ALBANIA ON ITS EUROPEAN PATH

EU FUNDING
The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
- €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €135 million for sector budget support programmes
- €464 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €143.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, leveraging investments of estimated €2.3 billion
- €14.9 million in disaster relief after the 2015 floods

SUPPORT FOR KEY SECTORS 2014-2020 (€658 MILLION)

TRADE & INVESTMENT
- The EU is Albania’s biggest trading partner
- The EU’s contribution to total Foreign Direct Investment in Albania was €402.6 million in 2018
- Volume of trade with the EU was €4.94 billion in 2019

MOBILITY & EMPOWERMENT
- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
- In 2015 - 2019 5453 participants in student, academics and youth exchanges under Erasmus+
- €25 million in support to the civil society for 2014 – 2020

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

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KEY MILESTONES
- APRIL 2009
  1. Application for EU membership
  2. Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
- DECEMBER 2010
  Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
- JUNE 2014
  EU candidate country status granted
- APRIL 2018
  Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations
- JUNE 2018
  The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations
- MAY 2019
  Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations
- MARCH 2020
  The Council decides to open accession negotiations

Source: EU data

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