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Albania

*a future
with*

Europe

SHARING
COMMON VALUES
TO BUILD
A COMMON FUTURE



THE EUROPEAN UNION
IN ALBANIA



Albania

Capital > **Tirana**

Population > **3.4 million**

Area > **28.784 km²**

Population density > **80 inhabitants/km²**

Neighbouring countries > **Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY),
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Greece**

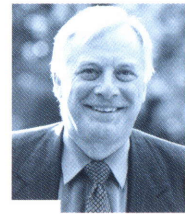
Currency, Lek. > **1€ = 136,61700 Leks (June 2000)**





FOREWORDS

“ Albania, persevering with political and economic reforms and already linked to the EU by a Trade and Cooperation Agreement, fully participates in the EU Stabilisation and Association Process for the Western Balkan region. This process is bringing very substantial benefits for the country: comprehensive assistance for institution building, infrastructure development and economic development including for projects with regional dimension, wideranging trade preferences and political dialogue... This brochure gives an overview on the development of EU-Albanian relations since 1991 and on perspectives within the EU Stabilisation and Association Process, also in view of the perspective of a future Stabilisation and Association Agreement. It remains our joint objective to bring Albania closer to the European Union. ”



RT Hon Chris Patten
*European Commissioner
for External Relations*



Michel Peretti
*Head of
European Commission
Delegation to Albania*

“ We want Albania to be like the whole of Europe”, was one of the slogans of the transition and, after half a century of complete isolation, the rapprochement with Europe has been and remains a fundamental aspiration of the Albanian people.

The purpose of this document is to provide as wide a public as possible with information on the status of relations between Albania and the European Union today, which helps it understand what a rapprochement means, what the Stabilisation and Association process is and what measures the Union has taken.

The European Union has been present in Albania since the early days of the transition. It has supported the reform programmes of the successive governments aimed at consolidating the rule of law by strengthening the Judicial system and the Civil Service, by training the Police, helping to create modern and professional State institutions. It has participated in improving the basic infrastructure of the country as well as the population's living conditions.

It has also intervened on a massive scale through humanitarian assistance in crisis situations, as was recently the case during the influx of refugees from Kosovo.

By way of illustration, the grants Albania received between 1991 and 1999 amount to around one billion Euros financed by the Community budget. These are European public funds, a fact that should be emphasised.

This contribution will not only continue but be reinforced, the priorities remaining improvement of the institutional infrastructure, in order to continue on the path of consolidating the rule of law, and improvement of the physical infrastructure. The aims of the latter being, to improve the population's living conditions and to establish the necessary basis for the economic development of the country.

As a question of future relations, by taking the initiative of the Stability Pact and proposing Stabilisation and Association Agreements, the European Union is inviting Albania, as well as the other countries of the region, to follow an irreversible path based on political and economic reforms. Consequently, contributing to the creation of a community of peoples who, leaving the past behind them, look to the future, a European future, one accompanied by a gradual strengthening of ties with the European Union.

Albania is on the path towards difficult political, institutional and economic reforms. The European Union is determined to do everything in its power to accompany it along that path. Albania has rejoined the European family and is welcome there.



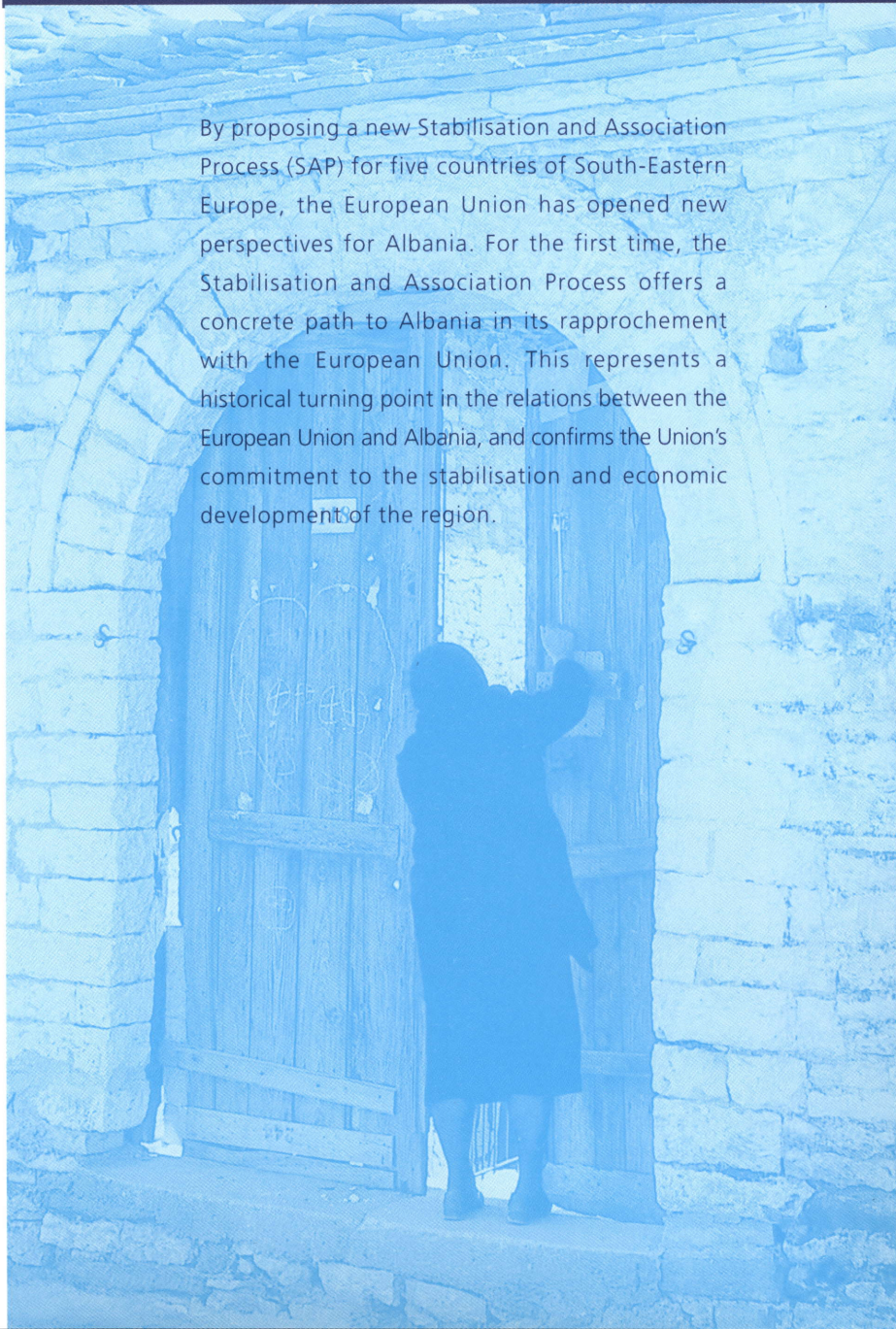


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1 > Opening up new perspectives

By proposing a new Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) for five countries of South-Eastern Europe, the European Union has opened new perspectives for Albania. For the first time, the Stabilisation and Association Process offers a concrete path to Albania in its rapprochement with the European Union. This represents a historical turning point in the relations between the European Union and Albania, and confirms the Union's commitment to the stabilisation and economic development of the region.





The European Union: Albania's main partner since 1991

Since 1991, the European Union has developed an active partnership with Albania in supporting its process of institutional, political and economic reform. The European Union was one of the first actors to provide humanitarian aid and financial support after the demise of the communist regime. Well aware of the difficulties encountered by Albania in the transition towards a democratic state and a functioning market economy, the European Union has shown continued commitment to encouraging a rapprochement between Albania and European values and standards.

For fifty years prior to 1991, Albania's regime led to almost complete political and economic isolation which created important social, political and economic asymmetries between Albania and the rest of Europe. From 1991 to the present day, Albania has initiated a move towards reforms to facilitate its development into an open and democratic society and a market-oriented economy. Progress has been made, particularly in liberalisation and private sector development, as well as in agricultural production and small and medium-sized enterprises. However, in 1997, following a spectacular transition period and four consecutive years of 9 percent real growth, Albania faced its first structural crisis, triggered by the collapse of the pyramid schemes. The crisis highlighted major deficiencies in the financial sector, the institutional and legislative framework, and more generally in the functioning of the State.

This acute societal and state crisis, coupled with unfavourable socio-economic conditions, prompted the European Union and the international community to reinforce their assistance efforts. A Recovery Strategy was developed by the European Union in partnership with the World Bank. This concerted effort by the European Union and International Financial Institutions helped to restore order and inject new impetus into the economy.

The Albanian government in turn showed its resolve in devising a strategy for political, social, and economic reform and recovery, and to cope with the economic and social disturbances of 1997. Macroeconomic stability was largely restored in 1998. The entry into force, in 1998, of the new Albanian constitution via public referendum was an important step forward in this respect.

