



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
MINISTER

No. 0158 Prot.
(In reply please refer to this number)

Tiranë, on 15/02/2017

Subject: On the US support to the establishment of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Albania.

To: HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. WILLIAM BROWNFIELD

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Mr. Brownfield,

Please allow me to express my profound personal respect and gratitude for the ongoing attention and strong support of the United States to Albania.

Accordingly, the United States' constant attention is focused on Albania's public institutions which are in the process of reform implementation, as well as important processes for Democratic Development and the Rule of Law in our country. Lastly, I would like to thank you for our recent meeting in January. It was a pleasure to discuss Albania's inherent reform topics and issues, as well as to share with you my associated thoughts and solutions for overall success.

As already discussed in our meeting, Albania is implementing historic reforms regarding its Justice System, which will contribute to consolidation of the Rule of Law, Good Governance, and the need of an Albanian society that seeks an effective justice system.

For the Albanian people this reform will be the key to open the door and integrate Albania in the European Community by implementing nearly similar international justice standards.

In the capacity of the Minister of Justice, I am highly committed to complete and improve the policy and legal framework of this reform, as well as to play an active role in its implementation within the established framework for such new institutions under the provision of the new legislation.

In the context of the obligations provided for by the new legislation, more specifically Law no.95/2016 “On the organization and functioning of institutions for fighting corruption and organized crime”, a committee of criminal justice experts appointed by EU and US missions in Albania that will provide guidance and advise for a 2 year period for the establishment, development and training of one of the most critical bodies for fighting organized crime and corruption, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

The National Bureau of Investigation will be integral part of Albania's existing and future institutions' integrity and success, whereby long term continuity is maintained across judicial and law enforcement capacities.

That said, Albania supports such a new agency as the NBI and related ones to be led by the United States' government and its specialized expert partners to best train and equip Albania's future NBI and related ones.

A shared American-Albanian partnership to eradicate illicit criminal networks posing security risk at home, regionally, and transnationally, would greatly enhance Albania's reforms success not only in judicial matters, but equally enhancing and combatting non-proliferation matters, anti-corruption, anti-terrorism, narcotics interdiction, narco-terrorism or radicalization, industry outreach, and subsequent capacity building programs promoting 1) domestic and inter-regional cooperation at the highest levels and 2) building relationships and capacities among career law enforcement officials throughout Albania and abroad.

Taking into account the above obligations and to ensure a quick implementation and Justice System reform in Albania, I would highly appreciate direct support and commitment of the State Department and Your personal involvement in determining the US agency that will be in charge and leading the process in Albania.

Considering the importance of the process, personally, I would like that this expertise comes directly by a well-known expert agency that operates in the USA, with appropriate professional experience and knowledge establishing, advising and training law enforcement institutions and investigation bodies in other host- countries.

I am confident that You will provide your full consideration, as always, and my request will be assessed by you in the spirit of cooperation and assistance, of which the United States consistently provides to Albania.

I express once again the belief that our approach will be positively evaluated on Your side, because we strongly need US expertise in the consolidation and proper functioning of new law-enforcement institutions in criminal matters in Albania.

Looking forward to your very kind support, please allow me once again to extend my highest consideration to you personally and to the State Department, as the most important substantial partners of my country, Albania.

Sincerely,

MINISTER OF JUSTICE
PETRIT VASILI

