

Tirana, 4 September 2026

OPEN LETTER

SUBJECT: For the fulfilment of parliamentary obligations and reinstating the protection of Protected Areas

Dear Member of Parliament,

At the beginning of the new political season, and with the aim of improving your representation of the citizens of Albania in the Parliament, you should be aware that Parliament is failing to fulfil one of its fundamental obligations, which stems first and foremost from its responsibility to represent the citizens of the country.

In addition to the opposition expressed in 2024, when amendments to the Law on Protected Areas were adopted, citizens have now been calling for months, on Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard, for the repeal of Law No. 21/2024 “On Protected Areas” and the reinstatement of Law No. 81/2017, one of the principal demands of the nationwide protest movement.

The obligation to repeal the 2024 amendments to the Law on Protected Areas also stems from the Common Negotiating Position between Albania and the European Commission, within the framework of Albania’s EU accession negotiations. In this document, the parties have agreed on the full repeal of the amendments adopted in 2024 to the Law on Protected Areas.

Despite this obligation, Parliament has yet to undertake the necessary amendments, while the authorities have continued to plan development projects within protected areas.

Throughout the month of May, our country faced a shameful situation in which heavy machinery entered one of the country’s most important protected areas, Pishë Poro–Narta, and operated without a construction permit for a period of 26 days, causing significant damage to protected habitats.

Following this incident, the European Parliament also responded by overwhelmingly adopting Amendment 17, which, in addition to calling for the repeal of the 2024 amendments to the Law on Protected Areas, called for the urgent establishment of a moratorium on construction activities and the issuance of new permits within protected areas.

Regrettably, hundreds of thousands of people are now witnessing that the Parliament of Albania has failed to fulfil this demand as well, alongside its failure to fully repeal the problematic amendments.

We remind you that Law No. 81/2017 “On Protected Areas” is legislation aligned with European standards and fulfils, to a large extent, the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives. Therefore, we call on you, as a Member of the Parliament of Albania, to urgently initiate the discussion and legislative initiative for the restoration of Law No. 81/2017, thereby returning Parliament to the service of its citizens and reaffirming the European spirit that should characterize this institution at a time when Albania is advancing towards European Union membership.

We look forward to your response and concrete commitment to addressing this matter within the Parliament of Albania.

Respectfully,

PPNEA