

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA PEOPLES' ADVOCATE

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Nr. <u>extra Prot.</u>

Tirana, 11.05.2020

To: Mr. Gianni Buquicchio President European Commission for Democracy through Law/Venice Commission Council of EUROPE 67075 Strasbourg Cedex France

Dear Mr. Buquicchio,

In my vest as the Albanian People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania, I wish to present my cordial greetings to you and the honorable members of the Venice Commission on the occasion of your 30th anniversary.

The Commission intense activity as a constitutional consultation and research organization, and its opinions has proven to be of crucial importance to Albania, where the non-functioning of the Constitutional Court and the minimal functioning of the Supreme Court represent a major problem that directly affects the democracy situation in the country.

I remain of the conviction that the Venice Commission will continue to play a major role in defending and promoting a functioning democratic system in Albania. As Ombudsman Institution and NHRI holding a Status A accreditation, we make treasure of "Venice Principles". They play a key role in our daily work and an important guideline for our Institution.

More then a few times during my term at the office i have gladly met with representatives of the Venice Commission where, among other things, i have expressed my opinions on very concrete issues and their actual and possible implications for the human rights. I take this opportunity to express our willingness to carry on our collaboration, towards the improvement of human rights, good-governance and democracy in Albania.

With my best wishes for good health and productivity, please accept Mr. Buquicchio the expression of my highest considerations!

Sincerely Yours,

ERINDA BALLANCA **PEOPLES' ADVOCATE OF ALBANIA**