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I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE  
NDËRKOMBËTARE

VJENË

PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

VIENNA

Nr. Prot. 258

**NOTE VERBALE**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Missions and Delegations to the OSCE in Vienna and to the Conflict Prevention Center and has the honour to transmit herewith the Albania's response to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security 2010.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Missions Delegations of the OSCE in Vienna and to the Conflict Prevention Center of the OSCE the assurances of its highest consideration.



*[Signature]*  
**Vienna, May 13th, 2010**

**To All Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE**

**To the Conflict Prevention Center of the OSCE**

**VIENNA**

## QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

### Section I: Inter-State elements

#### 1.

#### Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

##### 1.1

To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, subregional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

Please see Annex 1.

##### 1.2

What national legislation has been adopted in your State to implement the above-mentioned agreements and arrangements?

**The Criminal Code of Albania (hereinafter the Code)** contains a special chapter devoted to terrorism-related offences (Chapter VII, articles 230-234).

**Article 230 of the Code** defines the criminal offence of terrorism, **Article 230/a** the financing of terrorism, **Article 230/b** fund raising to finance terrorism, **Article 231** recruitment for terrorist acts, **Article 232** training for terrorist acts, **Article 232/a** public incitement and propaganda of terrorist acts and financing of terrorism, **Article 232/b** the threat of terrorist acts and **Article 234/a** setting up and participating in terrorist organizations.

**Article 233 of the Code** stipulates that organizing of armed mobs to challenge the public order, by means of violent acts human life, personal health and freedom, as well as property, aimed at spreading massive terror and insecurity, constitutes a criminal offence punishable up to 10 years of incarceration.

**Article 234 of the Code** stipulates that the production, detention and transportation of military, chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, with poisoning or explosive contents, aimed at committing terrorist acts, constitutes a criminal offence punishable from 5 up to 15 years of imprisonment.

In the framework of the fight against terrorism, Albania has approved the following additional legislation.

Law no. 9295, dated 13.03.2003 "For the use of seaports, airports, airspace and other facilities of Albania for contribution to the joint international coalition in the fight against international terrorism".

#### *Suppression of terrorist financing*

The first measures aimed at fighting the financing of terrorism in Albania were adopted in the year 2004 (Law no. 9258, dated 15.7.2004 on the "Measures to fight the Financing of Terrorism). To implement the provisions of this law, the Council of Ministers also passed decisions no. 718, and 767, dated 14.11.2007 on the "List of financiers of terrorism".

Later on the Parliament of Albania passed Law no. 9917, dated 19.5.2008, "For the Prevention of Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism", which laid the ground for the approval of specific bylaws and regulations, especially Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 1077, dated 27 October 2009 on "Approving the National Strategic Document", on "Financial Crime Investigation" and the Ministry of Finance's Guidance no.15, dated 16.02.2009 on "Preventing Money Laundering and Fight against the Financing of Terrorism in the Customs System".

In order to implement the above-mentioned legislation and to effectively prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorism the Government of Albania has set up **the General Directorate for the Prevention of Money Laundering (hereinafter GDPML) at the Ministry of Finance**. GDPML was first set up in 2001, and since then has served as the Financial Intelligence Unit of Albania. In line with the existing legislation the GDPML has, *inter alia*, the following mandate:

- To prevent money laundering and fight the financing of terrorism by means of gathering, verifying, assessing and controlling information provided by financial services providers, non financial services providers and others;
- To prevent money laundering and fight the financing of terrorism by means of suspending or freezing any transaction in order to prevent the transfer or disposal of assets originating from criminal activities;
- Coordinate its activity with other law enforcement and intelligence agencies, such as the Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor, the Intelligence Service of Albania, as well as other international agencies.

The Government of Albania has also set up a special **Inter-Departmental Committee to Coordinate the Fight against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism**. The committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and consists of the Ministers of Interior, Treasury, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice as well as the General Prosecutor, the President of the National Bank and the Director of the Intelligence Service. The Committee convenes at least once a year and has approved its regulations.

This Committee provides strategic guidance to Albania's national policy in the areas of money laundering and financing of terrorism.

#### *Restrictive Measures*

In line with the stipulations of Law no. 9258, dated 15.07.2004, "Measures against the Financing of Terrorism" the GDPML is also responsible for ensuring application of the sanctions and restrictive measures adopted by the UN Security Council resolutions, which are directly applicable.

### **1.3**

What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

According to the legislation in force in the Republic of Albania, the national army does not have direct responsibility and accountability in preventing and combating terrorism.

Albania has no paramilitary forces.

The activities of **Albania's State Police** are regulated through law no. 9749, dated 04.06.2007, "On State Police". Article 4 of the law specifies the responsibilities of the State Police as follows:

- To protect people's life, their security and personal property;
- To prevent, detect and investigate in compliance with Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, the criminal offences and their perpetrators;
- To protect public order and security;
- To supervise and direct road traffic in the roads for public use and in compliance with road legislation;
- To supervise and control state borders of the Republic of Albania;
- To protect specific individuals, premises and objects from potential risks;
- To administer and protect classified information, with the exception of cases when it is otherwise envisaged by the legislation;
- To perform duties defined in this law, in other laws and sub normative acts, which contemplate duties for the police.

