



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË  
MUNICIPALITY OF TIRANA  
CITY COUNCIL

Tirana, March 20<sup>th</sup> 2025

**To the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe**

Mathieu Mori  
Secretary General | Secrétaire Général

Marc Cools  
President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

**Position of the Group of Opposition Municipal Councillors in the Municipality of Tirana**

Dear members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,

We, the group of opposition municipal councillors in the Municipality of Tirana, would like to inform you about a very worrying situation that is taking place in the local government in Tirana and which is contrary to the fundamental principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

Following the court decision to arrest the Mayor of Tirana, Mr. Erion Veliaj, we have noticed an unprecedented and illegal intervention by the Prime Minister of Albania, Mr. Edi Rama, in the administrative affairs and decision-making of the Municipality of Tirana. Instead of the Municipal Council and local government institutions exercising their functions in accordance with the Constitution and the law, the municipality has been placed under the direct control of the central executive.

In this context, we note:

1. Infringement of local autonomy – Article 3 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government clearly stipulates that local authorities shall be free from unlawful interference by the central government. However, the actions of the Prime Minister demonstrate a political capture of local institutions.
2. Marginalization of the Municipal Council – Despite the fact that the Municipal Council is the highest representative body at the local level, it has been bypassed, and its constitutional and legal role is not being exercised.
3. Political manipulation of the administration and public resources – There are clear signs that this illegal control over the Municipality of Tirana is being used for political and economic gain, including the issuance of construction permits in a dubious manner and the instrumentalization of the administration for the parliamentary elections of May 11, 2024.

For these reasons, we:

- We strongly condemn the Prime Minister's interference in the administration of the Municipality of Tirana, which is contrary to democratic standards and the principles of good governance.
- We encourage the justice institutions to continue investigations into any case of corruption and legal violations related to the municipality's administration.
- We demand an immediate distancing of the central government from decision-making in the Municipality of Tirana and the return of its autonomy to legitimate local government bodies.
- We call on municipal councilors of all political forces to maintain independent positions and exercise their functions in the interest of the citizens of Tirana.

Local autonomy and the rule of law are the foundation of a functional democracy. Therefore, we ask the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to examine this situation and take steps to protect democratic standards at the local level in Albania.

With respect,

The Group of Opposition Municipal Councilors in the Municipality of Tirana

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