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2000

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

23 May 2000

COMMITTEE ON THE HONOURING OF OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS BY MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Visit to Albania on 24-28 May 2000
Draft programme

Co-rapporteurs: **Mr Jerzy Smorawinski (Poland, EPP/CD)**
Mr Jordi Sole Tura (Spain, SOC)

Secretariat: **Mr Egbert J. Ausems**
Ms Marine Trévisan

Wednesday 24 May 2000

Arrival at Rinas Airport :
Mr Jerzy Smorwinski at 13h00 flight N° LV 221 from Rome
Mr Jordi Sole Tura at 16h45 flight N° AZ 506 from Milano
Mr Egbert J. Ausems at 14h10 flight N° SR 3458 from Zurich
Ms Marine Trévisan at 14h10 flight N° SR 3458 from Zurich

Accommodation at Rogner Hotel, Tirana, Tel 355 (0) 42 35035 Fax: 355 (0) 42 35050

[Meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the Albanian Parliament and the Head of the Albanian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe]

06.00 pm Meeting with the Head of the OSCE Presence, Ambassador Ahrens and Head of the European Commission Delegation, Mr Peretti

Working dinner

Thursday 25 May 2000

7.00 am – 05.00 pm Visit to Shkodra (Meeting with the Prefect, the Chairman of Municipality, the Director of the Police, the Rector of the University, lunch and visit to the premises of the Shkodra Lezha Castle

07.00 pm Meeting with the Ambassadors (Italian Embassy)

Friday 26 May 2000

09.00 am Meeting with the Chairman of the Constitutional Court, Mr Fehmi Abdiu

10.00 am Meeting with the Minister of Justice, Mr Ilir Panda

11.00 am Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pellumb Xhufi

12.00 noon Meeting with the Minister of Public Order, Mr Spartak Poçi

01.00 pm Meeting with the Chairman of the Albanian Parliament, Mr Skender Gjinushi

02.00 pm Meeting with the Ombudsman, Mr Ermir Dobjani

06.00 pm Meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Ilir Meta

06.45 pm Meeting with the President of the Republic, Mr Rexhep Meidani

Saturday 27 May 2000

Meeting with representatives of the Socialist Party, Democratic Party, Press and NGOs

Sunday 28 May 2000

Departure from Rinas Airport
Mr Jerzy Smorawinski at 14h35 flight N° OS 852 to Vienna
Mr Jordi Sole Tura at 10h00 flight N° LV 224 to Bologna
Mr Egbert J. Ausems and Ms Marine Trévisan at 15h00 flight N° SR 459 to Zurich

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY / ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE
Monitoring Committee / Commission de Suivi
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Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Fax

To:	Mr Jordi Sole Tura	**From:**	Mr Egbert Ausems Monitoring Committee
Fax:	00 34 9 3/280 35 45	**Date:**	23/05/2000
Phone:		**Pages:**	1 + 27
Re:		**CC:**	

☑ **Urgent** ☐ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☑ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

Dear Jordi,

Please find herewith the programme of the visit and documents for preparation of the mission.

See you on Wednesday 24 in Tirana !

Best regards,

E.J. Ausems

AIDE MEMOIRE

Points for discussion
Visit to Albania 24-28 May 2000

Parliamentary Assembly's Monitoring procedure: system for advise and assistance to member States to comply with obligations and commitments.
Purpose of such fact-finding visits is to collect information on the state of play, for report to the Parliamentary Assembly.
Our first visit took place in February 1999, but the report was not transmitted.
We made a second visit, after the Kosovo crisis, in July 1999. The report was sent to the Albanian delegation who sent its comments.
With this visit of May 2000, we wish to update this report (no more comments), which will be examined by the Committee on 9/06/2000 and debated during the next June session.

SHKODRA

Relations with Montenegro and FRY (trade border control, smuggling)

Political situation

TIRANA

OSCE Ambassador Ahrens and EU resident envoy

Present situation, role of the international community and advise on specific role of the PACE

Electoral Law

"Friends of Albania" is chaired by the European Union and the OSCE. The Council of Europe participates in the Group's activities through the Director of Political Affairs and the Secretary General's Special Representative in Albania. Co-operation good? overlap between OSCE and Council of Europe, e.g. in the field of monitoring of human rights (OSCE Human Rights Alert Programme Office) or of prison reform?

Minister of Justice

In his comments of 18 February 2000, the Minister of Justice explained that preparatory work on the law on the Ministry of Justice and Judicial Police is drawing towards its end.
Exams and training of judges and prosecutors. The School of Magistrates.

