

Council Statement on the integrity and autonomy of its work

The Council recalls that occasional presence of third parties, including a third country, at Council meetings is possible on an ad hoc basis and for specific items on the agenda, subject to the specific requirements that usually apply¹ to such instances aimed at preserving the integrity of its work.

In all circumstances, the Council's decision-making autonomy must be protected. Therefore, third countries, including those engaged in the enlargement process, may not be invited to participate in, nor be allowed to have an impact or influence on the Council's decision-shaping or decision-making.

An observer status can only be granted after the signature of the Accession Treaty.

Council statement

The endorsement of the Commission Communication on "Enhancing the accession process - A credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans" of 5 February 2020 does not prejudge decision-making methods in other areas.

Statement by the Commission

In accordance with its updated report, the Commission considers that on the issues listed by the Council for Albania as necessary for the adoption of the negotiating framework and prior to the first intergovernmental conference, Albania has already achieved significant progress by increasing its efforts and delivering further tangible and sustainable results in these key areas. The Commission will continue to monitor the progress and track record on all these areas and will return to them in the annual country reports on Albania.

¹ Doc 6566/20.