Besides the abovementioned responsibilities, Article 113 of the law "On State Police" provides for the possibility to conduct anti-terrorism searches. In particular:

- Police officers have the right to conduct searches ex officio for the prevention of terrorist acts against premises, buildings, facilities and public spaces, in order to ensure the safety of persons, national constitutional order and international safety. They exercise this right in cases of flagrancia, in cases of criminal investigation of individuals and when there is reliable evidence or information that a terrorist act is being prepared and when delay in conducting the search may lead to loss or destruction of means and traces of offence commission.
- Once the search is carried out, the police officers have the obligation to compile the relevant notification and submit it to the prosecutor in charge of the area where the search was conducted within 48 hours. A copy of this notification is left with the owner or possessor of the premises or with the searched person.
- The persons searched by the Police enjoys the right to appeal to the court of jurisdiction where the police body is located, if they consider the Police search unjust or in violation of the law.
- An anti terrorist search includes an explosive, a chemical, biological and radiological search.

**The Albanian Intelligence Service** performs an important role in the fight against terrorism. Although it does not have executive powers, the Intelligence Service, through its regional contact points, closely cooperates and exchanges sensitive information on terrorism-related activities with Albania's law enforcement agencies and general prosecutor's office etc.

#### **1.4**

Provide any additional relevant information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, e.g., those pertaining *inter alia* to:

With decision no. 1140, dated 30.7.2008 the Council of Ministers of Albania approved the "Interdepartmental Strategy to Fight Organized Crime, Trafficking and

Terrorism”. In order to implement this strategy the Council of Ministers has also approved (decision no. 1103, dated 14.11.2009) the Action Plan of the Interdepartmental Strategy to Fight Organized Crime, Trafficking and Terrorism.

To monitor the implementation of this strategy and to coordinate the activities of the different stakeholders involved in its implementation, the Council of Ministers has set up an **Inter-departmental Committee for the Measures against Organised Crime, Trafficking and Terrorism**. This committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and consists of the Ministers of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Treasury and Justice, as well as the director of the Intelligence Service. The General Prosecutor also participates in the meetings of this committee. The Committee has set up its own Secretariat and approved its regulations. The committee convenes every three months.

In May 2007 the Ministries of Interior and Treasury, the General Prosecution Office and the Intelligence Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding, setting up a Common Investigative Unit with the aim, *inter alia*, to establish a coordinated approach in the fight against terrorism.

— **Financing of terrorism;**

**Please refer to 1.2.**

— **Border controls;**

In the framework of the fulfilment of the technical requirements of Albania’s roadmap for visa liberalization process with the European Union, Albania performs border checks and border surveillance in compliance with Schengen standards. In this context the Total Information Management System (TIMS) has been installed at our 24 Border Check Points (BSPs). Biometric passport readers and equipment for fingerprint verification have been installed at all BCPs. CCTV has been installed at 7 BCPs and work is ongoing to equip 2 further BCPs. Vehicle-recognition CCTV is functioning at 2 BCPs and is due to be introduced to all BCPs during 2010.

The procedures at BCPs are based on the use of TIMS by the border guard officers. In case there is a need to check in Interpol database the officer has the possibility to do it directly from the control booth. Access to TIMS is available at all border crossing points in the control booths. At Border checks, TIMS is used so that each passenger is registered and checked against wanted persons and entry- and exit ban -databases. In the TIMS system several databases are interconnected such as valid travel documents database and wanted persons. The TIMS system automatically checks all these databases and alert if there is a hit in these databases

Furthermore, the Ministry of Interior has approved the instruction to the Border and Migration Police “On the procedures for the control and supervision of the state border”. The procedures are in compliance with Schengen standards and include:

*Border Control*

1. Control of persons
  - Minimal control
  - Detailed control
2. Risk analysis and methods of border control;

3. Control on vehicles;
4. Control of railway transport;
5. Control on the sea/water transport vehicles;
6. Controls in air traffic;
7. Procedure of visas and controls;
8. Use of seals of border control;
9. Control in the border on the armed forces;
10. Control on documents;
11. Refusal of visas;
12. Use of equipment for the border control;
13. Use of data base system;
14. Control at the border under specific circumstances;
15. Asylum and humanitarian protection;
16. Security measures at the border;
17. Actions with the persons apprehended while attempting to cross the border illegally and the persons returned by the police of their countries.

#### *Surveillance of State Border*

1. Basic organisation of the risk analysis of border surveillance;
2. Banned and detained persons;
3. Cross border smuggling / through the border;
4. Reports of heads of shifts;
5. Handover of shifts;
6. Preparation for taking over the shift and operation management;
7. Cooperation with local police;
8. Cooperation with local community;
9. Organizing the service of supervising the border:
  - Take and hand - over the duty from the Shift Head.
  - Preparation of services to take over the duty.
10. Delivery of the service;
11. Usage of means and equipment of the Border and Migration Police;
12. Cooperation:
  - Within the service.
  - With their agencies.
  - Cross-border and international.

#### **— Travel document security;**

Please refer to the previous paragraph.

#### **— Container and supply chain security;**

The port of Durrës receives approximately 80% of the 1,500 sea containers entering Albania each month, the bulk from the People's Republic of China and South America via feeder routes from Greece, Cyprus and Italy. The remaining 20% of the container traffic arrives overland via two border points with Greece – Kakavija and Kapshtica from points of origin including Turkey.

The Customs Service of the Republic of Albania operates in compliance with the provisions of the Customs' Code. Control procedures at the crossing points are carried out in keeping with the stipulations of Section 2 of the Code (articles 11 and 12) "On Control, Supervision and Competences of Customs Service".

With reference to the equipment used to screen containers, Custom Service currently has one *Nuctech mobile scanner* in the port of Durres. Other *four scanners* are expected in 2010, each of them to be used at the border crossings of Kakavija and Kapshtica, as well as at the smaller port of Vlora.

