



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AUTHORITY
DIRECTORATE OF CERTIFICATION, POLICY,
AND LEGISLATION FOR CYBERSECURITY

Nr. 1123/Prot.
1.1

Tirana on, 27 . 12 . 2024

Subject: Expression of interest for a technical and legal assessment and the inclusion of Albania in the trusted list of third countries for trusted services.

To: MR. ROBERTO VOILA
DIRECTOR GENERAL
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS,
CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Address: European Commission, 1049 Brussel Belgium

Cc: PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Bulevardi "Dëshmorët e Kombit", 7 1010, Tiranë

Dear Mr. Voila,

On behalf of the Republic of Albania, please allow me to express our interest in formally requesting the conduct of a technical and legal assessment which will facilitate the inclusion of Albania in the trusted list of third countries for trusted services. This request aims to evaluate the trusted services of the Albanian state in accordance with the regulations and standards of the European Union.

Within the framework of the European Union's instrument "Facility for Reforms and Growth for the Western Balkans," the Republic of Albania has undertaken a series of significant reforms. Among these is our compliance with the regulation on digital identity and the implementation of a digital wallet for public services. To enable the successful implementation of this reform, we seek inclusion in the trusted list of third countries of the European Union for the validation of electronic signatures and advanced electronic signatures, as the first crucial step towards the mutual recognition of qualified trusted services.

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The National Cyber Security Authority is the regulatory body responsible for overseeing and implementing the current legislation on electronic identification, trusted services, and cybersecurity in the Republic of Albania, located in Tirana and operating under the Prime Minister's office. The Authority plays a key role in securing Albania's digital space and a reliable and secure environment for the use of electronic identification and trusted services. By creating and supporting cybersecurity policies and infrastructures, the Authority contributes to protecting data and systems from cyber threats and attacks, thereby ensuring the integrity and reliability of services provided at the national level.

The Republic of Albania has taken significant steps to modernize its digital service infrastructure, aiming to enhance governance, increase efficiency, promote economic growth, and correctly implement European Union policies. Recognizing the importance of digitalization as a key driver of development, concrete measures have been taken to utilize technology in providing transparent public services with easy access from the citizens.

A notable aspect of digital transformation efforts of Albania is the improvement of digital infrastructure with around 1.245 digital trusted services, in order to facilitate interaction between citizens, businesses, and government entities. The inclusion of digital identity solutions, such as electronic identification cards and digital signatures, has improved administrative processes and enhanced the security and integrity of online transactions.

In addition to the digitalization of services, Albania has recognized the importance and necessity of sustainable development in cybersecurity as one of the essential elements accompanying digitalization. An entirely new vision regarding the development of cybersecurity in the country has become significant, with a special focus on the legal and institutional framework, investments in technology, and human resource capacities in cybersecurity.

As previously noted, providing and effectively implementing secure digital services across all sectors of society comes with its own set of challenges.

Albania's inclusion in the trusted list of third countries would offer opportunities for economic development, further advancements in the technology and communication sector, as well as enhancement in international relations.

Albania is committed to fulfilling all technical and legal requirements related to its inclusion in the trusted list of third countries, to improving policies and legislation in accordance with European Union requirements and to investing in the capacities and infrastructure necessary for the development of trusted services.

Following the above, recognizing the significance of this process for the advancement of the technology and communication sector, as well as for enhancing Albania's collaboration with the European Union, *we kindly request from you a deep legal and technical assessment which will allow the evaluation of the full alignment with the requirements and standards outlined in the EU regulations on trusted services.*

Albania expresses its willingness to collaborate with the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology and any other EU institutions, adhering to any necessary guidance and procedures to support the progress of this process. We are confident that Albania's inclusion in the trusted list of third countries would significantly contribute to the country's economic development and foster greater interaction with regional and global economies.

Thank you for the opportunity and cooperation.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR GENERAL



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