Any developments?

Law on the organisation of the judicial power: **how is its implementation going?**

A law on the organisation and functions of the Prosecutor General's Office was being prepared. **Current situation?**

In July 1999, the Prosecutor General said that the average ratio of solving crimes was between 60 and 70% and even higher in some regions. **to be updated**

Corruption? Organised crime?

The Constitutional Court was functioning well, notwithstanding a general lack of means and equipment. A further handicap was that so far the Court is not recognised – and therefore not used – by the opposition, partly because the removal of the Court's former president has not been accepted, partly because the opposition contests the approval of the Constitution itself during the referendum of 22 November last. **Did the return of the Democratic Union to Parliament lead to changing this attitude?**

Any progress in the Hajdari case?

Prison reform

Any development as regard the situation in prisons?
A new prison was being build with a capacity of 600 inmates and the Italian government has started the construction of another prison for 350 people. Is it finished?

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Stability Pact

Are there any NATO troops left in Albania?

Relations with: Kosovo, Greece, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Montenegro, RFY

Minister of Public Order

Security conditions?

Pending approval of a draft Law on the State Police, expected in July 1999, the Ministry of Public Order, with the assistance of the Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE – a WEU contribution) and Italian Police Forces, was restructuring the police forces, recruitment procedures are being improved and 95% of the police stations are now headed by graduates from the Police Academy. In every prefecture, a special unit has been set up to improve the relations between the police and the public. **to be updated**

Cooperation with Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE – a WEU contribution)?

In their comment of 18 February 2000, the Albanian authorities explain that in December 1999, parliament passed a law on "the state police". In an effort to implement this law, law packages on the basis of the endorsed law, expected to be

examined by the government and parliament, have been prepared with the assistance of the MAPE Mission. **Any developments?**

Implementation of Law on administration?

Organised crime and criminality

In their comment of 18 February 2000, the Albanian authorities informed the co-rapporteurs that the Ministry of Public Order is attempting to co-operate with countries like Greece, Italy, Germany and the MAPE, in order to obtain the necessary aid and contemporary equipment for the fight against criminality.

Despite these measures, the Chairman of the Democratic Party has proposed an Anti-Crime National Pact, in which he calls for an agreement of all national and local political powers, the total reconstruction of the Ministry of Public Order and of the Prosecutor General's Office and new legislation. According to Mr Berisha, this Pact has been rejected by the Minister of the Interior. **to be updated**

Situation regarding corruption?

Speaker of the Parliament

Role of the opposition; participation in activities in Working group on Electoral Law?

In accordance with the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment signed on 2/10/96, the Albanian Parliament has approved a law on the appointment of a co-ordinator. The decision on publication of the Anti-Torture Committee's report on its December 1998 visit of has to be taken by the Prime Minister or the President of the Republic. **to be updated**

The co-rapporteurs warmly welcome the signature on Protocol N°6 by the Albanian government. They encourage the Parliament to ratify it as soon as possible and to make the ensuing amendments to the Penal code.

Prime Minister and President

Congratulation for signature and ratification of several Conventions and text of the Council of Europe

Death penalty

By its decision n° 56, dated 10 December 1999, the Albanian Constitutional Court declared that the death penalty was incompatible with the Constitution of Albania.

The co-rapporteurs warmly welcome the signature on Protocol N°6 by the Albanian government on 4/4/2000. They encourage the Parliament to ratify it as soon as possible and to make the ensuing amendments to the Penal code.

Media

The Minister of Information said that the government pursued a policy of transparency, based on the Constitutional provisions on freedom of speech and the right on information. Parliament had adopted a new Law on Information which provided for the creation of the necessary institutions. **to be updated**

National Broadcasting Council

According to the Minister, legislation is being prepared on the right on information (a Bill is before Parliament), on copyright and on broadcasting frequencies. **to be updated**

On 27 May 1999, Albania signed the European Charter of Local Self Government which was ratified on 11 November 1999. Albania also adopted a national strategy on decentralisation. **to be elaborated**

Parliamentary delegation to PACE

Electoral law

In their comments of 18 February 2000, the Albanian authorities explained that the Democratic Party was attending the parliament, but they had failed to take part in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Stability pact set up by the Parliament. They have not filled the three seats allotted to their parliamentary group in this committee. **to be checked and updated**

Representatives of political parties

Position regarding the electoral law and the Central Electoral commission?
Invitation to political dialogue instead of boycotting local elections.

