

CDI contribution at the 2nd RGF Monitoring Committee in Tirana

09/06/2026

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Members of this Committee, Dear colleagues,

On behalf of CDI and of the broader network of civil society organisations engaged with Albania's EU accession reforms, I would like to thank the Monitoring Committee co-chairs for the opportunity to address this 2nd meeting.

CDI has been engaged with the Reform and Growth Facility since end of 2023. We have contributed to two EESC Opinions on this Facility, the latest one requested by the Cyprus Presidency of the EU; have developed the region's first civil-society-led [Reform Tracker](#); continue to monitor the Reform Agenda (RA); and to systemically advocate for and encourage a Growth Plan dialogue with the Parliament, Government Institutions, civil society and private sector. In two weeks, we will present our work and the current involvement of civil society in the Growth Plans of WBs, Moldova and Ukraine in COELA and COWEB in Brussels.

We are invested in the success of this instrument. And I want to underline that an important support to our efforts, has been the openness and cooperation of the RGF National Coordinator and the SASPAC team. We are thankful for their open approach and continuous communication.

Albania stands first in the region for the absorption rate. This is progress, and we welcome it. We look forward to a satisfactory 3^d report by June this year, a report that will test the delivery capacities and conditionality of this instrument.

The 8th Intergovernmental Conference and approval of IBAR further highlighted the embedment of Reform Agenda in the negotiation framework: RA has contributed to the Interim Benchmarks (IB) and continues to contribute to the Closing Benchmarks. But the: i) effective functioning of the Assembly, ii) oversight of the executive, and iii) engagement with civil society, - as strongly emphasized by IBAR - require adequate institutional and financial support to be effectively implemented.

None of the above are supported through appropriate measures in the current Reform Agenda. Also, the EU-funded Technical Assistance for our government, doesn't address the stakeholder engagement deficit. We recommend the Commission to adapt planning to reflect on the needs of reform local engagement and ownership. Consultation and stakeholders' engagement should take place in time at Line Ministry Level, and not at Coordinator level alone.

Line-ministry consultations directly affect the quality and credibility of legislation adopted under the Reform Agenda, the legitimacy of the reforms, and their measurable impact.

Last week together with more than 30 organizations we have published an open letter "On the quality and transparency of law-making in the European integration process" recommending: i) public and accessible monitoring of the Roadmaps for the fundamentals chapters; ii) inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders; and iii) systematic consultation in the process of legislative harmonisation, as new Direct Support Milestones in the Reform Agenda 2.0.

I will outline three new lines of measures aimed at anchoring the Instrument to its societal and economic ownership objectives, which we recommend that this Committee consider and endorse.

- 1) A direct support measure aiming to operationalize the roadmap on functioning of democratic institutions by strengthening parliamentary oversight and civic engagement

Through this line of measures Albania ensures a sustained implementation and publicly accessible monitoring of its Roadmaps. The verification benchmarks should include a robust and multi-disciplinary mechanism, properly equipped with necessary resources, that monitors and scrutinizes the implementation of Roadmaps, and has as modus operandi a thorough and inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders.

2) A direct support pillar for Civil Society engagement

A dedicated RGF pillar for civil society engaged in EU accession reforms consultation and monitoring, public accountability and impact visibility. This directly operationalizes the IBAR requirement under the Functioning and Democratic Institutions section supporting an effective civil society engagement and oversight role.

3) A business readiness direct support measure

Establish a dedicated Business readiness direct support measure under the Reform Agenda 2.0, to bridge the gap between legislative reform and business readiness. This directly addresses the socioeconomic convergence objectives of the RGF, gives tangible content to the Single Market alignment commitments in the Reform Agenda, and addresses the three priorities raised by the private sector: (i) alignment; (ii) awareness; and (iii) compliance and readiness.

With the new planning probably to take place very soon, our call is to consider and include in the planning the new proposed budgeted steps. The closing benchmarks under Cluster 1 provide the urgency. The IBAR explicitly links Fundamentals Cluster closing progress to the effective functioning of the Assembly, oversight of the executive, and meaningful engagement with civil society. The legal basis is in the Regulation.

A properly resourced, structural stakeholder engagement pillar embedded in the Reform Agenda - aligned with RGF governance requirements and Albania's accession priorities - that both reinforces the reform conditionality framework and lays the institutional foundations for a whole-of-society approach under the Global Europe Instrument in the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Thank you.