However, unfavourable events hampered Albania's onward progress. The Kosovo conflict in the spring of 1999 precipitated the influx into Albania of nearly half a million refugees. Throughout this major crisis, the Albanian people have expressed all their solidarity in providing shelter and first aid to their displaced ethnic kin. The European Union recognised this effort, and was quick to provide financial support to alleviate the burden on a population already living in harsh conditions.

> Priorities: citizenship, rule of law and socio-economic improvement

The modernisation of the Albanian State depends on developing a new sense of citizenship among the population. This goes hand in hand with establishing the rule of law, a necessary pre-condition to improving the socio-economic context. A positive political impetus and strong state institutions are key to an adequate framework for long-term economic development. Albanians and the Albanian State must work together in this endeavour. Recognising the arduous task to be accomplished, the European Union will provide continuous support in order to help Albania meet the conditions laid out in the Stabilisation and Association process - the new framework for developing closer relations with the European Union.



2 > Preparing tomorrow's Europe The overall aim of the European

Union's assistance to Albania is to improve the living conditions of the population. Aid is thus designed to be long term. It is not simply a matter of helping a country cope with a crisis at a given moment. Most of the assistance projects are long-term investments to promote civic values and solid democratic institutions. They aim to bring the country's administrative and legislative institutions closer to European standards, and to assist in the creation of a viable market economy, so as to help Albania gradually take its place in the construction of tomorrow's Europe. The launch of the Stabilisation and Association Process represents a major step in this direction.

The European Union provides substantial financial and technical assistance to the countries of South-Eastern Europe. Between 1991 and 1999 the European Union has provided around € 4.5 billion to the five countries including macro-financial assistance. When humanitarian assistance and the contribution of Member States are included, the sum given to the wider region is in the order of € 17 billion.

Key steps in Albanian-EU relations

1992 > Agreement on Trade and Commercial and Economic Co-operation

The Agreement on Trade and Commercial and Economic Co-operation entered into force on 1 December 1992. Albania was the first country in South-Eastern Europe to conclude such an Agreement with the European Union.

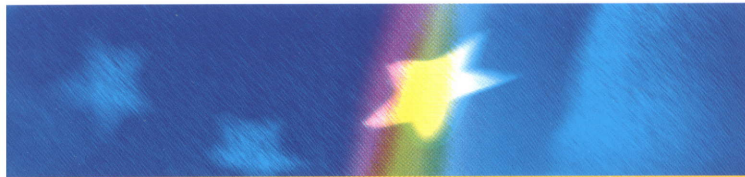
Since 1992, Albania benefits from the Phare Programme.

1997 > Regional Approach

In April 1997, the European Union General Affairs Council adopted the Regional Approach, establishing political and economic conditionality for the development of bilateral relations with five countries in the region - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Conditions include respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law, protection of minorities, market economy reforms and regional co-operation.

1999 > Stabilisation and Association Process

The European Commission proposed, on 26 May 1999, the creation of a Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The SAP provides a new framework for the development of relations between these countries and the European Union.



> What is the Stability Pact ?

The Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, adopted on 10 June 1999 in Cologne, is a European Union initiative. Its aim is to bring peace, stability and economic development to the region.

The EU's main contribution to the Stability Pact is the new Stabilisation and Association Process it offers to five countries of the region.

The Stabilisation and Association Process

The European Union is strongly committed to the stabilisation and development of South-Eastern Europe. The Union's strategy is to draw the countries of the region closer to the prospect of European integration. The key element in this strategy is the Stabilisation and Association Process for five countries of the region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

For the first time, the Stabilisation and Association Process offers these five countries a prospect of European Union integration, based on a progressive approach based on the specific situation of each country. This prospect is a historical turning point in relations between the five countries and the European Union.

The Stabilisation and Association Process offers stronger incentives to these five countries, but also places more demanding political and economic conditions on them. The need for regional co-operation is stressed particularly strongly.

In order to develop a closer relationship with the European Union, these countries will have to gear their political, economic and institutional development to the values and models underpinning the European Union: democracy, respect for human rights and a market economy. The European Union will support and assist them in introducing the reforms necessary to progress in these areas.

> The Stabilisation and Association Process at a glance



What is it ?

- > The European Union's (EU's) main contribution to the Stability Pact for South-East Europe.
- > Enhancement of the Regional Approach, which has until now provided the framework for the development of relations between the European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania.
- > Stronger incentives for the region, but also more demanding conditions regarding political and economic development and regional co-operation.
- > A tailor-made, progressive approach that takes into account the individual situation of each country. Some countries can progress faster than others.

What is in it ?

The Stabilisation and Association Process will include, as appropriate:

- > Stabilisation and Association Agreements: a new kind of contractual relationship offered by the European Union -in return for compliance with the relevant conditions to the countries concerned. This represents a new dimension in relations with these five countries, offering for the first time a clear prospect of integration into the EU's structures;
- > Autonomous Trade Measures and other economic and trade relations;
- > Economic and financial assistance, budgetary assistance and balance of payment support;
- > Assistance for democratisation and civil society;
- > Humanitarian aid for refugees, returnees and other persons of concern;
- > Co-operation in justice and home affairs;
- > Development of a political dialogue.

What is the ultimate goal ?

To bring peace, stability and economic development to the region and open the perspective of long-term membership of the European Union.



3 > Main areas of European Union support to Albania

A. Institutional reform

The stability of the Albanian State depends on its capacity to maintain internal security and establish a transparent, fair and accountable public administration. Trust in state institutions is essential to create true civic values. Therefore, the European Union will continue to pay considerable attention to the establishment and enforcement of the rule of law. The fight against corruption and crime forms an integral part of this programme.

> Reinforcing citizenship and democratic practice

The European Union funds a wide range of small projects to reinforce citizenship, democratic practice and human rights in the Albanian society. Both European and Albanian non-governmental organisations are supported in their actions covering different target groups: parliamentarians, women, media, etc. Examples: seminars promoting public awareness of the new Albanian constitution; training for parliamentarians in modern parliamentary practice; training journalists to promote understanding and tolerance in their work.

To provide for a greater gender balance in Albanian politics and public administration, the project "Women and Politics", seeks to provide Albanian women with the skills necessary to work in politics. While in 1997, 54 % of the Albanian population eligible to vote were women, only 7 % of them were represented in the Albanian Parliament. To achieve a fairer distribution of seats in Parliament between men and women, the French Non Governmental Organisation "Est a Venir" works together with the Albanian Non Governmental Organisation "Independent Forum of the Albanian women" (Forumi I Pavarur I Gruas shqiptare) since 1998. The project covers 16 regions of Albania.



> **Reforming the judicial system**

Respect for human rights can only be achieved through an efficient legal system and an independent judiciary, based on a clear separation of powers. Since 1993, the European Union provided funding for legal system reform and co-operated with the Council of Europe in a first joint programme which was completed in June 1995. This programme concentrated on drafting the Penal Code, the Code of Penal Procedure, the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure. It included intensive training for magistrates and other judicial staff. Considerable progress was achieved, but there was still a need for assistance after completion of this project. Upon request of the Albanian authorities, a second joint Programme for legal system reform was set up with the European Union and the Council of Europe in the Spring of 1995. This involved a series of specific projects:

- 1 > Assistance to the Ministry of Justice for drafting an organic law and its implementation decrees and to set up a State Office of Publications;
- 2 > Establishment of the school of magistrates for the training and improvement of the professional level of judges ;
- 3 > Support to law enforcement : prison reform (setting up of a training academy for prison staff) and reform of the police academy;
- 4 > Development of administrative law;
- 5 > Assistance to make Albanian legislation compatible with European standards;
- 6 > assistance to draft a new Constitution;
- 7 > Reorganisation of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

An important part of European Union effort to reform the Albanian legal system concerns improvement of overall working conditions, mainly through building renovation and the delivery of modern office equipment to magistrates.

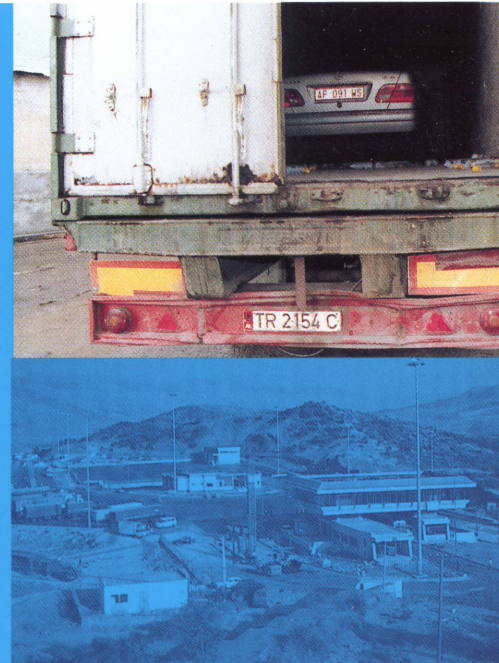
The European Union has renovated six courts of justice in Vlora, Durres, Korça, Elbasan, Gjirokaster and the Appeal Court of Tirana. This included furniture and an Information Technology Network provided to the Ministry of Justice, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court. The European Union has provided € 3.5 Million for the construction of the new district court in Tirana, and € 1.2 Million for the rehabilitation of the Police Academy in Tirana. Rehabilitation works for two prisons in the capital were completed in July 1998. The Lezha prison will soon be able to host 750 prisoners. The Fush Kruja prison is the next project.

