ALBANIA on its European path

Key milestones

APRIL 2009
Application for EU membership
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 opening of accession negotiations

JUNE 2018
The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations

MARCH 2020
EU decides to open accession negotiations

JULY 2020
Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States

Trade & investment

- The EU is Albania’s biggest trading partner
- The EU’s Foreign Direct Investment in Albania reached €567.8 million in 2019
- Volume of trade with the EU was €4.94 billion in 2019

EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
- €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €464 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €143.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €2.3 billion
- €115 million EU grants for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Albania after the 2019 earthquake

Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
- In 2015-2019: 5,552 participants in student, academics and youth exchanges under Erasmus+
- €25 million in support to civil society from 2014 – 2020

Supporting transformation

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

COVID-19 response

From IPA 2014-2020, €50.65 million in bilateral assistance for Albania to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, €180 million was approved by the Commission in Macro-Financial Assistance for Albania and the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region.

Source: EU Data

ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement | facebook.com/EUnear | twitter.com/eu_near