



**SANE
27**
Supporting
Albanian
Negotiations
in Environment

Supporting Albanian Negotiations in Environment, Chapter 27 (SANE27) - phase II
Mbështetja e Negociatave Shqiptare në Mjedis, Kapitulli 27 (SANE27)-faza 2

EC Screening report Cluster 4 Chapter 27

Tirana, 28 January 2025



Screening report introduction

- SR is based on the **Enhance Enlargement Methodology adopted in 2020** – covering Cluster 4 and included chapters
- Provides an assessment of where Albania stands in terms of **alignment and capacity to apply the EU acquis in Cluster 4**
- **Regional cooperation and good neighbourly** relations remain essential elements of the enlargement process.
- It is important to **continue the dialogue with civil society and other stakeholders**, with the aim of ensuring the support of citizens for the EU accession process.



Cluster 4

Green agenda and sustainable connectivity

- Chapter 14 - Transport
- Chapter 15 - Energy
- Chapter 21 – Trans-European Network
- **Chapter 27 Environment and Climate Change**
- Reference to the EU Green Deal and Green Deal Industrial Plan

Man content – structure of the SR

- Short overview of the main EU acquis / European standards
- Outcome of the expert discussion during bilateral screening meeting
- European Commission's assessment
- Recommendations for the next steps in the accession negotiation process

Baseline of the SR

“Albania stated that **it accepts the EU acquis** in the chapters of Cluster 4. It reserved however **the right to request for transitional arrangements in certain limited areas** of the acquis in this Cluster at a later stage in the negotiations”.

Chapter 27

- Chapter 27 is based on **section XX Environment articles 191-193** of Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)
- EU integration is core for the EU Green Deal
- Contributing to make EU climate neutral by 2050 (Paris Agreement)
- Chapter 27 comprises over 200 major legal acts covering 10 sub-chapters
- Requires **significant investments** (costliest chapter), cooperation with stakeholders, **changing of peoples' behavior**

Recommendations for Horizontal sub-chapter

- Future alignment is required regarding environmental assessment
- Strengthening administrative capacity and improved coordination among different authorities is needed
- Ensure that infrastructure investments comply with EIA
- Good alignment with Aarhus acquis but needs capacity building and awareness
- Environmental Liability Directive need to be transposed
- IIWG against Environmental Crime is welcomed – improvements are needed for enforcement (inspections)
- INSPIRE – advance stage, but need to further monitor other EU data legislation including open data
- EC look forward Albania to request to join LIFE Programme



Recommendations for Air Quality sub-chapter

- Future alignment is required of air legislation
- Extension and improving of the air monitoring system is needed
- Efforts are needed for implementation of air acquis – large scale of investments, including privately owned companies.
- Reinforcement is needed in collecting and processing of data regarding air quality and emissions
- Strengthening administrative capacity, including more staff, and improving equipment is needed



Recommendations for Waste Management sub-chapter

- Some progress in implementing Circular Economy
- Further transposition of the waste *acquis* is needed though ongoing process with EU CE&GG projects is welcomed (WFD and EPR)
- Single Use Plastic Directive should be transposed and align with the Plastic Bags Directive and internal market standards (70 v. 50 microns)
- Waste management system is not integrated, and more efforts are needed, including large investments for implementation of waste hierarchy
- DSIPs will provide further details on the timing and financial needs for implementation of some directives (WFD, Landfill, Packaging, WEEE and B&A)

Recommendations for Water Quality sub-chapter

- Well aligned with WFD.
- Finalizing RBMPs and funding their implementation is needed, including Vjosa River Management Plan.
- Well structured institutional framework for UWWT Directive (MIE and AKUK) – investments and capacity-building needs are huge.
- Capacity and further alignment are needed for the Marine Strategy Directive.
- Alignment with the latest amendments of the DWD are needed, as well improvement of monitoring and infrastructure
- Nitrate directive need to be transposed and implemented, including designation of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Recommendations for Water Quality

sub -chapter

- Attention should be paid on poor bathing waters and alignment with CID 211/321/EC on symbols for information to public is needed.
- Monitoring network for water need to be extended and improved.
- Administrative capacity need to be improved, including enforcement system and expertise.
- Further efforts are need for improving water bodies quality.
- Large scale of investments are needed.