> **Establishing an efficient civil service**

The overall aim of public sector reform is to lay the groundwork for efficient and sustainable public administrations to develop. Civil servants must enhance their professionalism and therefore be adequately trained. They need career structures and prospects. The Albanian government presented its public sector reform programme at the 1997 Donor Conference organised by the EU and other donors following the pyramid crisis.

> Launch of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative

On 19 and 20 May 2000, six Adriatic and Ionian countries (Italy, Greece, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia) and the European Commission launched the "Adriatic and Ionian Initiative". This comes within the framework of the Stability Pact and the Stabilisation and Association Process. The six countries decided to intensify their co-operation in the fields of economy, tourism, maritime transport, environment, inter-university co-operation, the fight against organised crime and illegal activities and the development of the private sector. The initiative was launched by European Commission President Romano Prodi, who declared that the Commission will contribute to specific actions, namely in the fields of security, the fight against crime, the environment and education. Trade liberalisation is, in his opinion, a fundamental factor for cohesion, as demonstrated by the European Union experience.



The State Institution and Public Administration Reform (SIPAR) was set up to implement the reform programme. It targets three key areas in public sector reform:

- 1 > General Public Administration Reform
- 2 > Public Expenditures Management
- 3 > External Audit with the setting up of a Supreme Audit Institute.

The objectives of this project were to enhance the professionalism of the civil system and set up adequate monitoring for financial management and control. The Albanian Department of Public Administration, the co-ordinating department of SIPAR, was trained to better implement its newly expanded management functions.

A concrete result: the setting up of a *Civil Service Commission*, approved by the Albanian Parliament in November 1999. It is the key institution of control and appeal for the protection of the professionalism and democratic standards of the civil service.

The Civil Service Commission is tasked with overseeing the recruitment, promotions and dismissals procedures amongst other things, and above all, is responsible for the proper implementation of the Civil Service Law.

> **Collecting essential revenues for the State: customs**

Customs duties form an essential part of Albania's public revenue. Following the civil unrest in 1997,

the customs service lost control of ports and border crossings, and consequently of its potential for revenue collection. Upon request of the Albanian government, the European Commission deployed a *Customs Assistance Mission in Albania* (the CAM-A programme) in June 1997, to help restore control and at the same time develop a viable modern customs service. The primary objectives were to help the Albanian customs service restore control over border crossings, regulate customs revenue collection, and combat smuggling and widespread corruption. In 1998, following a conference in Tirana, the Albanian authorities asked for the continuation of the Customs Assistance Mission to step up efforts by the government and the international community to fight high levels of corruption and fraud.

CAM-A includes the creation of a Pre-Arrival Intelligence System (PAIS), a sophisticated computerised device to track carriers "en route" from neighbouring states. Customs legislation and implementation have been brought in line with European and WTO standards. For customs enforcement, an anti-smuggling service with 24 teams has been recruited, trained and deployed. The central structure of the intelligence service with headquarters and regional departments has been created, including recruitment and training of special officers.

Today, Albania is the leading country in the region for its anti-smuggling ability and intelligence development.

ASYCUDA, a new electronic customs clearance system will soon be set up in Albania.



> Training police officers

The police has a major role to play in civil protection and law enforcement. Albania's massive civil unrest in 1997 clearly demonstrated the need to reinforce the police's operational capacity. The European Union requested the establishment of the Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE) managed by the Western European Union (WEU) funded by the European Union. MAPE has and continues to provide valuable advice and training to the Albanian police forces.

Around 140 WEU officers work on a day-to-day basis with their Albanian counterparts. The European Union provided new uniforms, police vehicles, spare parts and protection devices. Police training centres were renovated and equipped, like in Tirana and Durres, to host intensive training sessions of 8 to 9 weeks. By the end of the year 2000, the European Union will have trained 1300 Albanian police officers.

To enable the police to make best use of modern technologies, an Information Technology a Master plan will be developed. The MAPE/WEU mission also assists the Albanian authorities in the preparation of a strategy for medium-term development of the Albanian police. This includes drafting legislation on professional police regulations as well as on policing economic crime.

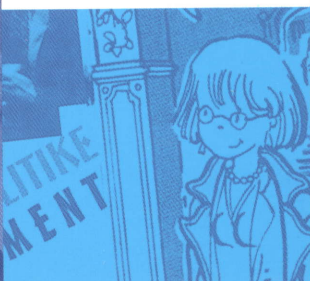
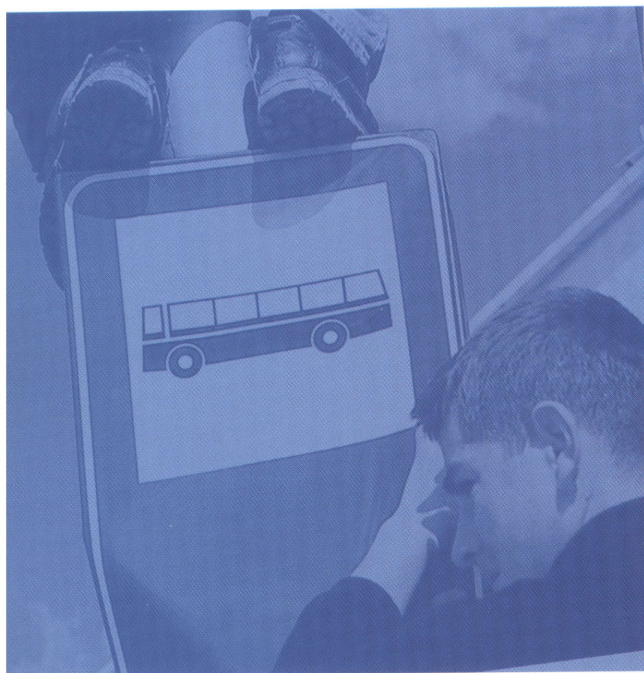
> Providing socio-economic data: statistics

Since 1989, internal and external population migrations have occurred and Albania's socio-economic patterns have undergone major changes. The government lacks accurate data on the population's current geographical distribution and its composition. These figures are essential to design policies and to evaluate budget allocations for regional economic planning.

In 1998, the European Union provided INSTAT, the national statistical institution, with funding to conduct a survey on living conditions in Albania.

At present, INSTAT is preparing out statistics on consumer budgets. The European Union will also help INSTAT organise a population and housing census in the year 2001, by covering 40% of the operational costs of such an operation. Preparations are already underway. Support is foreseen at all stages of the census: preliminary organisation; management of field operations; data processing and analysis.

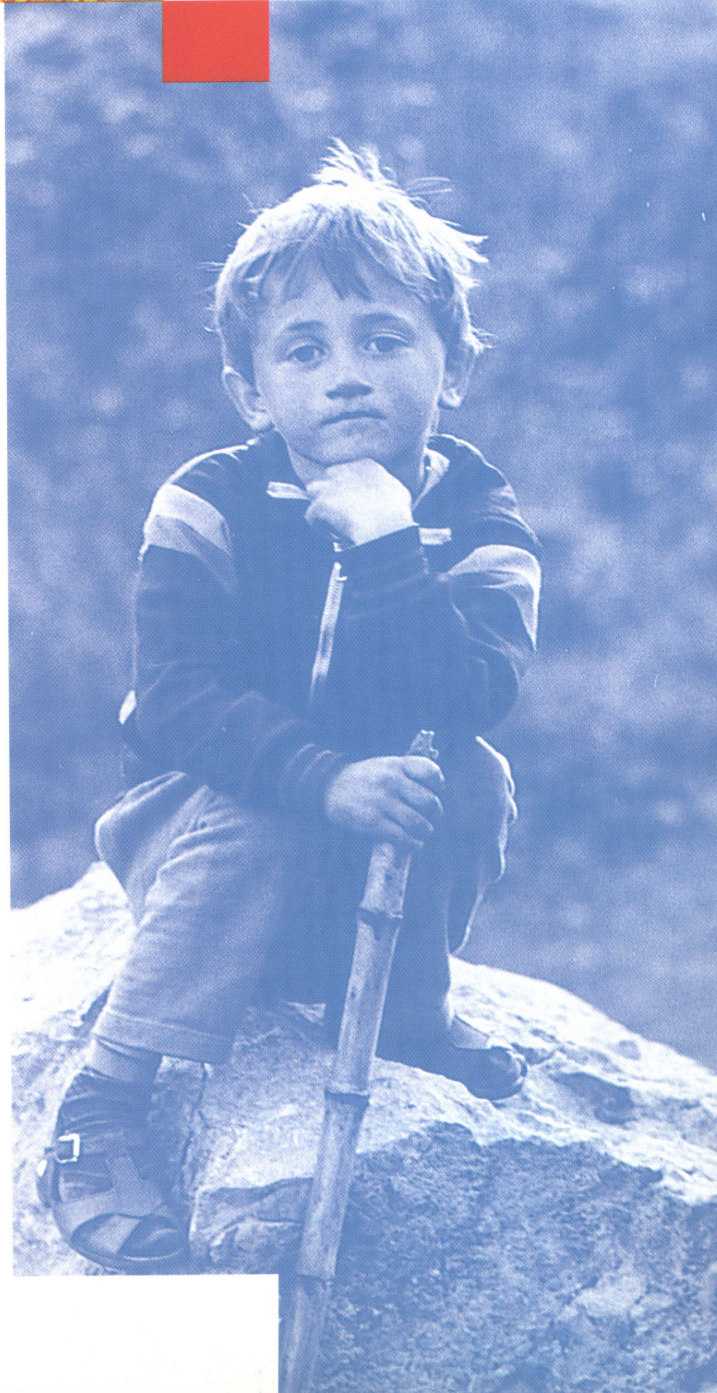
All of activities are followed closely by EUROSTAT, the European Unions' statistical office.



