



**Dr. Jan-Niclas Gesenhues**  
Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

Dr. Jan-Niclas Gesenhues MdB, Büro im Deutschen Bundestag, Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin

Via email

Marta Kos  
European Commissioner for Enlargement

Jessika Roswall  
European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and  
a Competitive Circular Economy

Berlin, 11.06.2026

**Dr. Jan-Niclas Gesenhues MdB**

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Umweltpolitischer Sprecher  
Leiter AG Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Naturschutz  
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Dear Commissioner Kos,  
Dear Commissioner Roswall,

I am writing to you as a Member of the German Bundestag. My concern is shared by several parliamentary colleagues working on development, European and environmental policy.

In recent years, Albania has received considerable recognition for its commitment to nature conservation. In particular, the designation of the Vjosa Wild River National Park was widely celebrated across Europe as a landmark achievement for biodiversity protection. It is therefore all the more concerning that ongoing developments within the Vjosa-Narta Protected Area threaten to undermine this important achievement. According to numerous reports, the construction of Vlora International Airport and adjacent luxury resorts poses significant risks to the ecological integrity of this unique wetland ecosystem, which provides habitat for around 200 bird species and serves as a crucial stopover site for migratory birds along the Adriatic Flyway.

From our perspective, the continued implementation of these projects raises serious concerns regarding compliance with international conservation commitments and with the environmental standards that candidate countries are expected to meet as part of the European Union accession process. The Vjosa-Narta area is widely recognised as one of the most important coastal wetlands in the region and would be expected to receive robust protection under the principles underpinning the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. International bodies, including the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, have repeatedly expressed



concern and called for construction activities to be suspended until the environmental impacts have been fully assessed and addressed.

We fully acknowledge Albania's legitimate aspirations for economic development, modern infrastructure and a thriving tourism sector. However, sustainable prosperity can only be achieved if the country's exceptional natural heritage is preserved. The Vjosa River and its delta possess the potential to become a flagship European example of nature-positive development and sustainable tourism.

Against this background, we respectfully urge the European Commission to closely monitor developments in the Vjosa-Narta Protected Area and to use the instruments available within the EU accession framework to ensure that environmental obligations and biodiversity protection commitments are fully respected. In particular, we ask the Commission to engage with the Albanian authorities regarding the planned and ongoing construction works associated with Vlora Airport and adjacent resort developments and to advocate for the suspension of these projects until the effective protection of the Vjosa-Narta Lagoon can be guaranteed.

The European Union has rightly placed biodiversity protection at the heart of the European Green Deal and its broader environmental agenda. Maintaining the credibility of these commitments requires that environmental concerns are addressed consistently, including throughout the enlargement process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity for further exchange and stand ready to discuss these concerns in greater detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Jan-Niclas Gesenhues'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Dr. Jan-Niclas Gesenhues, MdB



Ayşe Asar

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