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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs and, pursuant to Note Verbale LA/COD/11/1 and General Assembly Resolution 79/129 of 4 December 2024, submits information on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

Albania maintains a low terrorism threat level, with no terrorist group activities recorded in 2024. The National Strategy Against Violent Extremism and Terrorism 2023–2025, aligned with UN and EU frameworks, guides efforts, including prevention of terrorism financing and reintegration of 38 repatriated citizens from conflict zones. The attached report details bilateral agreements with 18 states, gender-sensitive initiatives empowering women, and compliance with UN conventions, including ICSANT. Albania is committed to supporting the Secretary-General's reporting on international terrorism, incorporating gender perspectives as requested.

The Permanent Mission renews to the Office of Legal Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 23 May 2025

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

ALBANIA

20.05.2025

Information regarding the measures undertaken by states to eliminate terrorism, in accordance with the implementation of Resolution 79/129, dated December 4, 2024.

1. Ministry of Interior and the State Police

Albania has adhered and ratified all relevant UN and Council of Europe conventions and protocols, which aim at preventing terrorism and minimizing its devastating effects including the resolution 79/129 of 4 December 2024 “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”.

In August 2023, Albania became the 121st member state to ratify the Nuclear Terrorism Convention (ICSANT) which entered into force on September 20, 2023.

Albania supports the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), as a global instrument to enhance national, regional, and international efforts to counter terrorism. It actively participates in CTC discussions during the biannual review of the strategy.

In the cooperation context, Albania has signed two Protocols with the Republic of Italy and the Republic of North Macedonia and eighteen bilateral agreements with Slovenia, Croatia, Egypt, Romania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Bosnia Hercegovina, Kosovo, Slovakia, United States of America, Serbia and Latvia.

Since 2018, Albania and the EU have signed the Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans that has been renewed every 2 years in accordance with the implementation of the measures approved by both the parties.

The measures implemented on the fight against terrorism are focused on 5 key objectives:

- Improve legislation in countering terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism
- Prevention and countering violent extremism
- Effective Information Exchange and Operational Cooperation
- Fight against financing of terrorism
- Strengthen the Protection of Citizens and Infrastructure

National CT situation

The terrorism threat in Albania is assessed as “Low”. **According to the 2024 monitoring report, and based on the measures taken by institutions and law enforcement agencies responsible for preventing violent extremism and combating terrorism—as well as their preventive, proactive, and intelligence-based activities,** there are no identified terrorist groups that operate

in the country and there are no indications from outside the country on such groups. There have been no terrorist attacks reported in Albania.

The threat from Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) is assessed as the main terrorism threat in the country mostly in terms of de-radicalization and reintegration process of the women and children repatriated from the conflict zones in Syria and Iraq. Another threat in the country is the Iran's state sponsored activity directed against the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, residing in Albania.

Albania is partially aligned with the EU acquis on fight against terrorism.

Strategic Framework

The Counter Terrorism legal framework is aligned with the relevant legal instruments of the EU and international bodies, in particular with UN Security Council Resolutions and EU Directive on Combatting Terrorism.

National strategic documents in the fight against terrorism are:

- National Strategy for Development and European Integration 2022-2030 (NSDI) approved in January 2023.
- National Security Strategy approved by law no. 14/2024
- The Cross-cutting Strategy for the prevention of Violent Extremism and the fight against terrorism 2023-2025 and its respective actions plans.
- Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans
- Action Plan "On the Reception and Accommodation of Albanian Citizens Returning from Syria/Iraq Conflict Zones" adopted By the Prime Minister's Order 169/2018

Albania has renewed the strategic framework in 2023 by taking the initiative to merge CT and CVE in one strategy with 2 separate Action Plans, providing more transparency and build better synergy between the two areas. The strategy aims to guarantee security by focusing on 4 priority pillars:

- prevention of violent extremism and terrorism;
- investigation and prosecution of terrorists;
- protection, detection and elimination of threats of radicalism, violent extremism and terrorism;
- operational response in the event of a terrorist attack, rehabilitation and reintegration.