> **Window on Europe:
opening up the education system**

At university level, Albania takes an active part in the EU inter-university exchange programme TEMPUS. Albanian universities are collaborating with their European Union counterparts in joint projects. To date 89 joint projects have been carried out, and 1066 individual grants for students and teaching staff have been provided. For the years 2001 - 2002, € 1.6 million have been set aside for joint European projects between higher education institutions in Albania and partners in European Union Member States. TEMPUS covers projects which aim to restructure and improve courses, develop university management and projects which help develop co-operation between universities and enterprises.

The vocational sector is in great need of reform in Albania. The European Training Foundation is planning to launch a project on support for small and medium sized enterprises to better adapt the skills to the labour market, and to develop managerial skills in SME's.





B. Infrastructure Development

Infrastructures are generally considered key factors in improving living conditions and facilitating economic growth. Public services and infrastructures in Albania are scarce, of poor quality... and there is still much room for improvement. Rehabilitation (and new construction) of public buildings provides better working conditions to the public service.

Access to many villages and remote urban districts is critical to improve living standards and to provide for an unrestricted flow of goods, services and people. The realisation of an improved transport network for Albania will strengthen and facilitate links to the region and the European Union.

> Building roads and ports

The physical remoteness of Albania due to its rugged terrain, and the considerable traffic increase over the last ten years calls for urgent improvements in the transport sector. Direct roads between main cities are crucial. Albania also needs to be connected with its neighbouring countries, and become an integral part of the Trans-European road network. Both the Phare Cross Border Programme and overall Phare funds focus on the development of efficient transport systems in strategic locations. The transport sector represents the biggest sector of the Phare Programme in Albania. Since 1992, € 140 Million were allocated to Transport projects. These focus on the 2 national axes (North South and East-West national axes).

Most of the projects are devised under a comprehensive regional strategy. Many roads in repair or under construction are part of the Pan European Corridor VIII: This corridor links the two Albanian ports of Durres and Vlora with Italy. The same corridor also channels the traffic eastwards to the Macedonian and Greek borders. It crosses the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and ends up at Bulgarian Ports on the Black Sea, also linking with the Turkish border.



> Linking Albania with its neighbours:
The Cross-Border Co-operation Programme (CBC)

The Phare Cross-Border Co-operation Programme (CBC) offers a further opportunity to open up the country and to develop closer links with its immediate European Union neighbours - Greece and Italy - as well as its neighbours in South-Eastern Europe. The Albanian-Greek Cross Border Co-operation Programme's 1995-1999 strategic aims were to strengthen co-operation and overcome the socio-economic gap between the Albanian and Greek regions. Similarly, the purpose of the Albanian-Italian Cross Border Co-operation Programme is to focus on those regions of Albania, which have a common maritime border with Italy with a particular emphasis on improving and expanding transport infrastructure and maritime systems. Future Cross-Border Co-operation Programmes also aim to reinforce the cross border dimension between Albania and its neighbours in South-Eastern Europe.

Road construction started in 1998 at the convergence of the 2 national axes, between the port of Durres and the city of Rrogozhine. To reduce traffic congestion, sections of this road are being widened and asphalted. The road from Tirana to Durres being the most crowded road link in Albania, is for its part being constructed as four lane highway. At the other end of the East-West axis, works have just been started on an important section allowing the access to the Greek border: Korçe-Kapshtice. Two sections of the North-South axis have also been designed and construction started in 1999 between Rrogozhine and Lushnje, and more in the South of the country, between Gjirokaster and Kakavija, on the Greek border.

The renovation and modernisation of ports, particularly the Durres Ferry Terminal and the Port of Vlora, will facilitate the efforts of the Albanian authorities to manage international and national maritime traffic more efficiently.





> Improving water supply and distribution

Efficient water management is crucial to ensure public health and to preserve the environment. The water sector is considered as an important area for infrastructure development in Albania. Water supply and distribution networks continue to deteriorate. Inadequate sewage networks and the absence of wastewater treatment are a major cause for concern. The European Union, through the Phare Programme, is providing assistance and support in the form of institutional strengthening of municipalities and urgent rehabilitation of water supply networks and wastewater systems.

With the assistance of the European Union, the Albanian government has developed a national water strategy. A *Water Regulatory Agency*, set up in 1996, develops tariff policies and promotes the participation of private companies in this sector.

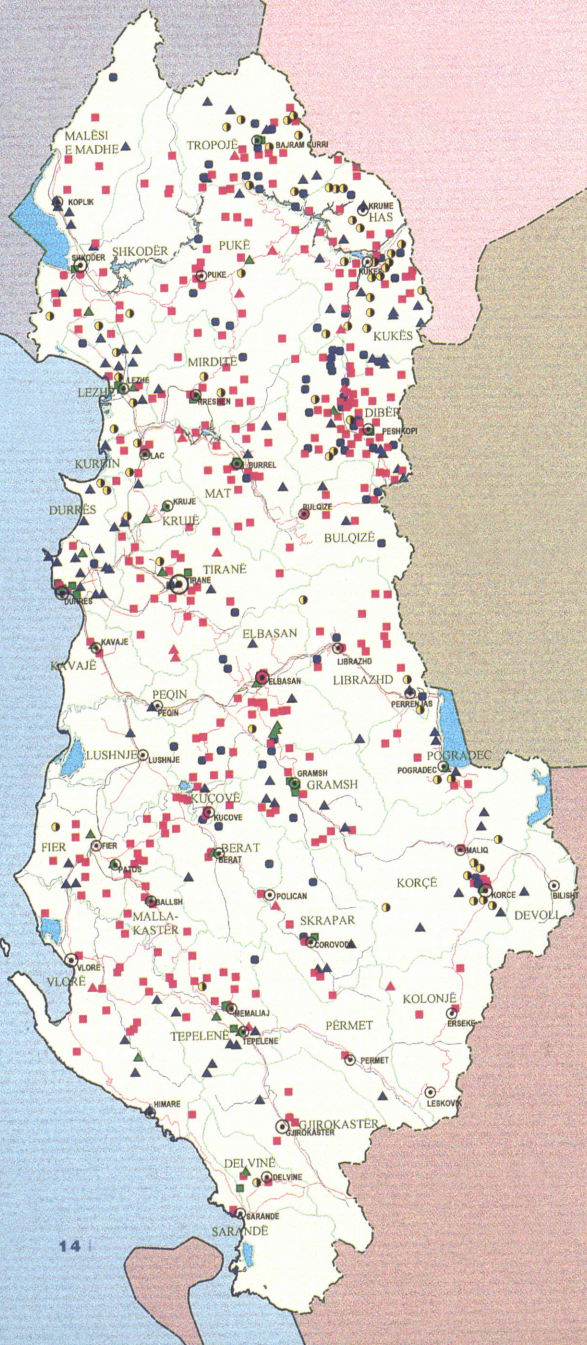
The European Union is repairing water systems in Vloora, Fier, Gjirokaster, Sranda, Lezha, Shengjin, and Tirana. Up until 1999, around € 40 Million were committed to this sector.

> Creating a better working environment for the public service

In order to achieve its work properly, the Albanian public administration needs know-how and technical assistance from the European Union, but it also needs a suitably- adapted working environment. Public buildings need to be rehabilitated to allow civil servants to carry out their work in better conditions. School children, prisoners, magistrates, lawyers, etc. also need a better environment.

