

Resolution on the 2025 Parliamentary Elections in Albania “Albania: Electoral Integrity and Opposition Rights”

The International Democrat Union and the Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI),
Reaffirming the centrality of free and fair elections to democratic governance and Albania’s EU accession process,

Recalling past EPP, IDU, and IDC-CDI resolutions warning of **democratic backsliding** and **institutional misuse** by the ruling Socialist Party (SP),

Alarmed by the findings of international observation missions (OSCE/ODIHR, OSCE PA, PACE, European Parliament) on the 11 May 2025 elections,¹

Notes with grave concern that these elections were a **political farce**, failing to meet international standards and **violating the Copenhagen Criteria**, including:

- **On voters’ freedom to choose (Copenhagen paragraph 7.7):** Voters were subject to systematic pressure, surveillance, intimidation, and large-scale vote-buying. The government distributed €100 bonuses to 760,000 pensioners shortly before the election²; waved over €200 million in fines and interest from 2015-2025 only two days before elections³. Around half a billion euros were spent through tenders, procurements, and concessions⁴ in violation of legal norms, all aimed at securing electoral support. The secrecy of the vote was not respected in many polling stations, and the climate was marked by fear and coercion, denying citizens a free choice.
- **On freedom of expression and access to information (Copenhagen paragraph 7.8):** The ruling party’s control over media, editorial censorship, and the politically motivated ban on TikTok gravely undermined voters’ ability to access balanced and diverse information.
- **Separation of party and state (para. 5.4):** Ruling Socialist Party blurred lines between government and party, using public institutions and resources for partisan gain in violation of the principle that “the state must be separate from the ruling party.

¹ [INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION](#)

² Footnote 54 (Page 12): A 9 January Decision of the Council of Ministers provided for pensioners in Albania to receive a spring bonus along with their monthly pension. Distribution of the payments of ALL 10,000 (approximately EUR 100) or ALL 5,000 (EUR 50), depending on the level of pension, started on 1 March. (pg. 12 of [INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION](#))

³ In December 2024, the government decided to waive fines for unauthorized constructions, non-compliance with COVID-19 restrictions, and for agricultural and livestock producers, that were imposed between 2015 to 2024 and announced this on 9 May 2025, with the apparent purpose of influencing voters (pg. 12 of [INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION](#))

⁴ projects budgeted in 2024 were initiated immediately before or during the elections, including road works and subsidies in various municipalities. Large-scale events, such as the March Tourism Fair in Berlin and Giro’Ditalia. (pg. 12 of [INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION](#))

- **Misuse of public resources:** Hundreds of thousands of public employees were pressured into campaigning through a state-wide “patronage network” undermining democratic competition
 - **Voter freedom to choose (para. 7.7):** Voters faced pressure, surveillance, intimidation, threats, vote buying, and a lack of ballot secrecy;
 - **Freedom of expression (para. 7.8):** Government Media control, censorship, and the TikTok ban restricted access to unbiased information.
- Institutional impunity, with no enforcement despite around 200 formal complaints on electoral crimes in Special Prosecutor and hundreds of denunciations in CEC;

IDC-CDI Condemns the manipulation of the electoral process through:

- **State capture and criminal collusion** in voter intimidation and result tampering;
- **Judicial persecution** of opposition leaders including Sali Berisha, Ilir Meta, Fatmir Mediu, Ervin Salianji, and Fredi Beleri;
- **Institutional impunity**, with no enforcement despite 30+ formal complaints on electoral crimes in Special Prosecutor and hundreds of denunciations in CEC;

Calls on Albanian authorities to:

1. Urgently implement OSCE/ODIHR priority recommendations and those on campaign fairness, media, and impartial institutions;
2. Cease political persecution and restore full rights for opposition leaders;
3. Establish a technical (caretaking) **government** to oversee EU reforms and prepare new elections;
4. Ensure true **media pluralism** and equal media access for all political forces.

IDC-CDI:

Expresses strong solidarity with the Democratic Party of Albania (PD-ASHM) and all civic actors defending democracy.

Urges the CDI members to deploy a **fact-finding and oversight mission** to Albania to evaluate the conduct of the elections, meet with relevant actors, and provide an independent assessment of compliance with democratic norms.

Urges the EU to **condition Albania's accession progress** on concrete electoral and democratic reforms.

Warns that authoritarian consolidation and criminal influence in Albania endanger both domestic democracy and regional stability.