National Legal Framework

CODES

- **Albanian Criminal Code**

Criminalizes offences of: terrorist intention, terrorist financing, terrorist group, incitement, public calls and propaganda for committing acts with terrorist intentions, recruitment of persons for committing acts with terrorist intentions or financing of terrorism, providing

and receiving training for terrorism etc.

- **Criminal Procedure Code** guarantees: Investigative tools and confiscation, regulate all foreign jurisdictional relations on MLA, Extradition, recognition and enforcement of foreign decisions.

ORGANIC LAWS

- Law 108/2014 “On the Albanian State Police”, amended
- Law 8391/1998 “On State Intelligence Service”, amended
- Law 65/2014 “On the Defence Intelligence and Security Agency”
- Law 25/2019 “On the Judicial Police “
- Law 9917/2008 “On the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism”, amended
- Law 64/2014 “On the powers and authorities of the direction and command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania”
- Law 10193/2009 “On Jurisdictional Relations with Foreign Authorities in Criminal Matters”, amended
- Law 10192/2009 “On prevention and suppression of organised crime, trafficking, corruption and other crimes through preventive measures on assets”, amended
- Law 9754/2007 “On criminal liability of legal persons”
- Law 45/2019 “On Civil Protection”
- Law 9917/2008 “On the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing”, amended
- Law no.157/2013 “On measures against terrorist financing”, amended
- Law no. 22/2020 on some additions to law no. 71/2016 “On border control” (API/PNR)

OPERATIONAL AGREEMENTS

- Ratification of the agreement between the Republic of Albania and the European Police Office (Europol) on strategic and operational cooperation” that constitutes in:
 - Exchange of Personal Data;
 - increasing the possibility of participation in joint police operations;
 - increasing cooperation with Europol by responding to mutual requests in time
 - A Liaison Prosecutor (LP) is appointed on 2021 for international cooperation for collecting relevant terrorism related data.
- Bilateral Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Albania and Europol for creating secure network of communication
- Ratification of the agreement between Albanian and Eurojust
- Cooperation agreement between the Government of Albania and USA ratified for the exchange of information for the verification of terrorism and the Operational Protocol

Even though the threat of radicalisation in Albanian prisons is minimal (less than 1% are convicted for terrorism) concrete steps that are taken to fight radicalisation in prisons, avoid recruitment and to work on the reintegration process of prisoners.

Fight against financing of Terrorism is an integral part the fight against terrorism. One of the main achievements is the last FAFT evaluation that removed Albania from the “Grey list”, the list of countries under increased monitoring. Albania approved the new National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, and the Action Plan, in order to address the risks. The legal framework which regulates international restrictive measures in the country comprises the following: the Declaration of acceptance of the obligations contained in the Charter of United Nations, Paris, 2 December 1948; a list of the UNSC Resolutions relating to the application, amendment and termination of the international restrictive measures; **Law no. 72/2019 “On international restrictive measures in the republic of Albania” amended**; Decision no. 454, dated 10.06.2020 on the implementing provisions of law no. 72/2019, “On international coercive measures in the republic of Albania”; **Law no. 157/2013 “On the measures against terrorism financing” (amended)**; Decision no.538, dated 29.07.2022 “To determine the detailed rules and procedures for the temporary freezing of funds or other assets of persons or entities.”; Law no. 9917, dated 19 May 2008 “On the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism”, amended; Law no. 46/2018 “On state control of international transfers of military goods and dual-use items and technologies”; the DCM 668/2021 “For updating the national control list of military goods and dual us goods and technologies” that fully transposes EU Dual Use goods; the DCM 1128/2019 “On the implementation by the Republic of Albania of decisions of the European Union Council, on the establishment, amendment, and repeal of international restrictive measures”, amended, that regulates specifically the implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions. For this Decision there are currently 35 annexes.

Internal listing

Based in the Law 157/2023 ‘On measures against the financing of terrorism’ amended, the Council of Ministers in 2015, 2016 and 2017, issued 3 decisions for the inclusion of 20 individuals in total, in the internal list of designated persons.