Representatives of media

A new law on electronic media was passed on 30 September 1998. This law was drafted with the assistance of the Council of Europe and according to the OSCE Representative for Freedom of the Media, Mr Freimut Duve, it should create good conditions for the editorial independence of the electronic media and lead to a fair system of public broadcasting.
In February 1999, the representatives of the media said to welcome this legislation – on the condition that it be implemented efficiently and the Supervisory Board become operational – which will transform the State TV into an independent public TV and regulate the granting of licenses. **to be updated**
Journalists complain also about the very high taxes imposed on them, notwithstanding an agreement signed with the assistance of the Council of Europe. **to be updated**

cc E. Arums

07.11

Albanian Telegraphic Agency

OSCE reacts against expulsion of DP deputies

TIRANE, Feb 2 (ATA) - Giovanni Porta, OSCE spokesman in Tirane, declared on Thursday that "the expelled deputies are distinguished and respectable politicians of Albanian Democratic Party, active in the inner and international life of their party".

Not wanting to enter into the details of DP debate, Porta revealed that "OSCE regrets the latest development".

According to him, the political priorities of Albania demand a stance based on dialogue and the participation of all the political factors and an effective and representative opposition.

"Every step towards a further political polarization, splitting and expulsion is to be regretted", concluded the OSCE spokesperson.

Albanian Daily News (04.02.2000)

Democrats Throw Moderates out of Parliamentary Group

TIRANA - The leadership of the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) decided on Wednesday to throw out of their parliamentary group four moderate MPs that have challenged the authoritarian decisions of leader Sali Berisha.

But the Democrat reformist leader Genc Pollo said the decision was invalid.

DP general secretary Ridvan Bode said on Thursday said that the party's top leadership had confirmed a decision of the DP National Council to sack the four unless they give in and voluntarily quit the key posts they have in parliament.

But he said the four moderates have not been thrown out of the party. "The decision of the DP chairmanship to dismiss 'the reformers' from the parliamentary group was an implementation of a National Council decision on Dec. 13, 1999, which provided for the changes in the representation of the party in committees and the permanent delegations of the People's Assembly," said Bode, adding that it was the will of the party to replace the four rebel Democrats for challenging party policies.

The DP leadership ruled last month that several moderate MPs, who have challenged the party's policies and disobeyed party discipline, should be ousted from parliamentary committees, in which they have been representing the Democrats, but they have stopped short of ousting them from the party or the parliamentary group despite threats.

Parliament, dominated by the left-wing Socialists, rejected on Monday the Democrat leadership demand, saying that parliament's regulations did not provide for the ousting or replacement of any committee member, except in case of resignation.

The Democrat minority group leader, Jemin Gjana, officially asked parliament to substitute Leonard Demi (Democrat) with Pjeter Arbnori in the post of foreign committee secretary, and Ylli Vejsiu with Xhevdet Mehmeti as culture committee chairman. Gjana has also demanded the substitution of Genc Pollo (MP-Democrat) in parliament's permanent representation at the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, and Ferdinand Xhaferri (MP-Democrat) in the parliamentary delegation to the NATO parliamentary assembly, with members loyal to the current DP leadership.

Bode said that from now on the four rebels would be only simple party members, as the party statute does not cover dismissing members from the party but just dismissals from party posts and temporary suspensions as party members.

Pollo Challenges Decision

Pollo, number two in the party until his bid to challenge the autocratic leadership of party leader Sali Berisha in a congress last year failed, said that the four would remain in their positions in parliament and the Democrat parliamentary group.

He said that, according to the party statute, the parliamentary group should take any decision on their fate by secret vote; a decision made by any other body would be "invalid".

"We have demanded a decision by secret vote, according to the statute, but it appears that Berisha is afraid of a secret vote and has refused such a procedure," said Pollo on Thursday in a first reaction to the decision. "Berisha has never taken the courage to come to the parliamentary group meetings to discuss the issue face to face with us. "He takes this decision surrounded by his boot-lickers," said Pollo.
Parliament deputy speaker, Namik Dokle (Socialist), said the DP leadership decision to oust the four moderates from the Democrat group was contrary to parliamentary regulations.
"MPs can quit the parliamentary group when they decide to, by their own free will, and they cannot be dismissed by anybody," said Dokle. "The parliamentary groups are announced at the start of the legislature and nobody can change that."
Pollo said he will keep his place in parliament, next to Berisha's, and was confident "Albania's democrats would not tolerate this."
The reformist MPs announced last month a faction aimed at bringing more democracy and free speech to the party and avoiding the single-handed rule of party affairs. The reformists have criticised the party leadership's policies on several occasions.

