

Press Release

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Albania: PACE co-rapporteurs welcome the delay in the implementation of the Lustration Law

Strasbourg, 17.02.2009 - "The decision of Albania's Constitutional Court to suspend the implementation of the controversial Lustration Law is a welcome development," said the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) for Albania, Jaakko Laakso (Finland, UEL) and David Wilshire (United Kingdom, EDG).

"The Court has used its power to suspend implementation until it has taken a final decision on the complaints lodged by the Socialist Party, the Association of Judges and the Albanian Helsinki Committee," they added.

The co-rapporteurs met Vladimir Kristo, Chairman of the Constitutional Court, in [Tirana last week](#). On this occasion, they urged the court to refer the law to the Council of Europe's Venice Commission to advise on its compliance with European legal, democratic and human rights principles and standards. They said they were delighted that the court has now done so.

Commenting on the announcement of the court's decision, the co-rapporteurs said that they were relieved that a way had been found to pause and reflect on the details of this very controversial law.

Mr Wilshire further added: "Nobody is saying that Albania should not have a lustration law of some sort and experts are offering to help implement one. However some of the details of the current law really do need modification".

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.

President: Lluís Maria de Puig (Spain, SOC) – Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political groups: EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); SOC (Socialist Group); EDG (European Democrat Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).