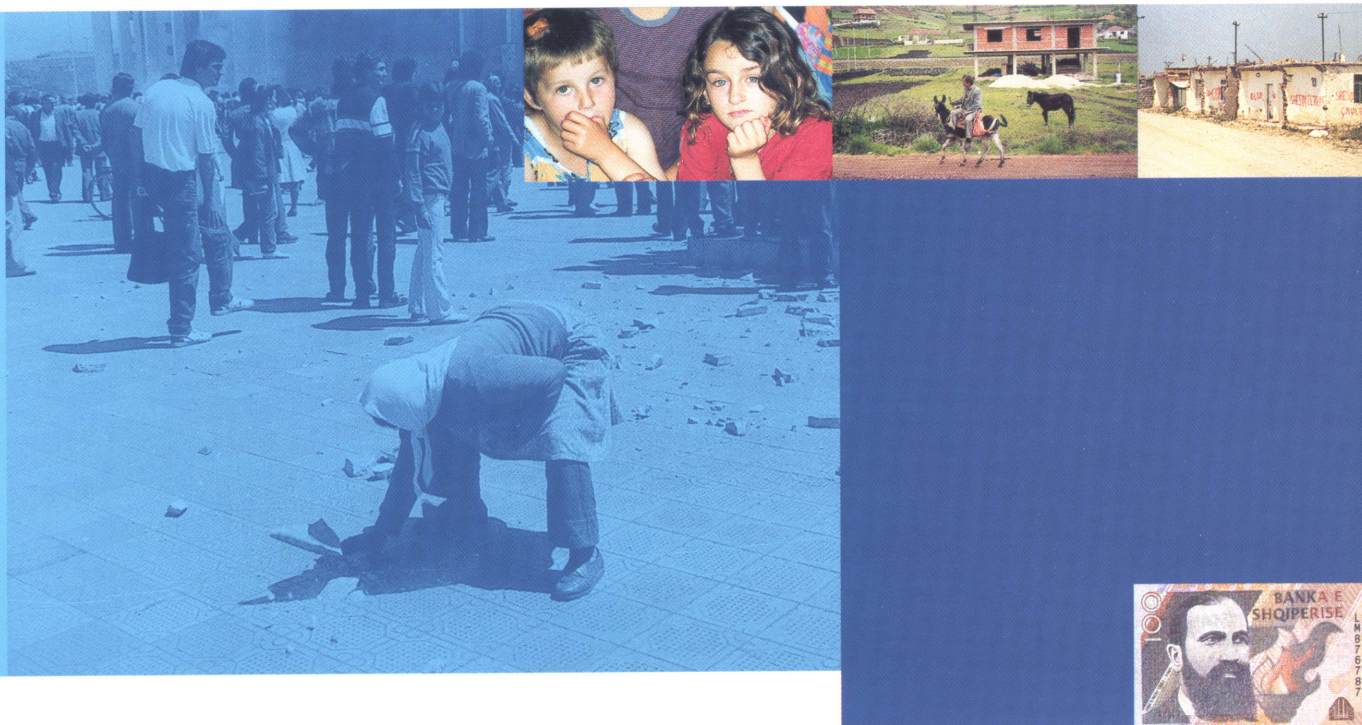
Between 1994 and 1998, 80 schools have been renovated in 6 Albanian districts, with particular emphasis on schools in rural areas.

Improvements in border crossings are essential to accelerate the traffic at Albania's borders, and to facilitate the work of the Albanian customs services. Through its Phare programme, the European Union has committed € 3 Million to the improvement (or rehabilitation) of the Kakavia and Kapshtica border posts along the Greek border. Construction for other border posts has already started : one in Tri Urat, also on the Greek border (€ 3.4 Million), and one in Hani Hotit, on the border with Montenegro (€ 0.55 Million).



> Improving the local environment

Local community development programmes aim to improve the living conditions of Albania's predominantly rural population. This represents the right approach to strengthening the state from the "bottom up". Out of the 643 projects implemented by the Albanian Development Fund, 46,1% have been contracted by the European Union. Projects involve improving public access to drinking water; bridges and roads to link with remote areas; irrigation systems for farmers; renovation of markets – these are the real centres of local community life in Albania. The overall aim is to achieve higher living standards by improving the rural environment, and to strengthen local administrations who are trained to manage these projects.



C. Food aid and food safety

To help the new democratic regime cope with the initial transition difficulties following the demise of the communist regime, in 1991 and 1992 the European Union provided Albania with food aid amounting to a total of € 120 Million.

In the two crisis periods in 1997 and 1999, the European Union helped the Albanian government to ensure the necessary food supply for the population. Food security programmes include provision of foreign exchange to be used for food and agricultural imports, and the budgetary use of countervalue funds. The overall objective of food security programmes is to support the Albanian structural adjustment efforts in areas related to food safety.

D. Macro-economic assistance

The European Union provides macroeconomic assistance to Albania in three different forms: budgetary assistance, support to the balance of payments and loans through the European Investment Bank.

In 1997, following the massive civil unrest, the European Union provided € 14.7 Million in special budgetary assistance to the Albanian budget.

Macroeconomic assistance has also been given to Albania in the form of balance of payments support to help the IMF-designed stabilisation and adjustment programme. This totalled € 125 Million between 1991 and 1999, including € 20 Million to help Albania host Kosovo refugees in 1999.

From 1991 to 1999, European Investment Bank loans to the Albanian government, principally aimed at infrastructure projects, totalled € 84 Million.

European Commission Assistance to Albania, 1991-2000 [allocations in millions of euro] Last figures available = March 2000

Sectors	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	TOTAL 1991-99	2000 (1)	TOTAL 1991-00
Phare (DG Relex)	10,0	110,0	75,0	49,2	88,0	53,0	68,9	42,5	121,5	618,1	35,0	653,1
FEOGA (DG AGRI)		120,0								120,0		120,0
ECHO (humanitarian aid)		2,0	0,5	1,7	1,2	1,7	16,3	12,0	91,0	126,2	6,0	256,5
Food security (DG DEV)							10,8		5,7	16,5		33,0
BOP support (DG ECOFIN)									20,0	20,0		40,0
Other programmes		0,3	0,6	1,1	0,4	j.d.	j.d.	j.d.	j.d.	2,4	j.d.	2,4
OSCE, support to S&A Process							1,5			1,5		
European Investment Bank (loans)					34,0	12,0		22,0	16,0	84,0		84,0
Total	10,0	232,3	76,1	52,0	123,6	66,7	97,5	76,5	254,2	988,7	41,0	1189,0

(1) national programme only
n.a. = non available



E. Emergency aid for the most vulnerable: The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO)

If you see the ECHO sign it means only one thing: "We, the people of the European Union, are helping you, the people of Albania, to help yourselves".

ECHO, the European Community Humanitarian Office, is the humanitarian arm of the European Union. It forms an integral part of the European Commission.

ECHO manages and co-ordinates the EU's humanitarian actions in third countries.

It has been active in Albania since 1992, and channelled more than € 95 Million in humanitarian aid to the country.

ECHO works via non governmental organisations like Médecins sans Frontières, OXFAM, CARE, but also with the Red Cross, and specialised United Nations agencies like the UNHCR or the World Food Programme. It is the main humanitarian aid donor in the world.

ECHO opened an office in Tirana during the crisis due to civil unrest in the spring of 1997. Water sanitation and public health were and still remain the main priorities of ECHO's actions in Albania.

From 1992 to 1999, ECHO has helped renovate 376 hospitals, health centres, schools, orphanages, old people's homes and social centres. It has provided drinking water to 88 villages and sub-urban areas. It has provided medical equipment, supplies and training to health and education professionals. ECHO has delivered food and hygiene products to the most vulnerable groups in Albanian society.

At present ECHO is managing and co-ordinating 446 individual projects in the health, water sanitation, education and social sectors through 53 implementing partners. Albania represents one of the largest areas of activity for ECHO worldwide.



> ECHO and the Kosovo crisis

In the spring of 1999, Albania witnessed the influx of nearly half a million Kosovar refugees. ECHO played a major role in helping to provide relief to entire families expelled from their homes. Food, water, shelter and medical care were delivered to the refugees but also to the most needy of the Albanian population.



> Shelter

ECHO has worked with a wide number of NGO's to help provide emergency shelter, including constructing camps. Reception centres were set up so that refugees could rest before their further transfer. The co-operation of ECHO with bilateral assistance from its NGO partners and Member States allowed the best use of respective resources and skills.

> Water/Sanitation

The lack of drinking water, which had always been of deep concern in Albania, became acute in the face of this enormous population displacement. ECHO quickly installed a water system in an area where there was usually no water available during one month in the summer. A comprehensive emergency water programme in Kukes for the provision of safe water to refugees in camps and collective shelters was established. Construction of Latrines in Kukes prevented health threats and epidemics.

