Key milestones

APRIL 2009
Application for EU membership
Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

JUNE 2014
EU candidate country status granted

APRIL 2018
Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations

JUNE 2018
The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations

MARCH 2020
The members of the European Council endorse the Council’s decision to open accession negotiations

JULY 2020
Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States

JULY 2022
Intergovernmental Conference on accession negotiations (IGC)
Start of the screening process

Trade & investment

- The EU is Albania’s biggest trading partner
- The EU’s Foreign Direct Investment in Albania reached €610.9 million in 2021
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €5.9 billion in 2021

In 2021
72% in exports
54% in imports

Economic & Investment Plan

Over the next seven years, the EU will mobilise up to €30 billion in cooperation with international financial institutions through the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans launched in 2020. The following EIP projects for Albania were endorsed in 2022:
- Sustainable transport: Tirana bypass, Hani i Hotit railway line
- Clean energy: Vau i Dejës Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant

EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
- The EU is supporting the socioeconomic development and reforms in the enlargement region, including in Albania, with financial and technical assistance through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)
- For 2021-2027, IPA III funding for the whole enlargement region is €14.162 billion*. It is based on EU thematic priorities rather than pre-defined country envelopes. This will allow the instrument to reward performance, progress towards key priorities and have increased flexibility to respond to evolving needs
- The Annual Action Plan 2021 for Albania allocates a budget of €64.9 million supporting actions in judiciary, property rights, circular economy & green growth, innovation and nature.
- The Annual Action Plan 2022 for Albania for an amount of €82.6 million focuses on continuation of support to the re-evaluation of magistrates, democracy, law enforcement, EU integration, water and youth.
- In the Framework of the Energy Support Package of €1 billion adopted for the Western Balkans (500 million in grants and 500 million in soft loans & guarantees), the Annual Action Plan for 2023 for Albania is €80 million.
- €569 million in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- For 2014 - 2020, IPA II funding allocated for Albania amounted to €758 million
- €115 million EU grants for rehabilitation and reconstruction after the 2019 earthquake

Human capital & innovation

- The EU pays special attention to youth, education and innovation and is helping the Western Balkans implementing Youth Guarantee schemes to support youth employment
- 9,800+ participants from Albania in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)
- €25 million in support to civil society (2014-2020)

Source: EU Data