Press Review: "Albania"

Expected Decision

The expulsion of four Democratic Party (DP) deputies from their parliamentary group on Wednesday is not a positive development for the largest opposition party in Albania, but was unavoidable, concluded the pro-DP daily "Albania" in its Thursday editorial.
Typically, the editorial considered as 'strange' the request by the expelled deputies to continue representing DP abroad even though they have resigned from all their leading functions in the party.
Segments from the editorial follow:
Four DP deputies will no longer be members of the Democrat parliamentary group, even though they state that they will not give up representing the DP in Parliament.
The four deputies were expelled because they have not handed the DP their representation mandates at the parliamentary committees and have broken a decision of the DP National Council.
In one way or another, the fate of the deputies, the so called party reformers, has long been known. They, having lost their representation in the party forums, are still demanding to continue to represent the party abroad.
They required a secret vote by the parliamentary group. In the meantime, all their statements in the media, or at any meeting, proclaiming their platform are considered as an action of a party within a party.
The former DP deputy chairman, Genc Pollo, said he would stay a member of his party and continue his work at the grassroots.
But the latest tour of the DP chairman (Sali Berisha) of some southern and northern districts of the country places much doubt on the success of Pollo's claim.
Certainly, the expulsion of the four DP deputies from the parliamentary group is not a positive development for the party, but it appears to have been inevitable.
It is difficult to believe that Pollo's withdrawal from the race for the DP chairmanship gave him any broad support from within the party. His arguments for withdrawing seem to be frivolous, and the decision seems to have been made simply to damage and compromise the electing process within the party.
Meanwhile, if someone resigns from all the leading party functions, it would strange and inconsistent if they were to continue to represent the DP abroad. If the DP's former deputy chairman and the other deputies have new ideas and have support from within the party, then they should demonstrate it, first and foremost, in Albania.

The latest developments within the greatest opposition party in Albania have come at the most inappropriate time; they have occurred at a time when the Albanian electorate is totally disappointed in the Leftist government, and corruption and contraband are suffocating the country's economic development.

Permanent Representation of Greece
to the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 22.5.2000

MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPORT ON ALBANIA (AS/Mon(1999)11/30.7.99).

In view of the preparation of the draft report by the co-rapporteurs Messrs. Jerzy SMORAWINSKI and Jordi SOLE TURA, we wish to convey to you the following observations, reflecting Greece's views with regard to the text under consideration:

Par. 45:

It is not supported by the facts that the relations between Greece and Albania were clouded, because of some antipathy by the public opinion for the NATO intervention, which, after all, has been misinterpreted as support of the Serbs.

Par. 45 - sub par. 7 :

We wish to clarify that the visit of Foreign Minister Milo to Greece on 9 July 1999 had in its agenda the review of the bilateral relations in general and was not devoted to the problems relating to the presence of Albanian workers in Greece. It should be stated that the Greek Police expels only persons illegally staying in the country and not immigrants, in general.

Par. 46 :

The proper name Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) should be used.

Par.50 :

Theories about "Great Albania" are to be found frequently in the Mass-Media of Albania. In addition school-books on history and geography include maps of "Great Albania" and speak about injustices against this country.

More over, all the statements by Albanian officials advocating an integration process of all areas with an ethnic Albanian population, with open borders and free movement without any visa requirements, is another way of expressing the dreams of the "Great Albania". Such comments made by Government officials as well as by leaders of the opposition clearly speak for the creation of a "Balkanic Schengen", "a confederation of Albanians in the Balkans", "a spiritual Parliament of Albanians of all Balkans", etc.

Thus, the reference in the text **-"which never existed anyway"-** does not reflect reality.

With regard to the comment of "hellenisation" of ethnic Albanians, I wish to stress that this reference is completely untrue. What usually happens is the effort on behalf of these people to prove their greek origin, believing that, if they do so, they can have more privileges in Greece and legalize their status.

Par.53:

It should be noted that following the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the National Minorities, Albania undertook serious responsibilities regarding the rights of each minority living in its territory.

Par. 54 :

A phrase should be added to encourage Albania to sign and ratify the Convention of Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, as soon as possible.

In closing we believe that the co-rapporteurs should, while visiting Albania, seek for opportunities to be informed by members of the important Greek Minority in Albania and include in their report information elements on their status, needs and priorities.