> Medical care

When crossing the border into Albania, refugees were physically and mentally exhausted, did not eat for days and many of them were injured. Extra beds in hospitals were provided, medical facilities were set up. Rehabilitation started at Tirana's military hospital. In Fier, the hospital was equipped and re-organised in order to provide emergency care. Mobile clinics and health posts were installed in various remote regions.

> Logistics

ECHO set up a transport fleet for humanitarian organisations in need of logistical support. This proved to be of major importance due to the limited number of international carriers operating in high-risk areas.



> The European Union and Albania: coming closer together through culture

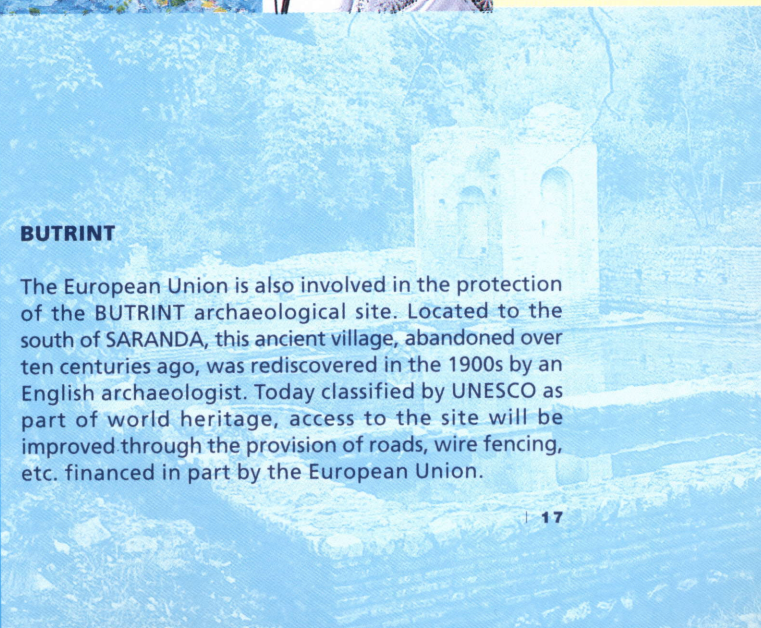
The Delegation of the European Commission in Albania regularly organises and sponsors cultural activities as a way to promote Albanian and European artists. In order to celebrate the 9 May 2000 – Europe's Day – the Delegation sponsored the first choir festival in Tirana, with six Albanian and five foreign choirs participating (from Germany, Bulgaria, France, FYR Macedonia, Italy). Together they performed a magnificent Ode to Joy and the Requiem of Mozart in Tirana's International Centre of Culture.

The European Union also promotes contemporary Albanian artists by hosting exhibitions of their work in the EC delegation building. Among the artists who have held or will hold exhibitions are: Lume Blloshmi, Edi Hila, Arben Golemi, Zanfira Heta, Roland Tasho, Sali Shijaku, Maks Velo, Hasan Nallbani, Ali Oseku.



BUTRINT

The European Union is also involved in the protection of the BUTRINT archaeological site. Located to the south of SARANDA, this ancient village, abandoned over ten centuries ago, was rediscovered in the 1900s by an English archaeologist. Today classified by UNESCO as part of world heritage, access to the site will be improved through the provision of roads, wire fencing, etc. financed in part by the European Union.





4 > The legal framework for European Union assistance to Albania

> Until 2000: PHARE and ECHO

In the past, the Phare regulation has provided the main legal basis for the EU's assistance to Albania (¹). Phare is the main channel for the European Union's financial and technical co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

> A new regulation for the countries of South-Eastern Europe

The European Commission adopted on 10 May 2000 a proposal for a Regulation on assistance to the countries of the Western Balkans. This Regulation, provisionally called CARDS (²), will unify in one legal basis, with a single set of uniform procedures, assistance to the entire region which currently comes under the OBNOVA and PHARE programmes. This will help to simplify and speed up the provision of assistance. The proposed Regulation sets out the main objectives, which are to support the participation of the recipient countries in the Stabilisation and Association Process—which, as stated by the Lisbon European Council, is the centre-piece of European Union policy in the region—and to achieve close regional cooperation.

In the course of the process the recipient countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) will have to redirect their political, economic and institutional development to bring them in line with European Union values and models.

In more concrete terms, the assistance will be for:

- > reconstruction and stabilisation in the region;
- > support for democracy, rule of law, human rights and minorities;
- > economic development and market-economy-oriented reforms;
- > development of closer relations between the EU countries and recipient countries as well as with applicant countries.

Regional cooperation is given special attention, in accordance and alignment with the aims of the Stability Pact.

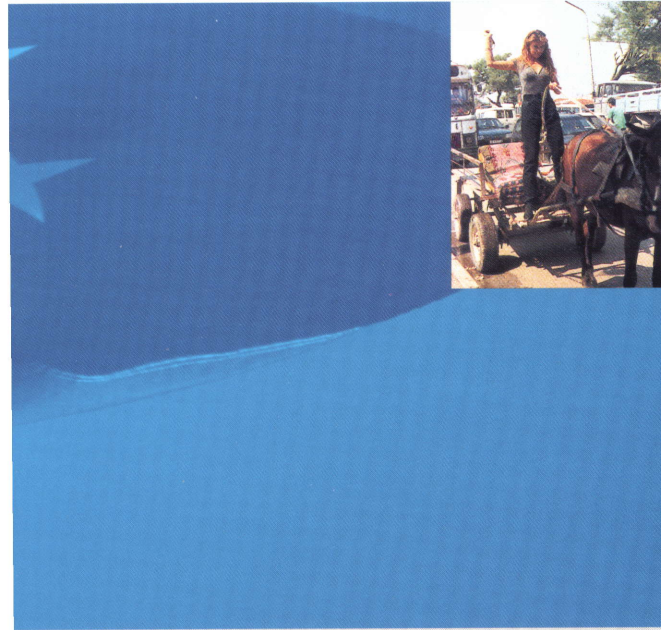
The assistance will be programmed in close collaboration with the authorities concerned, which will have to continue to undertake the institutional, administrative and economic reforms so that the assistance will be fully effective in meeting the EU's objectives for the region: fullest possible integration of the countries of the region into the political and economic mainstream of Europe.

Political conditionality proposed, makes the respect for the principles of democracy and the rule of law and for human and minority rights and other fundamental freedoms, a precondition of eligibility for assistance.

In order **to speed up implementation** of the operations it is proposed that the management committee, which will assist the Commission, should give opinions on financing decisions which exceed € 10 Million.

(¹) The PHARE programme was created in December 1989 under Council Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89 (OJ L 375, 23.12.1989) in order to support the process of reform in Poland and Hungary and, in particular, to finance economic restructuring projects. Since then the PHARE programme has been extended, first to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Romania, then to Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, as well as Slovenia and, more recently, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

(²)CARDS: Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Democratisation and Stabilisation



> **What does the new regulation mean for future European Union assistance to Albania?**

- > Future assistance to Albania will continue to be focused on public administration reform and the rule of law (judiciary, customs, police, public administration, statistics), with the clear aim of helping the country to live up to the conditions laid out in the Stabilisation and Association Process.
- > A substantial effort will continue in the field of infrastructures (mainly transport and water) where the needs remain very high.
- > Cross-border co-operation programmes will continue, and could be extended to include collaboration with neighbouring countries like the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Regional co-operation programmes in selected areas could be granted.
- > Democratisation, civil society and raising awareness about civic values will be encouraged.
- > Local development and social issues will receive increased attention from the European Union.

5 > The European Union as a partner to other international organisations and institutions

The European Union has realised that combining its efforts with other international financing institutions and aid providers will maximise the impact of international assistance. The European Union, through the European Commission, has become an indispensable partner to the World Bank, the IMF, the OSCE, the IDA, the WEU, and the Council of Europe.

> **European Commission / World Bank partnership**

The European Union and the World Bank have developed a close partnership in providing assistance to the countries of South-Eastern Europe, including Albania.

Together with the EBRD, they developed, in July 1997, the strategic paper "Albania - Directions for Recovery and Growth", in consultation with the IMF. The document lays the foundation for the development of future institutional and economic assistance for Albania by the international community. It formed the basis for the International Donor Conference for Albania, organised in Brussels by the European Commission and the World Bank on 22 October 1997.

> **Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**

To show its commitment to fair elections, the European Union partially funded the organisation and monitoring of the 1997 elections through the OSCE.

Since October 1998, the joint chairmanship of the Presidency of the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe set up the "Friends of Albania" group. "Friends of Albania" number representatives of countries and organisations assisting Albania in various forms. Their meetings aim at better co-ordinating between the international community and the Albanian government.