Customs uses “ASYCUDA World” for their basic risk analysis system which is based upon the nature of goods, country of origin, the history of the importing company and any other intelligence. Meanwhile, the Border Police have their own, separate risk analysis system, but it is envisaged that in due course the systems in use will be common, thus enabling better targeting of illegal activities to include all aspects of trans-national crime.

#### *Inter agency cooperation*

Cooperation between Border and Migration Police and Custom Service is excellent and is based on a Memorandum of Understanding. Although Border and Migration Police deal primarily with the control passengers and vehicles, it closely cooperates with the Customs in cases of detections of illegal activities, which are processed jointly.

The effectiveness of the Cooperation has increased as a result of the implementation of Albania’s Integrated Border Management plan. Customs have undertaken joint training at the police academy and are currently drafting a joint training plan with the police. They have several joint teams who share equipment, vehicles and accommodation. In addition they have set up a total of 26 joint control booths and more are to be expected, covering all border crossings.

#### **— Security of radioactive sources;**

Albania is a party to the following international instruments:

- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Accession: 05.03.2002. Entered into force on 04.04.2002.
- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident Accession: 30.09.2003. Entered into force on 30.10.2003.
- Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Accession: 30.04.2003. Entered into force on 31.05.2003.
- Application of Safeguards to all Nuclear Activities of Albania. Signed on 01.07.1986. Entered into force on 25.03.1988. (The latest was signed in 2004 and will be ratified in May 2010).
- Agreement by exchange of letters of 31 October and 28 November 2002 with the Republic of Albania in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Signed on 31.10. 2002. Entered into force on 2002-11-28.

Radioactive sources have not been used in Albania for any kind of terrorist activity or other illegal purposes.

Albanian Institutions (National Atomic Authority, Radiation Protection Commission, Institute of Nuclear Physics, University Hospital Centre "Mother Teresa") are

participating and working in different international projects and programmes to upgrade the security of radiological facility and strong radioactive sources and to undertake the necessary steps for documentation and searching of lost and orphan sources.

Albania does not produce any kind of radioactive material. Albania also has a well established licensing system for radiation practices and the use of radioactive sources as well as a well established and up to date registry of radioactive sources. The transfer of radioactive materials has to take place only with prior notification from Albania, as appropriate, consent by importing state in accordance with their respective laws and regulations.

**— Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes;**

Although chapter VII of the Criminal Code of Albania defines several terrorism-related offences, it does not specifically refer to the use of the internet for terrorist purposes or the terrorist attacks on information and communication technology networks. However, the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code allow for the pursuit of criminal offences related to the phenomenon of cyber terrorism.

All activities and incidents comprising breaches of the Code fall within the jurisdiction of the State Police, which operates through the pertinent central institutional mechanisms (the Sector against Cyber Crimes and the Sector for the Examination of Cyber Evidence) and the field mechanisms (the Sector against Financial Crimes within Police Directorates in the 12 administrative units in the country).

*The Sector against Cyber Crime* is tasked with a leading operational role for the carrying out of police and procedural activities for the prevention, detection, documentation and pursuit of law enforcement vis-à-vis cases of criminal offences related to information and communication systems.

*The Sector for the Examination of Cyber Evidence* is tasked with the carrying out of scientific investigation of computer equipments for the extraction and analysis of cyber evidence, in view of compiling the legal documentation of cyber criminality.

*The Sector against Financial Crime* (belonging to Police Directorates in all administrative units) constitutes an operational structure of the State Police, which is tasked with the carrying out of police and procedural activities for the prevention, detection and fight against cyber criminal activities on the local level.

**— Legal co-operation including extradition;**

The communication between Albania and other countries in the area of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters is governed by appropriate international agreements in which Albania is a state party and by the relevant stipulations of Albania's Criminal Procedure Code (Articles 488-503). Albania is party, *inter alia*, to the European Conventions

- "On Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters" and its additional protocols, signed on 9.05.1998, ratified on 04.04.2000 and entered into force on 03.07.2000;
- On transfer of proceedings in criminal matters" signed on 19.05.1998, ratified on 04.04.200 and entered into force on 05.07.2000.



Following the entry into force of the Conventions, the Republic of Albania provides proper mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, in conformity with its provisions.

Most recently the Albanian parliament passed Law no. 10193, dated 03.12.2009 "On Jurisdictional Relations with Foreign Authorities in Criminal Matters". The approval of this law marks a significant step forward in the improvement of Albania's legal framework in the area of legal assistance in criminal matters. The provisions of the new Law comply with EU standards, and create a new system centred on the authority the Ministry of Justice. However, cases in which local and foreign authorities can send their requests directly to Courts or public prosecutor's offices have also been envisaged.

On other positive aspects related to the law that are worth mentioning:

- The new system is highly effective due to the presence of precise deadlines for each procedure;
- Clearly defines competences for international arrest warrants for Albanian citizens. In fact, the new Law has attributed to public prosecutor's offices specific competences in issuing the aforesaid warrants both during investigative phases and at the end of trials.

#### *Extradition*

According to the Constitution, the extradition of an Albanian citizen without a bilateral treaty in place, expressly providing for the extradition of Albanian citizens, is prohibited. Yet, the Albanian legislation does not require a bilateral treaty for the consent to extradition when the person in question is not an Albanian citizen.

Article 11 "Extradition" of the Criminal Code of Republic of Albania stipulates that "Extradition may be permitted only if it is expressly provided for in international agreements to which the Republic of Albania is a party". Pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, extradition is permitted only on basis of a request addressed to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The request may be addressed directly or via diplomatic channels. If the MoJ accepts the extradition request it conveys the procedure to the appropriate authorities.