Albanian Telegraphic Agency (04.05.2000)

OSCE has international mandate to assist and monitor local elections

Tirana, May 3 (ATA) - OSCE Vice Ambassador Tim Isles stated on Wednesday for ATA, that OSCE has got an international mandate to assist and monitor the local elections and their organizing.

"One of the main aspects is the holding of a correct population registration process as possible and organizing of free democratic elections", said Mr.Isles.

This OSCE attitude is announced after the pretensions of Democratic Party Chairman Sali Berisha made public on Tuesday on the incorrectness in population registration process, a process which is assisted by international organizations accredited in Albania.

OCSE Vice Ambassador met on Wednesday the Minister of Local Government Bashkim Fino. PNUD representative in Albania Jan Wahleberg and USAID representative were present in this meeting./led/linda/

U.S. Administration supports OSCE work for process of elections in Albania

TIRANE, May 3 (ata) - Albanian President Rexhep Meidani had on Wednesday in New York a working luncheon with James Swagert, deputy assistant Secretary of State. The latter expressed the support for the work made so far and that to be carried out in the future for the election process in Albania by the OSCE Ambassador in Tirana Gert Ahrens.

Laws Commission rejects opposition amendments on CEC

TIRANE, May 3 (ATA)- By G.Dilaveri, Albanian parliamentary law commission on Wednesday afternoon definitively rejected opposition's amendments on Central Elections Commission (CEC).

Today's meeting put an end to the examination of the Electoral Code of the Albanian Republic. The Law Commission stressed that no amendments could be made to CEC as it is defined by the Constitution, the Law Commission secretary, Sokol Hazizi, said.

According to the chairwoman of the Law Commission, Zamira Caka, other amendments of the opposition on acts which have not to do with the CEC were approved at today's meeting. She said five amendments have been accepted, the most important of which is equal position of the chairman and the deputy chairman on the three voting levels.

The Electoral Code, reviewed by the Law Commission by the beginning of last week, according to the schedule approved by Parliament, is expected to be approved at a plenary session on Wednesday afternoon./lh/so/lm/

Fino proposes strategy to carry out open electoral process

TIRANE, May 3 (ATA)-Minister of Local Government Bashkim Fino on Wednesday proposed that an action strategy be drafted to carry out a wide mass media campaign on the electoral process, according to the spokeswoman of the Local Government Ministry.

Fino made this proposal at a meeting with the UNDP representative resident in Albania, Jan Wahleberg, USAID representative and OSCE deputy ambassador Tim Mayar.

Local Government Minister said that this strategy should point out that this electoral process is technical and is carried out through contribution of all local government

structures.
Referring to a statement uttered by DP chairman Sali Berisha on Tuesday, while addressing the representatives of this party in the local government, that "the lists should be compiled by you, despite the decisions of the Council of Ministers and legislation in force," Fino said that"this is anti-constitutional as it runs counter to all international principles of respecting the law and political independence of those elected by the people".
Wahleberg appreciated the ongoing performance of the technical staff and expressed the conviction that this process continues normally. But he expressed concern about Berisha's statements as, according to him, "they have been invited and clarified about the technical enrolment process several times".
While OSCE Deputy Ambassador Mayar said that "we are here to help Albania have a free and fair electoral process," and expressed the indispensability to carry this process forward./dast/lm/

Albanian Daily News (04.05.2000)
Socialists: CEC Is Constitutional Institution; Opposition: No to Present Formula
Controversial approaches continue to prevail in the two major political camps of the ruling parties and the opposition in Albania over the composition of the Central Elections Commission (CEC) and over some other amendments to the Electoral Code demanded by the opposition.
Even after Tuesday's meeting between the chairmen of the parliamentary groups of the Socialist Party (SP), Gramoz Ruci, and the Democratic Party (DP), Jemin Gjana, consensus has still to be reached on the CEC's composition.
This mood was expressed in different statements from various senior leaders from the adversary camps on Tuesday, though cautious efforts were made by them, especially by the Socialists, not to close the door to further dialogue.
Using the words 'tolerance', 'flexibility' and 'cooperation with the opposition', the chairman of the Socialist Party (SP), Fatos Nano, announced on Tuesday that the ruling parties were ready to accept a formula on the composition of the election commissions whereby three members should be from the coalition government and three from the opposition, while the chairman had to be appointed by the CEC.
But opposition leaders were dissatisfied with the 'spirit of tolerance' of the majority, and reiterated their previous approach that they did not accept the present status of the CEC.
However, they underlined that the opposition would not boycott the elections, referring to their engagement to defending the people's vote through 'all democratic means'.
Following are statements of some leaders of the ruling parties and the opposition:
*Fatos Nano, SP Chairman
I want to inform the Albanian public opinion that all political representatives of all ranks are engaged in beginning immediately the preparatory action for the forthcoming elections.
They are holding consultations, and are working together on outlining coherent platforms, and these are being presented to the representatives of the opposition too.
Within this framework, Gramoz Ruci has met Jemin Gjana, and Tuesday's meeting aimed at adopting the legal formula of the Electoral Code. At the same time, they discussed the achieving of a constitutional resolution to various issues including the principle of equality.