> **Council of Europe (CoE)**

In its efforts to reform the legal and judicial systems, the European Commission has, together with the Council of Europe, implemented three Joint Programmes. The latest action being currently implemented under the Third Joint programme of the EC/CoE is the Action Plan on Judicial and Legal Reform (in operation since January 1999).

> **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

Support for overall improvement in governance and public administration reform was provided by the European Union through the OECD's SIGMA programme.

> **G 24 [define further]**

An Emergency G24/Consultative Group Meeting, co-chaired by the Commission, was held in Brussels on 26 May 1999. The meeting confirmed the donor community's long-term commitment to support Albania's development and provided the government with the resources necessary to continue its programme of reforms.



> The European Union: the main provider of multilateral assistance to Albania

The European Union has been the main provider of multilateral assistance to Albania, representing 54.7% of total multilateral aid to the country. The EU is followed by the World Bank (26%). At bilateral level, Italy (34% of the total) and Germany (18%) are the largest European Union Member State donors, followed by the United States and Japan.

Overall PHARE Assistance in ALBANIA 1991-2000 By Sectors [Mio Euro] [commitments]

Phare assistance by sectors	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total 91-99	2000	Total 91-00
Agriculture		15.0	10.0	5.0		1.7	6.0	6.3	5.2	49.2		49.2
Transport (1)		4.4		21.7	34.0	37.0	23.6	8.0	11.9	140.6		140.6
Private Sector Development (2)		2.8	7.0	3.0	2.0					14.8		14.8
Health		10.0	6.0	7.0						23.0		23.0
Environment			3.3			0.2	0.7			4.2		4.2
Water						1.3	6.0	14.5	17.9	39.7		39.7
Education (incl. TEMPUS)		1.2	2.5	2.4	4.2	2.5	2.5	0.7	1.6	17.6	2.5	20.1
Local Community Development					8.5		5.0	3.0	9.7	26.2		26.2
Public Administration Reform (3)		1.6	1.2	2.6	4.3	8.6	9.7	8.9	11.3	48.2		48.2
Aid Coordination				0.5		1.7		1.1	2.0	5.3		5.3
Financial Sector and Audit							0.5			0.5		0.5
-												
Balance of Payments Support		35.0	35.0		35.0					105.0		105.0
Special Budgetary Assistance							14.9			14.9		14.9
Budgetary Assistance to Kosovo refugees									62.0	62.0		62.0
-												
Phare Humanitarian Assistance	10.0	40.0	10.0	7.0						67.0		67.0
OVERALL PHARE ASSISTANCE	10.0	110.0	75.0	49.2	88.0	53.0	68.9	42.5	121.6	618,2		620.7

(1) includes Transport, Energy, Telecommunications

(2) includes Privatisation, SMEs, Banking, Tourism

(3) includes Civil Service Reform, Supreme Audit Institution, Police, Statistics, Customs, Judiciary and Approximation of legislation

(4) includes feasibility studies in the 1996 COP and the establishment of a Central Contracting and Financial Unit in the 1999 COP

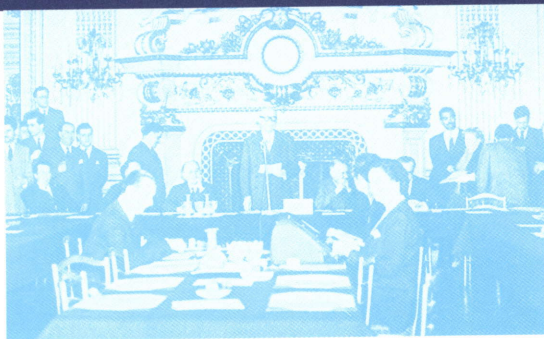
> The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Following a Council Decision on 10 May 1999 under the auspices of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the EU decided to grant € 500 000 to the pilot project "weapons in exchange for development in the Gramsh district of Albania" implemented by the UNDP to raise public awareness in favour of disarmament and to promote this concept.

> The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development encourages co-financing and foreign direct investment from the private and public sectors, helps to mobilise domestic capital, and provides technical co-operation in relevant areas. As of 1999, the EBRD had approved ten investments in Albania, totalling € 91.53 Million. The EBRD, in line with European Union policy for Albania, pursues three key objectives: strengthening the financial sector, promotion of private sector projects, and critical infrastructure development. The European Union is a majority shareholder of the EBRD.

6 > What is the European Union and how does it work?



During its brief history, the European Union has grown greatly in terms of the area it covers - it now numbers fifteen Member States -, its political significance and its institutions. The founding Treaties have been revised three times: in 1987 (the Single Act), in 1992 (the Treaty on European Union) and in 1997 (Treaty of Amsterdam).

The ultimate goal of the European Union is "an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe, in which decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen". The objective is to promote economic and social progress which is balanced and sustainable, assert the European identity on the international scene and introduce a European citizenship for the nationals of the Member States.

La paix mondiale ne saurait être créée que par les créateurs à la mesure des dangers.
La contribution qu'une nation apporte à la civilisation est indissociable de sa contribution à la paix. En se faisant depuis l'Europe unie, la France a toujours été la paix. L'Europe n'a pas été créée par la force. L'Europe ne se fera pas par la force : elle se fera par la paix.

The European Union has its own flag, its own anthem and celebrates Europe Day on 9 May.

The Union's main objectives for the coming years are:

- > the implementation of the Treaty of Amsterdam (which contains new rights for citizens),
- > freedom of movement, employment, strengthening the institutions,
- > enlargement of the European Union,
- > the launch of the Euro.

> Citizens rights

The European Union has gradually been conferring on people new rights, which can be upheld by national courts and by the European Court of Justice. These rights, which have always been regarded by the Court of Justice as general principles that the European institutions were bound by, were written into the Treaty at various stages, reflecting the development of Union activities.

The Treaty of Rome began by outlawing discrimination based on nationality in matters connected with the free movement of workers. Subsequently three other instruments - the Single Act (1987) and the Maastricht (1992) and Amsterdam (1997) Treaties - added further rights which can be divided into three major categories:

- 1 > Fundamental rights
- 2 > Rights inherent in freedom of movement
- 3 > Individual democratic rights

It is essential for the democratic development of the European Union that the rights enjoyed by all people and by European citizens in particular be upheld.

Romano Prodi

Christopher Patten

Pascal Lamy

Poul Nielson



> European Commission

The European Commission is the European Union's executive body. Led by 20 commissioners, the European Commission initiates proposals of legislation and acts as guardian of the Treaties. The Commission is also a manager and executor of common policies and international trade relations. The present Commission has been selected by its Member States until the year 2005. The European Commission has set up delegations in many countries of the world, including Albania.

- > The current **President** of the Commission is Mr. Romano Prodi.
- > The Commissioner responsible for **external relations** is Mr. Christopher Patten.
- > The Commissioner responsible for **trade** is Mr. Pascal Lamy.
- > **ECHO** is under the direct responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson.

The **Common External Service** of the European Commission was set up on 15th October 1997 and became operational on 1st July 1998. It is responsible for managing all aspects of the European Union's aid to non-member countries (from technical and operational to financial and legal matters).

In addition to these formal rights, it should be added that the Amsterdam Treaty implicitly acknowledges that Europeans are entitled to expect the Union to act in matters that concern them.

> The fifteen Member States

In the beginning they were six, then nine, ten, twelve and today fifteen European countries bind together to form the European Union. Fifteen different nations determined to shape their future closely together.

> The European Union

The European Union consists of three pillars: *Pillar one* represents the European Communities, *Pillar two* the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and *Pillar three* Justice and Home Affairs. The European Union has seven governing institutions. The European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of Ministers, the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the European Investment Bank and the European Central Bank. Since the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, Dr. Javier Solana is the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy high representative.

> Council of Ministers

This institution unites the individual Member States that meet on a regular basis on ministerial level. It is the European Union legislative body. For a wide range of issues, it exercises that legislative power in co-decision with the European Parliament.

The Council of Ministers works also for the European Council, made up of the 15 heads of State of the Member states who generally meet twice a year to set specific objectives and priorities regarding the European Union. The Presidency of the European Union the European Council is based on a rotation system. Each Member State takes presidency for 6 months at a time.

> European Parliament (EP)

Representing the people of the EU, the EP is directly elected. With its 626 members, it is the largest multinational parliament in the world. The President of the European Parliament is Mrs. Nicole Fontaine. The EP upholds citizens' rights, adopts legislation, and has budgetary power (the budget does not enter into force until the President of the European Parliament has signed it) and monitors executive power. The European Parliament also appoints an ombudsman who is responsible for investigating disputes which may arise between citizens and the administrative authorities of the European Union institutions. Parliamentary Cooperation Committees closely collaborate with Parliaments all over the world, including Albania. The interparliamentary delegation for South-Eastern Europe consisting of 27 of Members of European Parliament, is chaired by Mrs. Doris PACK (Federal Republic of Germany).



