, some of whom are pursuing post-doctoral studies at prestigious universities in various EU countries, including the Netherlands (Utrecht, Maastricht), Norway (Oslo), Austria (Vienna), Italy, the U.S., Canada, Germany, as well as Albanian experts in the field of justice and law enforcement from Spain, France, Belgium, Canada, Britain, Italy, etc. have also joined the experts' groups.

What is expected to be the Committee's agenda in September?

In September the focus will be on the work of the HLEG subgroups in preparing the analysis for the three pillars: (i) good governance, (ii) anti-corruption, and (iii) rule of law. Experts have worked independently during August to identify assessments, findings, issues, and recommendations for the three areas of the parliamentary committee's work. In September, the experts will work jointly to discuss their findings, the structure of the *Analytic Document*, and start drafting the analysis for each component, and subsequently harmonize them within the respective pillar.

In addition to the periodic meetings of the Special Committee, during September, there will be meetings with media representatives to inform them more specifically on the work done and to answer questions and clarify various uncertainties about the process.

Furthermore, the Committee will work on the agenda of the activities, including public consultations, debate roundtables with professionals in the field, and interest groups, as well as public forums, both online and in regional and university centres, based on the issues identified by the HLEG in their draft analysis.

During September, in collaboration with the heads of the HLEG subgroups and the Technical Secretariat, the work on the methodology for coordinating international assistance and external consultants will be finalized, in order to benefit from their professional expertise as soon as possible.

The Special Committee will hold its regular periodic meetings, focused on organizational aspects of the process, such as: approving the structure and final composition of the Experts Groups and the Technical Secretariat; approving the list of international experts who have expressed interest in contributing as external consultants; approving the experts, proposed by the opposition's parliamentary political groups, to be attached to the Special Committee; approving the agenda of public activities of the Special Parliamentary Committee and of the High-Level Experts Group for October, etc.

The Special Parliamentary Committee



SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

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