



THE ALBANIAN RENEWAL (RINISJA SHQIPTARE) · DOCUMENT 1

THE PETITION

The Petition for the Albanian Renewal

English edition of “Peticioni për Rinisjen Shqiptare”

Constitutional restructuring, international anchoring, and the dismantling of patronage monopolies

KUSHTETUTË E RE

SISTEMI I ZVICRËS – DEMOKRACIA E DREJTPËRDREJTË

— REVOLUCIONI I POPULLIT. FUQIA ËSHTË TE TI. —

DEMOCRACI E DREJTPËRDREJTË
Populli vendos përmes referendumeve dhe iniciativave popullore.

REFERENDUM DHE INICIATIVË POPULLORE
Çdo qytetar ka zërin e tij.

SHTET LIGJOR DHE TRANSPARENT
Të gjithë janë të barabartë para ligjit

MBROJTJA E TË DREJTAVE DHE LIRIVE THEMELORE
Dinjtet i njeriut, liria dhe drejtësia janë të paprekshme.

FIRMOS PETICIONIN TANI!

ÇDO FIRMË ËSHTË NJË VOTË PËR TË ARDHMEN TONË!

FIRMOS ONLINE
PËR TË ARDHMEN E RE

<https://ia-see.com/lexo/>

— AS NARTA · AS RRJOLLI · AS MALET —

TË VONUAR JEMI – MË TË MIRËN TË ZGJEDHIM!

WIRTSCHAFTSUNION
ÖSTERREICH · ALBANIEN

BE

NJË NISMË E MBËSHTETUR NGA

USA

SCHWEIZ

NJË E ARDHMË ME DREJTËSI, LIRI DHE DINJITET!

IASEE–RISE Citizens’ Initiative

IA-SEE — RISE · Iniciativa Qytetare · ia-see.com/lexo/ · ia-see.com/peticioni

June 2026

ia-see.com/lexo/ · ia-see.com/peticioni · 1

A message for every Albanian

Think of Albania as one large family home. For thirty-five years a small, recycled network has locked the outer door, rewritten the rules for personal gain, and forced more than a million Albanians — a quarter of our family — to leave. We are not here merely to repaint the walls; we are here to rebuild the foundations. This petition is your pen to write the new rules.

1. Executive Summary and Core Purpose

The IASEE–RISE citizens’ initiative is not a request for cosmetic reform, nor a vehicle for regime change within the existing framework. It is a sovereign intervention by citizens, designed to lawfully close the 1998 constitutional cycle and to replace a parliament that — in the initiators’ assessment — has been captured by a cross-party cartel, with a direct democracy inspired by the Swiss model, ratified directly by the people through a binding referendum.

The central thesis is straightforward: the national interest — including the strengthening of natural ties with Kosovo and protection against foreign influence — can be guaranteed only through meritocratic, transparent institutions accountable directly to the citizen. The most visible consequence of their absence is measured in people: the resident population fell from **3,182,417 in the 1989 census to 2,402,113 in the 2023 census** — a documented loss of about 780,000 residents, of which 429,628 in the twelve years since the 2011 census, driven principally by emigration.¹

2. Who Raises This Initiative

Naskë Afezolli brings to this movement a lifetime of experience in delivering strategic infrastructure projects, with a strictly non-partisan standing:

1. **Infrastructural sovereignty (1974–1991).** He contributed to the country’s industrial works, including the Elbasan Metallurgical Complex and the new mines (until 1981). Later, in the energy sector, he led the design and implementation of the 400 kV Albania–Greece and 220 kV Albania–Kosovo interconnection lines, breaking the country’s energy isolation in 1985, together with a team of Albanian engineers. He has always regarded the destruction of heavy industry and its passing under foreign control as a national loss.
2. **The TAP vision (2003).** He conceived and strategically advanced the Southern Gas Corridor (Trans Adriatic Pipeline), presenting the project directly to the U.S. Department of State (Ambassador Richard Morningstar) and seeking the support of the German government, through former Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.
3. **State service (1991–1993).** He served as Deputy Minister during the post-communist transition without ever joining any party; he later qualified in macroeconomics and transition finance as a “Humphrey Fellow” in the USA. After his studies in 1995, his contribution was obstructed by the political elite of the time, owing to his open criticism of flawed reforms and rampant corruption.