The Criminal Procedure Code of Albania devotes special articles (488-503) to the legal relations with foreign states on criminal matters and to the detailed procedures that govern extradition.

The conditions of extradition are specified in article 490, i.e:

1. Extradition is permitted under the express condition that the person subject to extradition shall not be prosecuted, sentenced nor shall he be surrendered to another country for a criminal offence which has occurred prior to the request for the handover, other than the one for which the extradition is provided for;
2. The requirements of the paragraph 1 shall be not considered if: a) the extraditing party gives express consent that the extradited person is prosecuted even for another criminal offence and the extradited person agrees thereupon; b) the extradited person, although having had the opportunity, has not left the territory of the country he is extradited after forty five days from his release or after has left is returned voluntarily.

3. The Minister of Justice may impose even other requirements it deems appropriate.

— **Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations.**

The Republic of Albania has taken several measures to prevent the use of its territory as safe haven and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations. Among others, the Anti-terrorism Unit of the General Police Directorate in close cooperation Border and Migration Police controls and monitors suspect individuals that enter and reside in the territory of the Republic of Albania. These tasks are also performed by other state agencies involved in the fight against terrorism, in particular by the Intelligence Service. The latter has no executive powers, but in the framework of the cooperation with other law enforcement institutions, it collects (including the data of informative services of foreign partner countries), assesses and analyses information on the use of Albanian territory for purposes of terrorist activities against other countries and as appropriate, it cooperates with State Police and/or Prosecutor's Office for the prevention of this activity.

In the framework of the migration system reform, the Parliament of Albania has passed the Law no. no 9959, dated 17.07.2008, "On Foreign Citizens", followed by the approval of Decision of Council of Ministers no. 362, dated 01.04.2009 "On specification of criteria, procedures and documentation for the entry, stay and treatment of foreign citizens in the Republic of Albania".

Article 28 (Refusal to issue permanent permit of stay) of the law "On Foreign Citizens" stipulates that a foreign citizen is refused the issuance of a permanent permit of stay in case his stay in the country would constitute a threat to national security or public order and security. Article 17 of the Decision of the Council of Ministers stipulates that foreign citizens who have applied for a permit of stay are subject to prior verification and confirmation of their penal record by the State Police and the Intelligence Service.

**2.**  
**Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory**

**2.1**

Provide information on stationing of your States armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law.

Albania does not have armed forces permanently stationed on the territory of other OSCE participating states. As part of international operations Albania deploys on temporary bases military units in the framework of multinational military formations which carry out activities as part of the UN, EU and NATO.

With reference to the area of application of the Code of Conduct on Politic-Military Aspects of Security, Albania is currently present with a contingent of 13 militaries in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Albanian contingent is deployed in the framework of the Operation EUFOR Althea, authorized by the UN Security Council.

### **3.**

#### **Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct**

##### **3.1**

Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith.

The OSCE documents on arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building constitute an essential pillar of Europe's current security architecture. The faithful observation of the provisions contained therein and the implementation of existing commitments in the spirit of transparency and cooperation - as a tangible contribution to Europe's indivisible and cooperative security system - is ensured in close cooperation by appropriate state structures, in particular by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence.

In particular, the Republic of Albania fully complies with the commitments and the spirit of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the Vienna Document 1999, including the provisions of Chapter IX of the VD99 (Compliance and Verification) on foreign inspections and evaluation visits.

Furthermore, the Republic of Albania has already fulfilled all legal obligations stemming from UN Conventions on Chemical Weapons, Cluster Ammunitions and Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. With respect to the latter Convention Albania will hold the Presidency of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of state parties from a period of time running from November 2010 to November 2011.

Although not a state party in the Conventional Armed Forces treaty, Albania considers it as the bedrock of European Security, and attaches the utmost importance to the restoration of the viability of the CFE regime. In this framework, during the proceedings of the Istanbul Summit in 1999, Albania saluted the approval of the adapted CFE treaty as an important contribution to the military security and stability of the European continent. We also welcomed the fact that the adapted CFE treaty was open to voluntary accessions. Since then we have repeatedly expressed our readiness to join the adapted CFE treaty after it enters into force.

##### **3.2**

Provide information on how your State pursues arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures with a view to enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area.

**Please refer to paragraph 3.1.**

## **Section II: Intra-State elements**

### **1.**

#### **National planning and decision-making process**

##### **1.1**

What is the national planning and decision-making process in determining/approving military posture and defence expenditures in your State?

##### **(a) The military posture**

In general, the basis for the defence planning system is laid down in national legislation. The key institutions of defence planning include the Parliament, the Government's working and coordination body. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) plays a crucial role in overall management of defence planning and in co-ordination of measures ensuring the state's readiness for defence. Defence Planning Process includes political objectives, responsibilities of National Security Policy.

Since the beginning of 2010, the MoD's has assumed overall responsibility for conducting both the medium-term and yearly planning. Formerly, the Chief of Defense was responsible for medium-term planning.

##### **(b) Defense expenditures**

The Albanian economy has been characterized for several years by macroeconomic stability, stable growth, stability of the national currency, inflation maintained under control and rapid structural reforms in all sectors. Economic growth was about 6% in 2009, which was below expectations as a consequence of the crisis in the electricity sector and a slowdown of economic activity in sectors of services and construction, due to delay in fulfilling public investment. A positive increase in public investment, recuperation in manufacturing the electric energy and improvements in the main sectors of the economy like transportation, industry and construction are expected to occur in the near future. The economy had an increase by 6.5% in 2009.