So, much tolerance and responsibility should be exerted to fill the vacant seats in the Central Elections Commission, as well as those of the commissions in all the communes and constituencies.
We should adopt the principle that three representatives must be from the coalition government, three from the opposition, while the chairman should be appointed by the CEC.
We will accept that part of the proposals of the opposition are rational, and we will undertake all possible efforts for there to be the total involvement of the opposition in all the steps of the electoral process, an endeavour that will lead to uncontestable elections.
Certainly, all the processes will be run with much flexibility and great responsibility by the representatives of the majority and myself, too, regarding relations with the opposition and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other, domestic, institutions, the President of the Republic and representatives of friendly countries and of the allies that support Albania in its efforts to achieve institutional stability.
This attempt is being made in compliance with the standards of consensus, equality among parties and the elimination of prejudice, especially among those who do not know how to carry out their responsibilities and who could lead to the blocking of the electoral procedures, including the CEC, and preventing the electors from expressing their preferences.
*Spartak Ngjela, senior leader of the Legality Movement Party
Under the pretext that they do not have a political mandate, the SP members of the parliamentary laws committee did not accept the DP's other amendments.
So, the discussion finished and the opposition was displeased. There will be one more chance at the parliamentary session.
The signs are not good, and the responsibility will fall on those who do not accept a consensus on the electoral law.
I put forward my stance, and said that it was impossible to be both a party and referee.
We are determined not to boycott the elections. Rather, they will be protected. Other new forms will be found to achieve consensus.
The DP amendments focused on the CEC and the electoral modalities, which have been left vague as they stand now.
So, there are no guarantees at all for the elections, but I look forward to achieving this guarantee.
*Gramoz Ruci, chairman of SP parliamentary group
I can say that the parliamentary committees cannot order the parliamentary groups to meet.
The committees must carry out their tasks, while the (SP) parliamentary group will do its work.
One thing is clear: neither the opposition nor the ruling parties can create the CEC. That commission is a constitutional institution and, consequently, is created by Albania's Constitution.
A change to the country's Constitution cannot be thought of.
*Fatmir Mediu, chairman of the Republican Party
The Albanian opposition has not demanded a change to the Constitution. Rather, it has requested the implementation of the principle of equality and the real possibilities of guaranteeing the citizens' votes. We have demanded the creation of a CEC in which there will be political consensus and a common language, because the success of the autumn local elections, as well as the others, relies on it.

Any kind of propaganda that tries to create the impression that the opposition had demanded change to the Constitution is merely demagogy directed at the international community.
More time is necessary for the political forces to try to achieve compromise and to find a solution acceptable to all of them. However, the discussion of this issue does not conclude with the adoption (of the Electoral Code) in Parliament. The Republican Party will work out a memorandum, which will be sent to all international institutions.
*Mark Nikolli, SP member of the parliamentary laws committee
The draft of the Electoral Code will be discussed and adopted in compliance with the Constitution, which refers clearly to the CEC.
So, there are no questions related to the reaching of any consensus. The problem is under discussion and is not closed. The matter will be discussed at the political levels, and afterwards it will be reviewed by the parliamentary law committee with the aim of not violating the Constitution.
*Pal Dajci, DP member of the parliamentary laws committee
The Democratic Party will not boycott the elections. Rather, it will win them. We do not accept the CEC but recognize our amendments that have been put forward, and will defend our vote.
We will defend the Albanian citizens' vote through all democratic means.