Recommendations for Nature sub-chapter

- Well advanced alignment with Wild Birds and Habitats Directives.
- Implementation need to be improved, including monitoring and data gathering.
- Better distribution of responsibility among authorities, including the municipal one, is needed.
- Zoos Directive need to be transposed and introduction and implementation of licensing process, including inspection.
- Improvement with Cites Regulation is needed, both in transposition and implementation.
- The new Law on Protected Areas allows some construction measures that could potential compromise the ecological and biodiversity values of Albania and potential Nature 200 sites.

Recommendations for Chemical sub-chapter

- More efforts are needed for aligning with the Biocide Regulation (BR) and to continue to build on the work related to the European Chemical Agency.
- Significant resources need to be allocated for implementation of the BR.
- REACH need to be further transposed.
- Good analysis prepared regarding which REACH and Classification Labeling and Packaging (CLP) obligations shall be implemented and has good track in implementation
- More efforts are needed in inspection and enforcement and establishing national Helpdesk
- Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and PoPs regulation, and Animal Experiments Directive should be further transposed, including improvement of capacity, enforcement and implementation.



Recommendations for Industrial Pollution and Risk Management sub-chapter

- Further efforts are needed for alignment with EID and E-PRTR legislation.
- SEVESO III and ratification of TEIA Convention are key for implementation of the directive requirements and its transposition.
- Asbestos Directive need to be fully transposed.
- VOC in paints and VOC emissions directives need to be fully transposed and secure proper financial and human resources.
- Ratification of Minamata Convention is good step forward, but more efforts are needed for transposition and implementation of the Mercury Regulation.
- Strengthening of administrative capacity and allocated funding are needed to ensure implementation of this sub-chapter acquis.

Recommendations for Noise sub-chapter

- Future needs for alignment and implementation are well identified.
- Further efforts are needed to align with Noise Directive.
- Clear responsibility among national and local authority should be established for development of noise action plans.
- To ensure synergy of investments and geospatial data with noise data

Recommendations for Civil Protection sub-chapter

- Further efforts are needed to align with EU acquis for civil protection thus improving its system for civil protection in the country.
- Albania is an active member of UCPM.
- Linking its national emergency communication system to CECIS (Common Emergency Communication and Information System) of the European Commission needs to be established.

Recommendations for Climate sub-chapter

- Good efforts have been made for transposition of the Governance Regulation with adoption of the Climate Law and NECP.
- Further efforts are needed for developing administrative capacity, reporting and verification of the GHG.
- Full transposition is needed for MRVA – related to ETS Regulation for to be able to join EU ETS on the date of accession.
- Voluntary reporting on GHG emissions from industry should start including developing a system for verification of GHG emissions, including for maritime transport emissions.
- ETS for aviation need to be transposed and operators to be identified.



Recommendations for Climate sub-chapter

- Fuel quality is with high level of alignment, but further efforts are needed to cover biofuels and gas oil used for non-road mobile machinery.
- ODS is aligned with international obligations but not with the EU thus further efforts are needed for transposition of EU requirements on licensing for import/export of products and equipment containing or relying on ozone depleting substances is needed.
- F-gasses need further transposition, including training and certification of relevant staff.
- Effort Sharing Regulation need to be transposed as is crucial to determinate Albanian contribution in meeting the EU targets for decreasing GHG from domestic transport, building, agriculture, small industries and waste



Recommendations for Climate sub-chapter

- Transposition of LULUCF legislation is needed and establishing of good GHG inventory for different sectors. Regional cooperation could be a way to facilitate the progress.
- CO2 standard Regulation for cars and vans and for heavy-duty vehicles need to start. Registration system of vehicles should enable collecting data through IT system.
- Alignment with Car Labelling Directive is needed.
- Carbon Capture and Storage Regulation has to be transposed as Albania has some geology potential and thus should consider introducing some potential permitting system.

Main summary for Environment

- Albania has some level of preparation on environment.
- There is a strong political commitment at highest level to align with the EU *acquis* for which further efforts are needed and pace need to be accelerated.
- Administrative and technical capacity need to be strengthened in all sectors (sub-chapters)
- Strategic framework need to be fully aligned with the EU *acquis*, in particular for air quality, water and nature protection.
- Action plans 2023-2030 are developed within SANE27.

Main summary for Climate

- Albania has some level of alignment with EU climate *acquis* and further efforts are needed.
- Albania is committed to take measures to reduce GHG emissions according to its updated NDC.
- Financial and human resources need to be increased.
- Emission register need to be established.
- Substantial investments and efforts are needed for climate adaptation

Thank you very much for your attention!