**ALBANIA ON ITS EUROPEAN PATH**

**TRADE & INVESTMENT**
- The EU is Albania’s biggest trading partner
- The EU’s contribution to total Foreign Direct Investment in Albania was 242.3 million in 2016
- Volume of trade with the EU was €4 billion in 2016

**MPBILITY & EMPOWERMENT**
- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
- In 2015 - 2016 over 3660 participants in student, academics and youth exchanges under Erasmus+
- €25 million in support to the civil society for 2014 – 2020

**SUPPORT FOR KEY SECTORS 2014-2020**
(€649.4 MILLION)

**EU FUNDING**
The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
- €1.24 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €135 million for sector budget support programmes
- €359 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €92.5 million in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants since 2009, leveraging investments estimated of € 1.2billion
- €14.9 million in disaster relief after the 2015 floods

**SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATION**
- Strengthening democracy: Rule of Law, Justice and Fundamental Rights
- Reforming public administration
- Strengthening competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food

**KEY MILESTONES**

- **JANUARY 2008**
  - Entry into force of the readmission agreement

- **APRIL 2009**
  - 1. Application for EU membership
  - 2. Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

- **DECEMBER 2010**
  - Entry into force of visa liberalisation

- **JUNE 2014**
  - EU candidate country status granted

- **APRIL 2018**
  - Commission recommends Council to decide that accession negotiations be opened in light of progress achieved

Source: EU data