> **European Court of Justice**

Composed of 15 Judges and 9 lawyers. The Court of Justice provides the necessary judicial safeguards to ensure that Community law is observed in the interpretation and application of the Treaties and all legislation based upon them.

> **European Court of Auditors**

The role of the Court of Auditors is to monitor the European Union's budget. As a representative of the European taxpayers, it is responsible for checking that the European Union spends the money according to budgetary rules and regulations.

> **European Investment Bank**

The European Investment Bank is the European Union's financing institution and provides loans for capital investment promoting both internal economic development and integration and to some selected partner countries outside the European Union.

> **European Central Bank**

By signing the Maastricht Treaty, the 15 European Union Member States established a constitution for one common currency. The Euro (€) is to be the common currency for all Europeans and the European Central Bank will be in charge of conducting a monetary policy for Europe. Wim Duisenberg became the first President of the European Central Bank on 1st June 1998.

> **The EURO**

At 0h00 on 1 January 1999, the Euro became the official currency of 11 Member States of the European Union with a fixed conversion rate against their national currencies. The peoples of Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland will be using the Euro as a currency. The value of the Euro against the dollar and all other currencies, including those of the four Member States staying out of the Euro zone, fluctuate according to market conditions. The graphic symbol for the Euro € looks like an E with two clearly marked, horizontal parallel lines across it. It was inspired by the Greek letter epsilon, in reference to the cradle of European civilisation and to the first letter of the word "Europe". The parallel lines represent the stability of the euro. The official abbreviation for the euro is "EUR". There are 8 Euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 Euros, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents. Every Euro coin will carry a common European side. On the reverse side, each Member State will decorate the coins with its own design. All of the coins can be used anywhere inside the 11 Member States. The common European side of the coins represents a map of the European Union against a background of transverse lines to which are attached the stars of the European flag. The 1, 2 and 5 cent coins emphasise Europe's place in the world while the 10, 20 and 50 present the Union as a gathering of nations. The 1 and 2 Euro coins depict Europe without frontiers. Final designs were agreed at the European Council meeting in Amsterdam in June 1997. Although Euro notes and coins will not appear until 1 January 2002, the new currency can be used by consumers, retailers, and companies of all kinds and public administrations from 1 January 1999 in the form of "written money" - that is, by means of cheques, travellers' cheques, bank transfers, credit cards and electronic purses.

7 > Who's who?

CARDS

Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Democratisation and Stabilisation. The CARDS programme will be the main channel for the European Union's financial and technical assistance cooperation with the countries of South Eastern Europe.

CBC

Cross Border Cooperation. Technical Assistance Programme favouring the cross border cooperation between two or more countries. (i.e. Albania-Italy; Albania-Greece).

Communication

A Communication is a policy paper by the European Commission on a specific subject area usually presented to the Council of Ministers to provide impetus for legislation.

EBRD

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Set up on 14 April 1991 in London, the EBRD like the EIB grants loans to private and commercial ventures and infrastructure projects to promote the transition to a free market economy in Central and Eastern, as well as South Eastern Europe. As the Bank's founders, the European Union and its Member States have a 51% majority shareholding.

ECHO

European Community Humanitarian Office, a humanitarian service of the Commission under the supervision of Commissioner Poul Nielson, to provide rapid relief to humanitarian crises all over the world.

ECHR

European Convention of Human Rights. The ECHR was signed on 4 November 1950 by the members of the Council of Europe, who undertook to protect essential fundamental rights collectively. They include a person's right to life, freedom and safety, the right to a fair trial, the right to respect for private and family life, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to freedom of expression and assembly, the prohibition of torture, slavery and forced labour. Anyone whose rights and freedoms under the Convention are violated has the right to effective remedy before a national authority. A European Commission and Court of Human Rights were set up in Strasbourg to ensure that human rights are observed.

Free Trade Area

A group of two or more customs territories where all customs duties and other measures restricting trade between them have been removed.

OBNOVA

The OBNOVA programme is a European Community initiative for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

Phare

The Phare programme is the main channel for the European Union's financial and technical co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which also covered certain countries of South Eastern Europe until 2000.



Regulation

Regulations are the strongest form of Community legislation. They have general application, are binding in their entirety and are directly applicable in all Member States.

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is an international organisation based in the French city of Strasbourg. Its main role is to strengthen democracy, human rights and the rule of law throughout all Member States. The defence and promotion of these fundamental values have become the shared and collective responsibility of all the countries concerned. The Council of Europe is also active in enhancing Europe's cultural heritage in all its diversity. The Council of Europe was established by 10 countries in the wake of the Second World War, with the signing of its Statute in London on 5 May 1949. It now has 41 members. It was given an increased role by the Vienna summit in October 1993, where the Member States recognised how important it was for security and stability in Europe that all its countries should accept the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Under that general concern for democratic security, the Council of Europe has laid down a series of common principles governing the protection of national minorities, actively supported the democratic transition process and strengthened its machinery for monitoring its members' respect for their undertakings. Albania has been a member of the Council of Europe since 13 July 1995.

OSCE

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Since 1995 the OSCE has been carrying on the work started in the 1970s by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The CSCE played an important part in the development of the European policy of détente. With the Charter of Paris, the OSCE operates in three "baskets".

- 1) Security question in Europe;
- 2) cooperation on economic, scientific, technology and environment matters, and
- 3) cooperation on humanitarian and other matters.

The OSCE numbers 57 members, including the United States of America and Canada.

WEU

Western European Union. In 1954 the Western European Union developed from the Brussels Treaty. Its primary role is to guarantee mutual assistance in the case of an attack on Europe and to maintain peace and security in Europe.

WB

World Bank. Founded in 1944, the World Bank Group consists of five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The World Bank is a development institution whose goal is to reduce poverty by promoting sustainable economic growth in its client countries. James D. Wolfensohn is the President of the five institutions.





8 > Delegation of the European Commission to Albania

Structure



I. EU-Albania Relations

- Stabilisation and Association Process
- Cooperation and Trade Agreement
- International Relations

II. Political Matters, Information & Communication

- Internal Politics
- Democratisation
- Press & Information
- Communication
- Cultural Matters

IV. Cooperation Instruments Management

- Financial and Contractual Procedures
- Administrative Management
- Monitoring and Evaluation

III. Cooperation Instruments

- 1) *Institutional Reforms*
 - Justice and Police
 - Public Administration
 - Customs
(CAM-A, Customs Assistance Mission)
 - Local Development
 - Economic Issues
- 2) *Investment Programmes*
 - Transport Infrastructures
 - Water Supply and Sanitation
 - Agriculture
 - Environment
- 3) *Regional Cooperation
and Crossborder Cooperation*
- 4) *Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)*

V. Administration of the Delegation



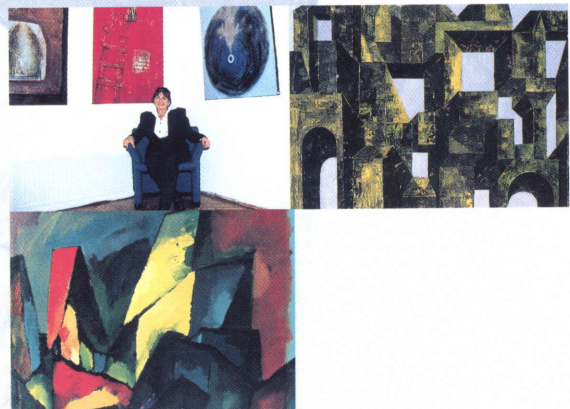
9 > Visibility Teams

For many years, the Delegation of the European Commission in Tirana has endeavoured to involve representatives from Albanian civil society in the dissemination of relevant information to the country's population.

During the summer of 1999, and with support from specialised Brussels-based consultants, the Delegation recruited and trained thirty or so young male and female Albanian students, all members of the "Albanian Pan-European Youth Movement". These young people distributed a whole range of documents (leaflets, posters, stickers...) throughout the country, and answered all of the questions on their content made by recipient Albanians.

Since April 2000, the Delegation is also involved in the co-production of a series of television magazines which, like "EURO-LINE", broadcast every Sunday evening on national television, aim to increase Albanian awareness of the European institutions.

In the future, the Delegation will continue to open its doors and offer its walls for exhibitions by several Albanian artists. It will publish a regular newsletter in Albanian, will place a range of information on the Internet (in English and Albanian) targeted at all of those people who want to gather information on the objectives and content of the European Union's presence in Albania.



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www.eudel-albania.com
www.delalb.cec.eu.int

OTHER INTERESTING RELATED INTERNET SITES:

European Union
<http://europa.eu.int>

European Union External Relations
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/index.htm

The European Commission / World Bank on South-Eastern Europe
www.seerecon.org

The Stability Pact
www.stabilitypact.org



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