This list is published on the official website of the Financial Intelligence Agency. (This list is integrated for practicality with the list of designated persons based on United Nations Resolutions and EU Council Decisions).

Investigation and exchange of information

Regarding the situation of FTF’s, based on the Criminal Proceedings No. 46, 201, registered by SPAK related to the criminal offenses of “Terrorist organization”, Organizing the involvement in military operations in a foreign state”, “Involvement in military operations in a foreign state”, “Financing of Terrorism”, as provided for in Articles 234/a, 265/a, 265/b and 230/a of the

Criminal Code by Special Court of First Instance Decision no. 24 date 11.04.2024, 9 of the returned women from the Conflict zones in Syria/Iraq have been sentenced to 5 years in imprisonment, suspended with probation under the condition that they does not commit any other criminal offences, does not associate with individuals convicted of terrorism related offences and does not frequent environments where extremism/radicalization, or other terrorism-related activities are promoted.

The CT Directorate has continuously carried out exchange information with the specialized services of EU, EUROPOL, SELEC, CEPOL, Member States and EU agencies, partner services and the Security Offices accredited in Tirana.

The exchange of information with the neighbouring countries and the EU Member States, have been quick, secure, effective and qualitative, within the legal requirements on the protection of personal data.

There have been trilateral meetings between counter terrorism counterparts of Italy, Kosovo and Albania, to exchange information regarding FTF individuals suspected of terrorist activities or financing of terrorism.

In compliance with international obligations arising from the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations, including **Resolution 79/129** dated December 4, 2024, the CVE Center has undertaken a wide range of activities during 2024, which directly contribute to the fulfillment of Albania's commitments in the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism.

The Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism (hereinafter referred to as The CVE Center), since the inception of its institutional work, has been focused on strengthening peace, national security, and enhancing the resilience of communities in the prevention, countering, and rehabilitation/reintegration of Albanian citizens with regard to the phenomena of radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorism (VERLT).

The CVE Center operates under a "soft-approach" in the development of its activities and projects, which facilitates close interaction with all interest groups, including the gender perspective. Furthermore, the CVE Center has been recognized as a model of success in the region for its organization and functioning, in the implementation of the "multi-agency approach," as an institution under the Ministry of Interior.

In conceptualizing a response to violent extremism, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Plan of Action (A/RES/60/288) are and will remain the common platforms for addressing these global issues, which now transcend the borders of a single state. Albania's approach is based on the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

respecting human rights, gender equality, as well as the engagement of youth and civil society, in accordance with government priorities.

The aforementioned contributions of the center include:

- ❖ Institutional capacity building at the national and local levels through 178 activities:
 - **126** activities in the first semester,
 - **52** activities in the second semester,
 - **3177** individuals participated from the law enforcement institutions, the educational community, civil society organizations, and local government structures.

The Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), through the implementation of compliance practices, has coordinated participated in the Inter-sectoral Technical Groups (hereinafter referred to as ITGs) established for families, where the progress of each case has been reviewed and their needs assessed after their placement in the community. In implementing the reintegration plan for citizens returned from conflict zones (Syria/Iraq), during 2024, the CVE Center has coordinated:

- **The establishment of 34** (thirty-four) ITGs,
- for **12** (twelve) family units returned from the conflict zones (Syria-Iraq).

During the ITG meetings, in which all actors participate, discussions were held on the monitoring, improvement, and challenges that these cases have reflected during this period based on the 37 Individual Protection Plans (IPPs) established for each case (especially children), as well as the steps taken regarding their integration into the community.

- **Active participation in international networks such as;** the EU *Radicalisation Awareness Network* (RAN), the *Regional Network of National CT/CVE Coordinators of the Western Balkans* (RNNC), and the *Women's International Network* (WIN).

The CVE Center participated in an activity organized by the OSCE in Vienna, which was attended by members of the Women Professionals Network in P/CVE from Central Asia and Southeast Europe. The aim of this activity was to strengthen the Women Professionals Network in P/CVE, evaluate projects undertaken by this network, and identify future projects and challenges.