3. Diagnosis: A Captured State

According to the analysis at the heart of this initiative, the current model of governance in Albania is not simply a poorly functioning democracy — it is a system captured by nepotistic networks and oligarchic interests reproduced since 1991. The initiators argue that the old structures of

control inherited from the dictatorship were never dismantled; after 1991 they were recycled by the successor parties.

This oligarchy — in the initiators' view composed of some 5–7 dominant family cartels — operates by eroding meritocracy: administrative posts, tenders and licences are distributed on the basis of political loyalty rather than ability. The direct consequences are the plunder of public wealth, damage to the coastline and to state property, and the departure of an entire generation.

This assessment is supported by the public data of international institutions. The European Commission's 2024 report on Albania acknowledges progress in the vetting of the judiciary, but records reversals as well — a broad amnesty pardoned 40 persons convicted by the Special Anti-Corruption courts (SPAK) and reduced the sentences of 65 others — and notes continued political interference with justice.² GRECO's Fifth Round Evaluation Report documents concrete shortcomings in preventing corruption among top executive functions and in law enforcement.³

The initiative links this internal capture to a historical vulnerability to foreign influence and to the severing of Albania's natural geopolitical ties with Kosovo. Regardless of historical interpretations, the practical conclusion is the same: only meritocratic, decentralised and transparent institutions can make the capture of the state structurally impossible.

4. The Transition Plan: Avoiding the “Iceland Trap”

The IASEE–RISE framework adapts the methodology of Iceland's citizens' assembly (2010–2013), but builds strict institutional safeguards to avoid its failure. Iceland failed because it handed the citizens' constitutional draft to the old parliament for approval — which blocked it. The Albanian Renewal removes this veto through a binding popular referendum and international anchoring.

The sequence: Mobilisation (0–3) → Anchoring (1–6) → Assembly (3–9) → Ratification (9–12) → Cantonisation (12–18) → New State (18–24).

1. Citizen mobilisation (months 0–3): gathering signatures. The aim is clear — a new constitution designed by the people, not by the parties.
2. International anchoring (months 1–6): a formal request for monitoring and oversight by the USA, Switzerland and the EU (the Venice Commission).
3. Constitutional Assembly (months 3–9): citizens selected by lot, together with non-partisan experts, draft the new text transparently.
4. Binding ratification (months 9–12): a national referendum. A “YES” vote automatically dissolves the old parliament.
5. Cantonal system (months 12–18): full decentralisation on the Swiss model and the Council of Senior Experienced Persons (over 60, after vetting).
6. The new state operational (months 18–24): the first national elections, based exclusively on merit and integrity.

On parties and pluralism: the main protection against capture is not a ban on parties but the open right of candidacy — since every qualified individual may run without any party's permission, no party can monopolise access to power. Freedom of political organisation and pluralism are protected for the future, in line with Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights and

the Copenhagen criteria; any transitional measure remains limited, proportionate, time-bound and subject to review by the Venice Commission.

The Caretaker Technical Government

Instead of a “temporary governing board,” the transition is administered by a Caretaker Technical Government whose authority derives directly from the people’s sovereign decision in the referendum (Articles 2 and 150 of the Constitution in force), not from any emergency regime. Composition: independent, non-partisan experts (including foreign technicians), under international oversight (the Venice Commission and an observer mission); no active politicians and — to preserve its independence — no sitting member of parliament or member of the outgoing legislature; no persons convicted by final judgment or declared “non grata.” Until it is sworn in, the incumbent Council of Ministers carries out only ordinary administration, so that no vacuum is created. Its mandate is limited to day-to-day administration and organising the first elections — no new laws or policies, no budgetary changes beyond continuity, no concessions, privatisations or mass dismissals; its duration is no more than 6–12 months, non-renewable; it dissolves automatically once the first elected government is sworn in, and its members do not stand in those first elections.

5. Principles and Structure of the New Constitution

The new constitution is not a “repair” of the 1998 document, but a sovereign restart of the state, written and ratified directly by citizens. It rests on five unshakeable pillars:

- **Sovereignty of the people** — all power flows from the people and returns to the people.
- **Criminalisation of patronage** — the distribution of posts, tenders and licences on the basis of political loyalty is declared a constitutional violation.
- **Compulsory meritocracy** — access to public employment and procurement occurs only through open, transparent competition.
- **Cantonal decentralisation** — power and budget pass to the cantons and municipalities, breaking Tirana’s centralising monopoly.
- **Citizen correctives** — referendums, recall and transparency that keep power under your control.