According the Albania Republic State Budget for the year 2010 (*approved by the Albanian Parliament*), the funds allocated to the MoD are in the amount of **24,373,786,000 lek or \$247,373,786.**

The Albanian Government has decided to allocate 2% of the GDP for the National Defense starting from 2008 and maintain such level on defense funding through 2020. This major commitment in modernization of AAF is being associated by introduction of NATO procurement standards within the MoD to ensure the best possible use of the national resources provided to AAF.

Main focus of the budget increase will be given to the key defense reform issues and to meet NATO requirement, especially those related to the implementation of Target Force Goals.

In this context, priority will be given to the development of a motivated, fully professional force - 2010, together with the modernization of the force with modern equipment and systems. Additionally, the training and education of the force, participation/ contribution to NATO Article 5/ non-Article 5 operations, as well as the strengthening of national missions in NATO and participation in NATO integrated structures will be another priority. All the above Objectives of the

Defense/ Military chapter are already planned and/or will be further reflected in separate implementation plans of the Ministry of Defense.

## **1.2**

How does your State ensure that its military capabilities take into account the legitimate security concerns of other States as well as the need to contribute to international security and stability?

## **2.**

### **Existing structures and processes**

#### **2.1**

What are the constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police?

#### ***Military Forces***

The constitution of Albania and other legal acts on civil-military relations provide a clear delineation of authority and a system of subordination and command of defence structures in times of peace and war. They provide for the civilian democratic control of the Armed Forces at the strategic level, whereas at the operational level the command and control is held by military authorities.

Democratic political control of the Albanian Armed Forces is constitutionally guaranteed through article 12, paragraph 2, which stipulates that the Armed Forces are subject to civilian control.

Article 167 of the constitution stipulates that Military personnel in active duty cannot be elected or appointed in other state offices and cannot participate in political parties or other political activities.

These constitutional principles are implemented through the provisions of law no. 8671, dated 26.10.2000 "On the powers and authorities of command and strategic guidance of the Albanian Armed Forces".

Article 3 of law no. 8671, dated 26.10.2000, stipulates that powers and command authorities of the armed forces have the following hierarchical order: the Parliament, the President, the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, the General Staff, the Chief of Staff, and the Commanders of the Navy and Air Force.

As this order shows the Parliament is clearly vested with the oversight authority. It approves the National Security Strategy, the Defence Policy and Military Strategy, the Defence Laws and Budget and exerts parliamentary control over activities related with the armed forces. The oversight authority is exercised through the standing Security Committee. The competences of the Committee are foreseen in the internal regulations of the Parliament.

In line with the stipulations of the Constitution and above-mentioned law, the President of the Republic of Albania exercises the leadership of the Armed Forces through the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence in peacetime.

In wartime the President of the Republic appoints and dismisses the Chief of Staff upon proposal by the prime Minister.

The Prime Minister is responsible for the leadership, development, and the state of the Armed Forces in peacetime. The Council of Ministers is the highest executive body. It proposes laws on defence, executes the laws approved by the Parliament, defines the main approaches of national policy, and issues normative acts with temporary legislative power. The Council of Ministers manages the activity for the accomplishment of the tasks in the defence field, in accordance with the constitution, laws and decisions of the National Security Council.

The Minister of Defence is responsible to the Parliament, President and Prime Minister for the development and execution of defence policies. The Minister of Defence is a member of the Council of Ministers and the National Security Council. The Minister of Defence is responsible for the headship and control of the Armed Forces, the accomplishment of their mission, the management of the defence budget and the fulfilments of defence policy objectives.

### ***National Intelligence Service***

Law no. 8391, dated 28.10.1998 “On national intelligence service” and other bylaws constitute the legal framework for the activities of Albania’s Intelligence Service. Article 4 of this law stipulates that the National Intelligence Service operates under the authority of the Prime Minister. In order to control the activities of the Intelligence Service the Council of Ministers appoints a General Inspector who reports to the Prime Minister (article 12 of the law).

Articles 7 and 8 of the law provide for the parliamentary control of the activities Albania’s Intelligence Service. The control is exercised by the relevant standing parliamentary committee, which can also oversee the use of fund allocated to the Intelligence Service. The director of the Intelligence Service reports to the Committee at least once a year. The director of the Intelligence Service also reports to the Council of Ministers, as determined by the Prime Minister.

The director of the National Intelligence Service is appointed by the President of the Republic upon proposal of the Prime Minister.

### ***The Albanian State Police***

The activity of Albania’s State Police is governed by Law no. 9749, dated 04.06.2007 “On state police”. The State Police is part of the Ministry of Interior and reports to the Minister of Interior (article 7 of the law). The budget of the State Police is approved by the parliament. The Minister of Interior reports to the Parliament and to the standing Security Committee.

The Parliament of Albania has established the Internal Control Service (ICS) in the Ministry of Interior (law no. 10002, dated 6.10.2008) whose mission aims to guarantee to the community a responsible, democratic and transparent police service, in keeping with the relevant legislation in place. The activities performed by the ICS aim at preventing, unveiling and investigating criminal offences committed by police officers. The ICS also inspects the activities of the State Police against the implementation of the legislation in place.

The law places the ICS under the direct authority of the Minister of Interior, who is responsible for its activity.

### ***Paramilitary Forces***

Albania has no paramilitary forces.

## **2.2**

How is the fulfilment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for exercising these procedures?

