**Tirana, 5 June 2018**

**Sénat du République,**

**Assemblée nationale**

**126 rue de l'Université,**

**75355 Paris 07 SP, France.**

**Memo**

**Honourable Members of the National Assembly and French Senat,**

As members of EU Policy Hub, a group of young Albanian professionals endorsing European integration, we would like to bring to your attention and call upon your political will to consider the European Commission’s recommendation to open EU accession negotiations with Albania.

**We appreciate** the great contribution that the France has given to the progress of Albania and its major reforms in terms of democratization and economic development. It is through the immense support of the France and other European member states that Albania has immerged into a substantial transformative process and has undertaken major reforms regarding judiciary, public administration, protection of human rights, fighting corruption and organized crime.

**We are aware** that our government’s reforms need to be boldly implemented, producing tangible results and establishing a solid track record. We also understand the scepticism regarding Albania’s ability to fully implement these reforms and especially indict and prosecute duly crime and corruption of high officials.

**However, we rest assured** that failure to open the EU accession negotiations with Albania will disrupt the Europeanization process of our country and the crucial reforms underway. On the contrary, giving the green light at this particular moment will encourage Albania to work harder on adopting and implementing EU norms and standards. The opening of the EU accession negotiations will bide our country to continue with the proper and timely implementation of the justice reform, especially the vetting process of judges and prosecutors, as well as the establishment of the new judiciary institutions that will have the mandate to investigate and prosecute corruption and organized crime committed by high state officials. To our opinion, and to the opinion of the overwhelming majority of Albanians, the opening of the EU accession negotiations constitutes a positive signal that this is the right path to walk into.

**Honourable Members of the National Assembly and French Senat,**

Albanians, particularly the young generation, need to know that our country has a truly European perspective. For the first time since the end of the communist regime and throughout our long transition process, we believe that there is a vital need to confirm the political will of the EU and its member states, and bring our country forward, strongly connected to Europe. The opening of the EU accession negotiation remains the key for sustaining our hope in the European integration and for making our government more accountable to successfully and fully implemented EU reforms and standards.

**We submit this memo to You**, Honourable Members of the National Assembly and French Senat, as an expression of trust that You will take the right decision to ensure our European aspiration.

Thank You!

Released on behalf of the EU Policy HUB signatories.