The new architecture of power

Executive — a Governing Board. The office of a single Prime Minister is replaced by a Governing Board of 3 members; the chair rotates annually (*primus inter pares*); members are elected directly on non-partisan lists. This removes the cult of personality and makes capture of the executive far harder.

Legislature — a 100-seat parliament, all elected. No seat is filled by appointment or by a quota imposed from above. The 100 seats are divided among four open electoral colleges: 60 the general citizens’ college; 15 science, culture and academia; 15 education; 10 the diaspora (voted by the diaspora itself). The right to stand belongs to the individual, not the party.

Judiciary — elected, not appointed. Judges are not appointed by parliament: each position in the Constitutional Court and the High Court is filled by referendum, from a shortlist of qualified candidates drawn up by an independent commission. The Prosecutor General becomes independent and protected from political interference.

6. International Anchoring

The entire process is anchored from the outset in external institutions, which compensate for internal weaknesses and guarantee that the process is not manipulated by the captured forces:

- **The Venice Commission** — as technical authority and overseer of the constitutional drafting.
- **The European Union** — accession conditionality is tied directly to the implementation of the new constitution.
- **The United States** — for strategic support and monitoring.
- **Switzerland** — for expertise in direct democracy and the cantonal system.

The full submission to these institutions — the master petition and the tailored appeals to each body — is set out in **Document 4: The International Filing Package**.

7. Why This Model Will Succeed

A strategic comparison with Iceland’s experience shows where the IASEE–RISE model builds decisive advantages:

Dimension	Iceland (2010–2013)	The IASEE–RISE model	Advantage
Who drafts it	Sortition forum + drafters	Sortition forum + non-partisan experts	Equal
The executive	Single Prime Minister	Board of 3 (annual rotation)	Albania
Route to office	Traditional parties	Citizen petition, sortition, non-partisan vote	Albania
Ratification	Advisory referendum (parliament’s veto)	Binding popular referendum	Decisive
State structure	Centralised unitary state	Deep decentralisation (cantons)	Albania
External anchor	None	Venice Commission, EU, USA	Albania

8. The Prosperity Pillar and the Legal Route

Beyond protection from capture, the Petition carries a positive economic dimension: the shift from an extractive economy to a productive one, and the creation of the common Albania–Kosovo market (about 7 million people), as the engine that answers the question “and then, how is prosperity achieved?” In this way the initiative is not only against state capture, but also for the future.

The legal route of the referendum

Ratification rests on popular sovereignty (Article 2) and the citizen-initiative referendum (Article 150) of the Constitution in force, under the oversight of the Venice Commission. Since a full amendment through Article 177 requires a qualified majority (94/140) that does not exist today, the Article 150 route is followed; this is subject to the prior review of the Constitutional Court (Article 152) and the limits of Article 151 — which is why the opinion of the Venice Commission is requested and no unilateral right is claimed.

Request to the Central Election Commission (CEC)

IASEE–RISE requests that the Central Election Commission:

- register the citizen initiative for a referendum under the legislation in force;
- verify signatures with full transparency and real-time publication;
- guarantee equal media access during the campaign and remove the penalising quorum for the referendum's validity;
- enable diaspora voting and electronic voting to international best practice.

9. Participation in Two Tracks

Participation is divided into two tracks, deliberately kept separate so that the civic petition is not conflated with the legal initiative:

Track 1 — The civic petition. Open to all Albanians — in Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Greece and the diaspora — demonstrating the popular will before the EU and the Venice Commission.

Track 2 — The formal initiative. Signatures verified by Albanian citizens, at home or after CEC registration for the diaspora, formally requesting the vote. Only the referendum is the decision.

10. Conclusion and Call to Sign

The IASEE–RISE movement rejects violence. It proposes a lawful, peaceful and institutional revolution. If we want Albania to stop emptying and the young generation to stop seeing emigration as the only path, betrayal of the public interest must be made structurally impossible.

The last and strongest defence of democracy lies not in the promises of the next politicians, but in the hands of the citizens themselves.

Sign and become part of the Albanian Renewal: ia-see.com/peticioni

Sources

¹ INSTAT, Population and Housing Census 2023 (resident population 2,402,113); 1989 census: 3,182,417; 2011 census: 2,831,741; decline of 429,628 (–15.2%) since 2011. instat.gov.al.

² European Commission, Albania 2024 Report, SWD(2024) 690, 30.10.2024.

³ GRECO, Fifth Round Evaluation Report on Albania, Council of Europe.