The principle of democratic control over the security forces is enshrined and stems from the Constitution of Albania and other Constitutional principles. It is implemented by specific laws on State Police, Nationals Intelligence Service and on the Powers and authorities of command and strategic guidance of the Albanian armed forces.

The democratic control over the security forces is exercised by:

- a) The Parliament of Albania, through its mechanisms for approving the state budget and performing oversight functions, in particular by the standing Security Committee. According to article 80 paragraph 1 of the Albanian Constitution the democratic control is exercised over the Ministers through hearing sessions or questions times. In its activities the committee is entitled to draw upon independent and professional expertise. In order to investigate of particular national and public interest the Parliament can also set up ad-hoc inquiry committees.

The Parliament exercises oversight on the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence. The Prime Minister is responsible to the Parliament for the guidance and the state of the Albanian Armed Forces (article 15 of law 8671, dated 26.10.2000), whereas the Minister of Defence is responsible for the implementation of Albania's Defence Policy.

- b) By the Council of Ministers on cases provided for by the constitution and the law.
- c) The Ministers of Defence and Interior, who, in their respective areas of activity, are accountable for and control the armed forces and the police forces. According to article 80 of the Constitution and article 19 of the Parliament's internal regulations, the Ministers report to the Security Committee and to the plenary session of the Parliament.

## **2.3**

What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?

Albanian Armed Forces are organized, prepared and function according to basic principles that compose military structures of any democratic society and as an armed forces of a NATO member. They rely on a full legal framework, especially on Albanian Constitution, National Strategy Security (Law no.9322, dated 25.11.2004 "Albania National Security Strategy), Military Strategy and a numerous doctrinal documents. AAF in their relation with civil society are under civilian control and

are committed to fulfil their constitution mission - the protection of independence sovereignty, and territorial integrity, the support of civilian population in peace, crises and war time, the contribution for peace and stability in the region and beyond.

The Military Strategy of the Republic of Albania is an important document with the basic principles and concepts for the development and employment of the Armed Forces to achieve the defence policy objectives. It is based on the Constitution and the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania and defines targets, objectives, required capabilities and available resources for the development of a capable force to fulfill its constitutional mission.

The Military Strategy sets the conceptual foundations of the Armed Forces readiness for final transition from the traditional cold war concepts of individual defence of the country to the collective defence principles. It gives emphasis to the fulfillment of commitments regarding the development and management of the necessary capabilities for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The strategic level foundations of this document serve as guidance for the development of concepts and capabilities, as well as their employment at the operational level.

The Military Strategy of the Republic of Albania is built upon a comprehensive assessment of the security environment and the impact given to the national security. Consequently, it identifies the military implications and provides a well-balanced engagement of the Armed Forces.

The Military Strategy is based on an in-depth analysis outlined in the National Security Strategy on the forms, forces, resources and the necessary means to guarantee the security of the country. It is also built upon our own national experience and other NATO countries' expertise in the area of strategic defence documentation. Law no. 9858, dated 27.12.2007 "Military Strategy".

### **3. Procedures related to different forces personnel**

#### **3.1**

What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?

Albania, since 1 January 2010 has a volunteer military service system. The transformation of AAF into a fully volunteer military service system will be accomplished by end of 2010, and because of that no conscripts is being recruited after 2009. **Policies and practices for career development of military personnel (based on their experiences, training and years in services).**

The Albanian Armed Forces has made significant progress in improving and establishment of fully integrated Human Resources Management System. Based on the Law of "Ranks and Military Career in the AAF" an equitable and centralized promotion system was put in place. The Military Career Commissions have an authority to identify, select and recommend the best qualified candidates for promotion. In addition the current law defines time period in each rank, criteria for promotion to the next rank, the maximum time in service allowed before next promotion and/or when they would be separated from active duty service.



In line with the current Law the Minister of Defense has issued a guidance which takes into account the leadership skills, English language proficiency in accordance with NATO standards, training received in and out of Albania and the quality of duty performance for specific assignment such as at General Staff, Major Commands, etc. The recruitment process of professional soldiers is crucial for filling the future NCO corps, which should be considered as the backbone of the future armed forces. Because of that, ex- mobilization centers have taken additional responsibility starting for recruiting volunteers. Recruitment processes are involving the commercial practices such electronic and written media, internet, job postings and other ways. The law on supplementary retirement pensions for military personnel has been revised and it provides better retirement pay which is based on the last rank and time spent in service.

### **3.2**

What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?

There is no compulsory military service in Albania.

### **3.3**

What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel as well as conscripts?

The status of Armed Forces personnel is governed by a package of laws, brought into force in 1999.

The policies and recruiting strategies based on modern marketing which promotes the AAF values, benefits and social guaranties of the personnel and their families, aim at the qualitative growth of the AAF. The AAF constantly develop and apply policies, strategies and programs for the social support of the personnel, such as the improvement of the well being, living conditions, health care for the military and their families, their smooth integration in the civilian life after leaving the AAF. These measures are in support of both the military on active duty and those who are in reserve as well.

## **4.**

### **Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law**

#### **4.1**

How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through military training programmes and regulations?

Albanian armed forces are commanded, manned, trained and equipped in ways that are consistent with the provisions of international law, obligations and commitments related to the use of armed forces in armed conflict, including the Hague Conventions of 1907 and 1954, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Additional Protocols of 1977, as well as the 1980 Convention on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons.

Albanian armed forces personnel is trained and instructed in international humanitarian law, rules, conventions and commitments governing armed conflict and they are aware that they are individually accountable under national and international law for their actions.