Press Review: "Rilindja Demokratike":
Mafia Electoral Code, Funeral Code for Electoral Process
Under this headline, Democratic Party (DP) daily 'Rilindja Demokratike' carried on Wednesday quotations from the speech of the DP chairman, Sali Berisha, at a Tuesday meeting with Democrat local government officials in Tirana.
According to the paper, Berisha advised the participants at the meeting to start to compile the electoral lists in compliance with the relevant law so that the Socialist-led majority will be unable to manipulate this autumn's local elections.
Berisha's quotations follow:
Local Democrat officials and DP district leaders gathered on Tuesday at the Palace of Culture in Tirana to denounce the Mafia leftist governors' efforts to manipulate the electoral process.
The DP chairman, Sali Berisha, considered Tuesday's meeting as very important within the framework of the great efforts of the opposition for a free and just electoral process and for preventing the feverish attempts of the Mafia state and its Mafia links to entomb the free vote and the electoral institution in Albania.
The country, said the DP leader, is passing through its most difficult situation, and its independence is at stake.
He denounced the efforts of the present governors, who want to place Albania under a Mafia protectorate, to prevent the publication of the relevant dossiers on the contraband, theft and other crime.
Berisha said that the local officials and DP structures should improve their work in order to protect the country's sovereignty.
Likewise, he denounced the violation of the authority of local government by the coalition government, which has gone so far that the spending on investments in all the municipalities and communes is equal to the spending on the administrations of the president, premier and parliament.
The DP chairman advised the local governors to undertake the registration of the population in compliance with the competencies provided by the law.

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2000

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

COMMISSION SUR LE RESPECT DES OBLIGATIONS ET ENGAGEMENTS DES ETATS MEMBRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Propositions des co-rapporteurs pour le programme de la visite en Albanie (24-28 mai 2000)

Co-rapporteurs: **M. Jerzy Smorawinski (Pologne, PPE/CD)**
M. Jordi Sole Tura (Espagne, SOC)

Secrétariat: **M. Egbert Ausems**
Mlle Marine Trévisan

Tirana

- Ambassadeurs et représentants des organisations internationales (EU, UNHCR, OSCE)

- Président de l'Albanie
- Premier Ministre
- Ministres : Affaires étrangères, ordre public, justice

- Présidents de la Cour Constitutionnelle et de la Cour Suprême
- Procureur général
- Ombudsman

- Président du Parlement
- Délégation auprès de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe
- chefs des partis de la coalition
- chefs des partis de l'opposition

- représentants des media
- représentants d'ONG

Shkodra

- préfet
- maire
- chefs des partis politiques
- chef de la police

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE

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Fax : +33 (0)3 88 41 27 02
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http://stars.coe.fr

2000

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

23 May 2000

COMMITTEE ON THE HONOURING OF OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS BY MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Visit to Albania on 24-28 May 2000
Draft programme

Co-rapporteurs: **Mr Jerzy Smorawinski (Poland, EPP/CD)**
Mr Jordi Sole Tura (Spain, SOC)

Secretariat: **Mr Egbert J. Ausems**
Ms Marine Trévisan

Wednesday 24 May 2000

Arrival at Rinas Airport :
Mr Jerzy Smorwinski at 13h00 flight N° LV 221 from Rome
Mr Jordi Sole Tura at 16h45 flight N° AZ 506 from Milano
Mr Egbert J. Ausems at 14h10 flight N° SR 3458 from Zurich
Ms Marine Trévisan at 14h10 flight N° SR 3458 from Zurich

Accommodation at Rogner Hotel, Tirana, Tel 355 (0) 42 35035 Fax: 355 (0) 42 35050

[Meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the Albanian Parliament and the Head of the Albanian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe]

06.00 pm Meeting with the Head of the OSCE Presence, Ambassador Ahrens and Head of the European Commission Delegation, Mr Peretti

Working dinner

Thursday 25 May 2000

7.00 am – 05.00 pm Visit to Shkodra (Meeting with the Prefect, the Chairman of Municipality, the Director of the Police, the Rector of the University, lunch and visit to the premises of the Shkodra Lezha Castle

07.00 pm Meeting with the Ambassadors (Italian Embassy)

Friday 26 May 2000

09.00 am Meeting with the Chairman of the Constitutional Court, Mr Fehmi Abdiu

10.00 am Meeting with the Minister of Justice, Mr Ilir Panda

11.00 am Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pellumb Xhufi

12.00 noon Meeting with the Minister of Public Order, Mr Spartak Poçi

01.00 pm Meeting with the Chairman of the Albanian Parliament, Mr Skender Gjinushi