The CVE Center has made regular contributions to Albania's annual reports to the UN and the EU, particularly within the framework of:

- **Chapter 24** “Freedom, Security and Justice”;
- **The Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans;**
- **TAIEX** meetings and EU mission teams for monitoring progress in the Counter-terrorism field.

The level of cooperation between law enforcement institutions has been high, resulting in the exchange of information that helps prevent acts of terrorism. Furthermore, in collaboration with other intelligence agencies such as the Defense Intelligence and Security Agency and the State Intelligence Service, a total of 479 pieces of information were exchanged.

In terms of prevention through increased referrals, the Financial Intelligence Agency has received and analyzed 6 cases suspected of terrorism financing. Following the analysis, 4 of these cases were referred to law enforcement authorities.

The Financial Intelligence Agency, in cooperation with the banking sector and the General Directorate of Taxation, conducted an analysis of OJFs, which concluded with the creation of a guidance document to assist OJFs in preventing terrorism financing.

Gender perspective in the implementation of Resolution 78/182

Within the framework of Resolution 78/182, which emphasizes the need for the **integration of a gender perspective into counter-terrorism measures**, the CVE Center has taken concrete steps to ensure that policies and interventions are sensitive to the gender dimension. During 2024:

- **8 special training modules** were developed with guides and presentations on key concepts, strategic communication, the multi-sectoral approach to countering violent extremism, monitoring and evaluation of P/CVE efforts, as well as the sharing of best practices for capacity building on the role of women and girls in the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism.
- **74 (seventy-four)** workshops were supported **for women returned from conflict zones** for vocational training on their economic empowerment, in cooperation with civil society organizations with a primary focus on women's empowerment with support from GCERF (Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund).
- The active inclusion of **girls and mothers in the community** has been encouraged, particularly through work with civil society organizations and local institutions.

As mentioned above, the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) remains fully committed to aligning national efforts with the strategic frameworks and international standards of the United Nations in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism that leads to terrorism. The CVE Center promotes the active involvement of central and local institutions, civil society, educational actors, religious communities, and international partners.

In this context, particular attention is given to gender inclusion as a key element in the development of inclusive and long-term policies, aiming to ensure the participation of women and girls as important actors in peacebuilding, the prevention of extremism, and the strengthening of community resilience.

**2. The General Prosecution Office **

The General Prosecution Office informs that according to the Criminal Procedure Code as amended with the law no 41/2021, its district prosecution offices of the general jurisdiction do not have jurisdiction on the investigation and criminal prosecution of the terrorist acts, the criminal offences committed by the terrorist organizations and on the financing of terrorism.

The Special Structure Against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK) is an independent judicial entity tasked with investigating corruption and organized crime at the highest levels of government and society in Albania. The legal basis of this entity is the Article 148/dh of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and the law no 95/2016 “on the organization and functioning of the institutions for the fight against corruption and organized crime”.

SPAK informs that it has maintained a continuous collaboration with law enforcement agencies in Albania and on the international level with regard to the fight against terrorism.

In this framework, during 2024, it informs that there were received and addressed three requests for legal assistance on criminal matters from the foreign authorities on the investigations related to the criminal offences in the field of terrorism. Meanwhile, SPAK has sent six requests for legal assistance on criminal matters to the relevant foreign authorities.

Also, SPAK informs that during the year 2024, it has conducted a series of investigations as part of joint investigations teams with foreign law enforcement bodies in conformity to the bilateral agreements in force with other countries.

In the framework of the fight against terrorism, SPAK informs that during 2024, it has registered in total nine criminal proceedings on the criminal offences related to terrorist purposes for which the investigations are still ongoing.

3. Financial Intelligence Agency under the Ministry of Finance

It informs that pursuant to the law no 9917, date 19.5.2008 “On the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism “and its amendments, there were not registered cases related to this issue. Also, starting from July 2024 onwards, there was established a special structure as part of the Albanian FIA on the analysing and dealing of suspected cases related to the international sanctions.