All military training programs in all levels include due training hours which include topics regarding International Humanitarian Law and Law of War. Albanian armed forces personnel who are sent abroad for military missions, besides the other tests that they must pass, are examined and certified for the acknowledgement of the above mentioned laws.

Albanian armed forces personnel who are vested with command authority are trained to exercise it in accordance with relevant national as well as international law and are made aware that they can be held individually accountable under those laws for the unlawful exercise of such authority and that orders contrary to national and international law must not be given.

Any decision taken to assign Albanian military forces to international security missions is arrived at in conformity with constitutional procedures.

#### **4.2**

What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?

System of military preparation in the Republic of Albania consists of career training of an individual, regular daily training of individuals or units and ad-hoc training for specialized courses for individuals or pre-deployment training of particular units. IHL is included in the current general training programs.

It is especially important with respect to the fact that international humanitarian law imposes special obligations on commanders. With this regard a handbook on IHL for commanders has been issued in December 2007. In the Republic of Albania, military academic education is centralized within the TRADOC. This institution provides appropriate education, including mandatory lectures of IHL to all future commanders and members of their staffs. There is a significant amount of these lectures both in Bachelor's curriculum and Master's curriculum.

#### **4.3**

How does your State ensure that armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?

Missions and tasks of the Albania Armed Forces are driven based on main documents according to the tasks in and outside of the Albania. According to strict limitation set forth in these documents armed forces cannot perform other tasks. The activities of armed forces are under control of constitutional authorities or authorities to whom such control is entrusted by especial act the National Constitutional, thus in case of transgression of competences it is upon civilian authorities to act accordingly.

#### **4.4**

What has been done to provide for the individual service member's exercise of his or her civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country's armed forces are politically neutral?

Human rights of soldiers are embodied in Human Rights Charter No. 2/1993 Coll., (which is applicable for every person under jurisdiction of the Albania Republic and is part of Albania constitutional legal order law). Limits of basic rights and freedoms may be imposed only by enacted law and based on conditions set forth in

Human Rights Charter. As military personnel represents a special group whose rights may be limited for fulfilling their tasks.

#### **4.5**

How does your State ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?

Albanian Defence Policy and Doctrine are consistent with international law related to the use of armed forces, including in armed conflict and the relevant commitments of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. According the Albanian Constitution any international obligation must be embodied into Albanian legislation. The Albanian Armed Forces respect the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) of June 1977 and the obligations under Article 82.

## **Section III: Public access and contact information**

### **1.**

#### **Public access**

##### **1.1**

How is the public informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct?

Experts from various state institutions (MoD, MFA, MoI, Parliament, etc.) in charge with the implementation of the different sections of the Code of Conduct participate on a regular basis in international and regional events dedicated to the implementation and exchange of information on this document. However, we further efforts need to be put in place to improve public awareness on the aims of the Code and its provisions.

In view of the above the national point of contact on the Code of Conduct in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and several NGOs active in the areas covered by this document is considering the possibility to jointly organize a national seminar on the implementation of the OSCE's Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

##### **1.2**

What additional information related to the Code of Conduct, e.g., replies to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, is made publicly available in your State?

As to now Albania's official replies to the questionnaire of the Code of Conduct have never been made public. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is considering the possibility to post the current questionnaire on the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a special link we intend to dedicate to Albania's relations with the OSCE and CoE and our priorities within the two organizations.

##### **1.3**

How does your State ensure public access to information related to your State's armed forces?

Public access to the information related to the Armed Forces is more and more present in the military issues. The Law on the Transparency and Access to Public Information that ensures the rules of public access to the information regarding the state administration in general includes, as well as, the Albanian Armed Forces.

The Ministry of Defence provides transparency and public access to information related to the Armed Forces. A directorate level information and press is operational in the Ministry of Defence. Albanian Parliament approves the defence expenditures and exercises constrains and limitations in military expenditures. All documents of strategic level such as: the National Security Strategy, the Defence Policy, the National Military Strategy, the White Paper, etc. are open to the public opinion.

### **2.**

#### **Contact information**

##### **2.1**

Provide information on the national point of contact for the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

The national point of contact for the implementation of the code is the Head of the OSCE&CoE Section in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **ANNEX 1**

Albania has ratified 13 out of 16 UN counter-terrorism conventions and protocols

### **I. UNITED NATIONS**

- 1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents** (New York 14 December 1973); Ratified. Entered into force on 21.02.2002.
- 2. International Convention against the Taking of Hostages**, (New York, 17 December 1979); Ratified. Entered into force on 21.02.2002.
- 3. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism**, (New York, 9 December 1999); Ratified. Entered into force on 10.05.2002.
- 4. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings**, (New York, 15 December 1997). Entered into force on 21.02.2002.
- 5. International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism** (New York, 13 April 2005); Signed on 25 November 2005. Not ratified yet.

### **II. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)**

- 6. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft** (Tokyo, 14 September 1963); Ratified on 06.03.1997, Entered into force on 01.03.1998.
- 7. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft** (The Hague, 16 December 1970); Ratified on 06.03.1997, Entered into force 20.11.1997.
- 8. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation** (Montreal, 23 September 1971); Ratified on 06.03.1997 Entered into force 20.11.1997
- 9. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the safety of Civil Aviation** (Montreal, 24 February 1988). Ratified. Entered into force on 22.05.2002
- 10. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection** (Montreal on 1 March 1991), Ratified. Entered into force on 06.03.2000.

### **III. INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

- 11. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials**, (Vienna, 3 March 1980); Ratified on 5 March 2002; Entered into force on 4 April 2002

#### **II.1. Agreements between Albania and the IAEA**

1. **Agreement between the Republic of Albania and the Agency on the application of protective measures on all nuclear activities of Albania**, Signed on: 1 July 1986, Ratified on 28 January 1988, Entered into force on 25 March 1988.

