

**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”**

Meeting with the ambassadors of EU countries in Tirana

The EU Ambassador, Mr. Silvio Gonzato, invited the Chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Good Governance, Anti-Corruption and the Rule of Law to a working meeting with the diplomatic corps of ambassadors from the 27 EU member states in Tirana.

The meeting was held at the premises of Europe House. Along with Mr. Xhafa, Mr. Toni Gogu, member of this committee, attended the meeting.

Ambassador Gonzato, as the host and organizer of the meeting, made an introduction of the Committee and the expectations, in the framework of the process of negotiations with the EU, emphasizing the necessity of building an inclusive and transparent process. The Head of the EU Delegation in Tirana commended the role of this committee and highlighted the need to strengthen the engagement and trust of citizens and interest groups in this transformative process.

The Committee Chairman first made a presentation of the vision, goals and objectives that the Parliament aims to achieve through this Special Parliamentary Committee, its approach and working methodology, and provided information on the progress of the process so far.

Mr. Xhafaj, among other, emphasized that: “This project is a continuation of the effort to modernize the state and reform its institutions. Our ambition is clear. We want to deliver another significant reform to the country, following the justice reform. We reformed the justice system, but it is essential to reform other state institutions with the same spirit and the same standards, in order to move forward at the same pace. We have the same goal and ambition with this reform as well. Face these challenges and reform a series of legislative and executive institutions to bring them to the same standard as the justice system and align them with European standards. We believe this will make our path to EU membership easier and faster. At its core, and above all, this is a reform for the country and for the citizens. It is driven by the public interest to modernize the state in all its structures, to make governance at all levels better, fairer, more accountable and more open to the citizens. The most important thing is that society and its institutions, at all levels and across the entire territory, react and confront the phenomenon of corruption much better than they have done so far. Corruption remains a present and active issue in many sectors, and we must strengthen the rule of law further. By addressing these challenges, we are making our home—our country—a better place. Naturally, in doing so, we become better ourselves and make our path toward becoming part of the European family easier and faster.”

He also emphasized that: “We consider the Justice Reform as one of the greatest state-building efforts in the history of the Albanian state— the most significant in the historical process of transitioning from dictatorship to a functional democracy.

Its implementation remains a necessity for realizing the fundamental constitutional principle of the separation and balance of powers, as well as for guaranteeing an independent, accountable, transparent, efficient, professional and equal justice system for all citizens. The pillars of the Justice Reform, adopted in 2016, are non-negotiable!

We value the so far positive results of the Justice Reform, particularly in the fight against corruption, through the vetting process for cleansing human resources within the justice system, as well as through the activities of the special structure against corruption and organized crime, which is making a significant contribution to ending the era of impunity.

We aim to ensure the irreversibility of the Justice Reform, its further consolidation and the increased efficiency of the justice system, in line with the expectations of the Albanian citizens. Additionally, we aim to promote the quality of self-governance within the justice system by strengthening integrity, accountability and transparency, in accordance with the recommendations of the EU Reports and the measures outlined in the “Rule of Law” roadmap for their implementation.”

The discussions in the meeting mainly focused on the role of the parliamentary committee, the expectations of the reform and the commitment of local and international experts. The ambassadors expressed their support for this initiative of the Albanian Parliament, praised the work of the committee so far and emphasized the necessity of inter-institutional cooperation. They highlighted the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable reform that will advance our country on its path toward EU integration.

Mr. Xhafaj and Mr. Gogu, responding to several questions posed by the ambassadors, provided information about the Committee’s work agenda, its inclusiveness, transparency, professionalism and the role of international expertise in the activities of the Special Parliamentary Committee. They also outlined the next steps in the process for drafting the Analytical Document and the National Action Plan. Furthermore, they emphasized their commitment to maintaining constitutional balances and ensuring coherence with Albania’s commitments within the framework of the EU accession process, including the principle of judicial independence and the irreversibility of the 2016 Justice Reform.

The ambassadors of France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the Czech Republic recognized the importance of this ambitious project initiated and carried out by the Albanian authorities. They emphasized the importance of meeting deadlines and ensuring an inclusive process. The Spanish ambassador supported the importance of this reform for the country and shared the experience of his country in this regard, while the Dutch ambassador highlighted the importance of institutional accountability and the inclusion of the opposition in this process.

Everyone present recognised the importance of this informative meeting and agreed to continue this communication in other similar meetings in the future.

Meetings with the Ambassadors of Germany, OSCE, the World Bank and meetings with international experts.

During October as well, the Chairman of the Special Committee on Good Governance, Anti-corruption and the Rule of Law, and some members of this Committee, held meetings with representatives of international institutions in Albania. With the OSCE Ambassador in Tirana, Mr. Michel Tarran, they discussed about the work the Special Committee has done so far. He pointed out the commitment of the OSCE in the fight against corruption and praised the transparency of the process. In another meeting, the Ambassador of Germany in Tirana, Mr. Karl Bergner, commended the efforts of the committee for a comprehensive reform, the necessity for the opposition to be involved in this and confirmed the support of Germany to Albania's integration in the European Union.