02.00 pm Meeting with the Ombudsman, Mr Ermir Dobjani

06.00 pm Meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Ilir Meta

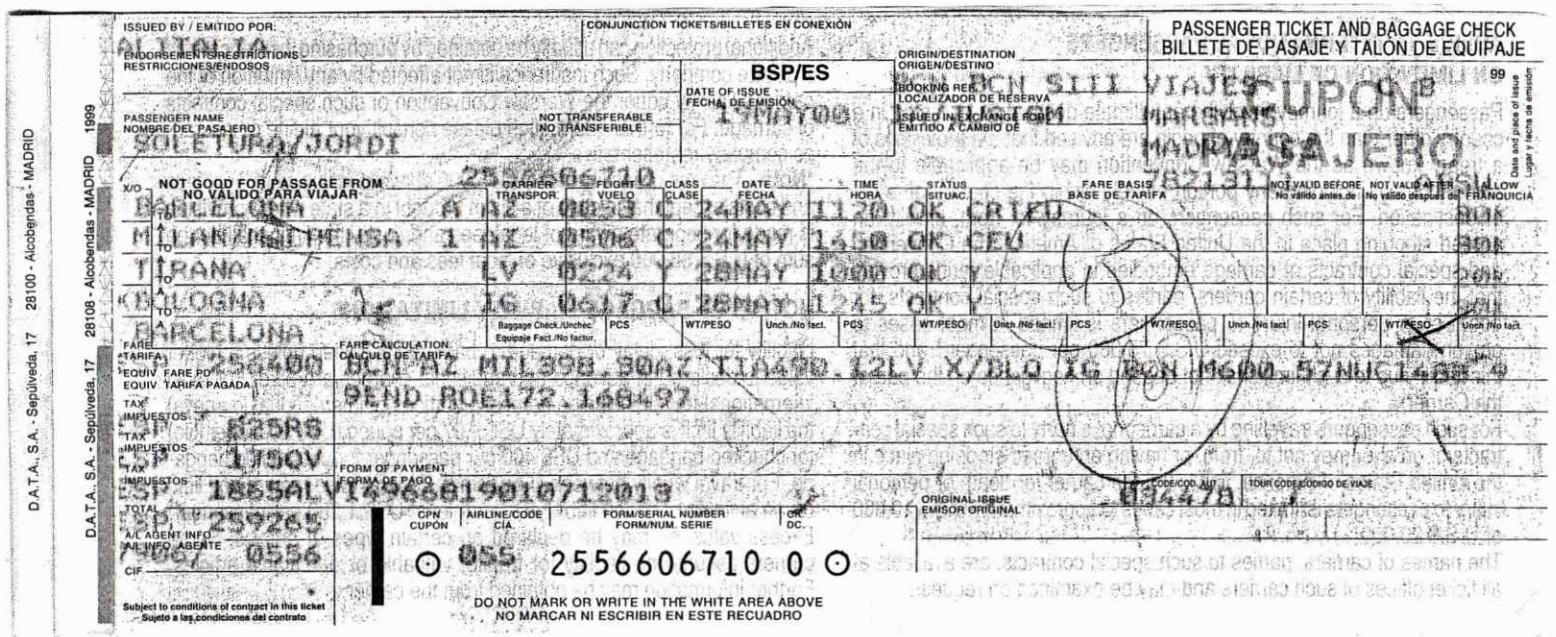
06.45 pm Meeting with the President of the Republic, Mr Rexhep Meidani

Saturday 27 May 2000

Meeting with representatives of the Socialist Party, Democratic Party, Press and NGOs

Sunday 28 May 2000

Departure from Rinas Airport
Mr Jerzy Smorawinski at 14h35 flight N° OS 852 to Vienna
Mr Jordi Sole Tura at 10h00 flight N° LV 224 to Bologna
Mr Egbert J. Ausems and Ms Marine Trévisan at 15h00 flight N° SR 459 to Zurich



D.A.T.A., S.A. - Sepúlveda, 17 28100 - Alcobendas - MADRID 1999

ISSUED BY / EMITIDO POR:
ENDORSEMENTS/RESTRICTIONS
RESTRICCIONES/ENDOSOS
CONJUNCTION TICKETS/BILLETES EN CONEXIÓN

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DATE OF ISSUE
FECHA DE EMISIÓN
19MAY00

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LOCALIZADOR DE RESERVA
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BILLETE DE PASAJE Y TALÓN DE EQUIPAJE

CUPON PASAJERO

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TAX / IMPUESTOS: ESP 1750V
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TOTAL: ESP 259265
A/C AGENT INFO / AL INFO. AGENTE: 0556
CIF:

FORM OF PAYMENT / FORMA DE PAGO:
ORIGINAL ISSUE / EMISOR ORIGINAL:
CODE/COD. AUT.: 03447B
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