#### **IV. INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)**

12. **Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation** (Rome, 10 March 1988); Ratified. Entered into force on 17.09.2002.
13. **Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf**, (Rome on 10 March 1988); Ratified. Entered into force on 17.09.2002.

#### **V. COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

1. **European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism** (Strasbourg, 27 January 1977); Signed on 04.04.2000. Ratified on 21.9.2000. Entered into force on 22.12.200.
2. **Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism** (Strasbourg, 15 May 2003); Signed on 9.10.2003. Ratified on 15.11.2004.
3. **European Convention on Extradition** (Paris, 13.12.1957) and first and second Additional Protocols. Signed on 19.5.1998. Ratified on 19.5.1998. Entered into force on 17.8.1998
4. **European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters** (Strasbourg, 20.4.1959) and first and second Additional Protocols. Signed on 19.5.1998. Ratified on 4.4.2000. Entered into force on 3.7.2000.
5. **European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters** (Strasbourg, 15 May 1972); Signed on 19.5.1998. Ratified on 4.4.2000. Entered into force on 3.7.2000.
6. **Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime** (Strasbourg, 08 November 1990). Signed on 4.4.2000. Ratified on 31.10.2001. Entered into force on 01.2.2002
7. **Convention on Cybercrime** (Budapest, 23 November 2001) Signed on 23.11.2001. Ratified on 20.6.2002. Entered into force on 1.7.2004.
8. **Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems**. Signed on 26.5.2003. Ratified on 26.11.2004. Entered into force 1.3.2006.
9. **Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism** (Warsaw, 15 May 2005). Signed on 22.12.2005. Ratified on 6.2.2007. Entered into force on 1.6.2007.

- 10. Council of Europe Convention on laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime and on the financing of terrorism** (Strasbourg, 15 May 2005). Signed on 22.12.2005. Ratified 6.2.2007. Entered into force on 1.5.2008.

## **VI. OTHER AGREEMENTS**

As to now, Albania is party to several bilateral multilateral and agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) aimed at countering organized crime, international trafficking and terrorism.

1. MoU between the Ministry of Interior (MoI) of Albania and the MoI of the Federal Republic of Austria to strengthen cooperation in the area of internal security. Signed on 27.01.2010.
2. Agreement between the Government of Albania (GoA) and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium on police cooperation. Signed on 22.05. 2005. Entered into force on 01.05.2008.
3. Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina on cooperation in the fight against trafficking, in particular terrorism, illegal drugs trafficking and organized crime. Signed on 24.03.2009. Entered into force on 4.3.2010.
4. Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria in the fight trafficking and organized crime. Signed on 29.1.2007. Entered into force on 4.10. 2007.
5. Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Czech Republic on the fight against crime. Signed on 27.04.2009. Entered into force 01.01.2010.
6. Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the French Republic on internal security cooperation. Signed on 15.5.2008. Ratified by law no. 9955, dated 17.7.2008.
7. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime. Signed on 12.2.1999. Entered into force on 24.08.1999.
8. Agreement of cooperation between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Italy in the fight against crime. Signed in Tirana on 19.06.2007. Ratified by law no. 9799, dated 10. 09. 2007.
9. Agreement of cooperation between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Latvia in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and illegal trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursors. Signed on 16.12.2009. Not entered into force yet.
10. Agreement of cooperation between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Malta in the fight against illegal



trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and organized crime. Signed on 19.02.2002. Entered into force.

11. Agreement of cooperation between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in the fight against terrorism, organized crime, illegal trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursors, illegal migration and other illegal activities. Signed on 17.06.2004. Entered into force on 20.05.2005.
12. Agreement of cooperation between the GoA and the Government of the Republic of Rumania in the fight against terrorism, organized crime, illegal trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances and other illegal activities. Signed on 07.06.2002. Entered into force on 19.12.2002.
13. Agreement of cooperation between the GoA and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the fight against terrorism, illegal trafficking of narcotics and organized crime. Signed on 24.11.1993. Entered into force.
14. Agreement of cooperation between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Montenegro in the fight against organized crime, illegal trafficking and other kriminal activities. Signed on 31.10.2003. Entered into force.
15. Agreement of cooperation between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Serbia in the fight against organized crime, illegal international trafficking of narcotics and terrorism. Signed on 11.3.2010. Not entered into force yet.
16. MoU between the Ministry of Treasury of the Republic of Albania and the Investigative Board against Financial Crime of the Republic of Turkey to exchange financial intelligence information regarding money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Signed in Ankara and Tirana respectively on 14.07.2008 and 21.07.2008. Entered into force upon signature.
17. Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on cooperation in the fight against crime. Signed on 27.05.2003. Entered into force.
18. Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Federal Council of Switzerland on police cooperation in the fight against crime. Signed on 21.9.2005. Entered into force on 18.07.2007.
19. "Convention on police cooperation in South East Europe. Signed in Vienna on 05.05.2006. Ratified by Albania in October 2007.
20. Additional protocol on Combating Terrorism to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black See Economic Cooperation Participating States in Combating Crime, in particular its Organized Forms. Signed on 03.12.2004. Ratified by law no. 9500, dated 03.4.2006. Entered into force.

21. Since September 2009 Albania is part of the EU initiative, undertaken in cooperation with the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovenia, to exchange with the Western Balkans EU's counter-terrorism Best Practices.