Another meeting of great interest was the meeting of the members of this Committee, Ms. Ekonomi and Ms. Gjonaj with the heads of the World Bank Mission. The representatives of the World Bank pointed out the manifold importance of this reform to the economic and social development of the country, considering it an ambitious reform and essential for Albania's integration process in the European Union. They also confirmed their support to the reform with technical assistance, by engaging 6 experts in this process, two for each pillar.

The experts frame the first draft of the Analytical Document

During October, the High-Level Experts Group and the Technical Secretariat, engaged with the Special Committee on Good Governance, Anti-Corruption and the Rule of Law, finalized the work on framing the first draft of the Analytical Document, which assesses/analyzes the current situation in the fields of good governance, anti-corruption and the rule of law. The High-Level Experts, divided into subgroups, held several meetings to draft and discuss the Analytical Document. The first draft of the analysis of the current situation in all three areas: Good Governance, Anti-Corruption and the Rule of Law, is primarily based on the assessments, findings and recommendations of the EU Reports, as well as on several other official, domestic and international reports and documents.

Press conference, questions – answers on the work of the Special Committee

A discussion with media representatives was arranged in this month in order to share with them the work carried out by the Special Parliamentary Committee and the High-Level Experts Group, the next steps to be taken and also to respond to their interest regarding specific issues within the scope of this special committee. (For more information, visit the committee's website <http://www.masl.al>).

Transparency, the website of the Special Committee is made public

During the press conference, the Chairman of the Special Committee for Good-Governance, Anticorruption and the Rule of Law, Mr. Fatmir Xhafaj, made also the presentation of the committee's website. **MASL.al** is an online dedicated space to make full transparency of the work, to document the whole activity, the decisions and documents that will be issued during its mandate. In addition to serving as a digital archive, this website is also a platform for engaging the interested public. **MASL.al** is designed as a dynamic page, aiming for high interaction with the public and the involvement of individuals who wish to contribute. In the "Public Consultation" section, there are dedicated areas for asking questions to experts or committee members, conducting various surveys, and consulting on issues and legal initiatives that will emerge during the work of the Special Committee. Additionally, the Committee's various calls for participation from interest groups and the public at large will be published. Anyone interested in registering has a dedicated space to periodically receive publications and updates.

The Executive Summaries of the Draft Analytical Document are Published

The Executive Summaries of the draft Analytical Document for each pillar of the committee's work have been published on the Special Committee's website. These materials are accessible to anyone interested. They have been prepared by High-Level Experts, proposed by independent institutions, universities, civil society and business organizations. These summaries will be presented and debated in public Thematic Roundtables to enrich the Analytical Document, which will ultimately be submitted to the Special Committee for adoption.

The Special Committee adopts 3 decisions in the meeting regarding i) the public consultation process, ii) the composition of the HLEG and iii) the list of external experts

In October 2024, the Committee held a meeting during which preparatory and organizational decisions were made, as follows:

1. Approval of steps for organizing the public consultation process, based on measures proposed by the High-Level Experts Group and the Technical Secretariat, including:
 - i) Organizing around 12 thematic public roundtables;
 - ii) Organizing around 10 citizen dialogue forums focusing on issues of public concern;
 - iii) Consultations with interest groups, including state institutions and executive law enforcement agencies;
 - iv) Consulting the draft Analytical Document with international experts and consultants to have their assessments and comments regarding compliance with international standards, as well as to reflect best international practices in these areas.

2. Approval of changes in the composition of the High Level Experts Group.
3. Approval of the list of international external experts and consultants, who will be attached to the Committee, to support and contribute to the fulfillment of its objective.

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

In order to satisfy the key principles on which the work of the Special Parliamentary Committee and the entire reform process is based, during the month of November, around 12 thematic public roundtables will be held on a range of issues identified by the Experts Groups. These roundtables aim to ensure inclusiveness, transparency, professionalism and the achievement of the highest EU standards.

The moderation and presentation of the draft and the issues raised for public debate and consultation will be carried out by the experts who worked on them. The interest groups, law enforcement institutions, representatives of civil society and the business community, professionals in the field, etc. will be invited to participate in these roundtables.

During November, efforts will be focused on organizing citizen dialogue forums with an emphasis on issues of concern to the public, as well as conducting consultations with interest groups, including state institutions, executive law enforcement agencies, as well as international experts and consultants.

During this month work will continue with the HLEG and the TS, supported by international expertise, to develop the concept idea for drafting the National Action Plan.

The Special Parliamentary Committee



SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

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