

PRESS RELEASE

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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the incidents in Shkoder

The EU is deeply concerned by the serious violence which took place in Shkoder on 22 February and calls on all political forces to use their influence to restrain from acts of violence.

This latest outbreak of violence makes it all the more important that the Democratic Party should rejoin the Albanian Parliament and take up their seats on the Parliamentary Commission on the Constitution. The EU calls again on the opposition to engage in the democratic process without further delay and to contribute to the rebuilding of their country. It is unacceptable that Dr Berisha has gone back on the assurances given to the Parliamentary Troika (OSCE/CoE/EP) and personally to the Presidency (Mr Lloyd during his visit to Albania on 4-5 February 1998) to return to Parliament shortly. That he and his party have decided not to do so is wholly at odds with the goal of stable pluralist democratic institutions in Albania.
