



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations

D – WESTERN BALKANS

The Director

Brussels, 7 February 2017
ARES(2017)

Dear Secretary General,

Following the information that you received in the recent correspondence with our Director General, Mr Christian Danielsson (his letter of 25 January), and having received information on the beginning of the formal procedure for the appointment of the members to the vetting bodies, I would like to inform you, as Chair of the International Monitoring Operation (IMO) management board, of the most recent developments from our side. The IMO management board will gather its first constitutive meeting in Tirana on 8 February under my chairmanship.

The other permanent members of this body are:

- Ms Michela Matuella, European Commission
- Mr Georg Ziegler, European Commission (alternate)
- Mr Jan Rudolph, EU Delegation to Albania
- Mr Stephen Stork, EU Delegation to Albania
- Mr David Muniz, U.S. Department of State
- Mr Jon Smibert, U.S. Department of Justice

The Head of the EU Delegation and the U.S. Ambassador to Albania may participate in the IMO Management Board as non-permanent members, notably when the meetings take place in Albania. Participation of other relevant non-permanent members to the meetings of the IMO management board (i.e. relevant experts, observers from the monitoring teams, representatives from the line services at the European Commission, etc...) may be foreseen on an ad hoc basis.

Mr Ëngjëll Agaçi
Secretary General of the Council of Ministers
Tirana, Albania

In line with Article B of the Annex on Transitional Qualification Assessment of the Constitution of Albania, the European Commission, together with the United States, is also preparing the deployment of senior experts to Albania, with a view to monitor the process for the formation of the re-evaluation bodies, i.e. "pre-vetting". These observers will facilitate and support the supervision and assessment by the IMO management board. The three Member State experts for the EU are:

- Mr Ferdinando Buatier de Mongeot of Italy, senior judge;
- Mr Theo Jacobs of Belgium, senior prosecutor;
- Mr Martin Kessen of Germany, senior judge.

They will be deployed under the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument of the European Commission, and their role is to oversee the process for the formation of vetting organs and also to monitor the quality of the assessment performed. I would like to reassure you that the European Commission has selected them with particular care for their professional record, as senior members of their respective national judiciaries, as well as for their previous engagement in candidate countries and potential candidates.

The team will also involve for the United States of America:

- Mr. John Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin
- Mr. Peter Ainsworth, Senior Council on Anticorruption, U.S. Department of Justice

They are being deployed as active, senior prosecutors within the U.S. Department of Justice and, along with their colleagues from EU Member States, their role is also to oversee the process for the formation of vetting organs and to monitor the quality of the assessment performed. Mr. Vaudreuil will be the primary person deployed, while Mr. Ainsworth will be an alternate. I would like to reassure you that the U.S. Department of Justice has selected them with particular care for their professional record, as senior members with extensive prosecutorial experience, as well as for their previous experience in countries outside of the United States.

We rely on all the relevant authorities of Albania to guarantee the fullest support and assistance for the experts to fulfil their tasks.

Furthermore, note that their deployment will be supported by the colleagues at the EU Delegation in Tirana, under the coordination of the relevant task manager, Mr Francesco Torcoli, as well as by the justice policy officer for Albania team in the European Commission, who also serves as permanent Secretary to the IMO management board, Mr Giulio Venneri.

Colleagues from the US Embassy in Tirana Ms Ariola Cuca, Ms Ejona Kaldremxhiu, Mr Dorian Andoni, Mr Ildir Hoxha, Mr Bledar Bashanoviq and Mr Henri Lubonja, will also accompany the deployment throughout the various stages and facilitate the engagement of the short-term observers with relevant interlocutors in the target institutions.

The observers shall contribute to the IMO's ultimate review of the candidates submitted for nomination into the vetting organs, and the IMO Management Board will notify to the relevant Albanian authority as foreseen by Law 84/2016 (Art. 7 §5-7), when this review has been finalised.

Yours sincerely,



Genoveva Ruiz Calavera

- CC:
- Mr Ditmir Bushati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania
 - Ms Klajda Gjoshaj, Minister of Integration
 - Mr Igli Totozani, Ombudsman of Albania
 - Ms Albana Shtylla, Secretary General of the Albanian Assembly
 - Mr James Walsh, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)