THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY
OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

PART ONE

THE SECURITY STRATEGY

1.The security strategy concept…… ……4-7
2.The security objectives ……. 7-9

PART TWO

THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT OF SECURITY

3. The security environment …… 9-10
4. Risks and threats against security……10-13
5. The national interests…… 13

PART THREE

THE ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER

6. Diplomacy…… 14-15
7. Protection of public's order and security …… 15-16
8. Economical and financial policy…… 16-17
9. Civil defense…… 17-18
10. Environment and health ……. 18
11.The relationships with public opinion……. 18
12. Defense policy…… 18-21

PART FOUR

THE STRATEGIC SECURITY LEADERSHIP

13.Constitutional basis of leadership…… 21-22

INTRODUCTION

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania is a document of national character; it is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Albania; it reflects the development of state policies for the security of citizens, the society and Albanian democratic state against external and internal risks and threats.

The legislation and activity in the field of security of the Republic of Albania conforms to the standards and principles of a democratic state, in compliance with the international acts.

The security of the country is guaranteed by effectively accomplishing the national interests in a timely and effective manner.

The fundamental missions of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania are:

- The exercise of sovereignty of the Republic of Albania;
- Protection of independence and territorial integrity;
- Protection of life and property;
- Constant democratic development and economical prosperity;
- Protection of national values and dignity;
- Membership in international structures of security;

The state interests require the protection of the constitution, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, perfection of democracy and strengthening of the rule of law, the protection of life and private property of citizens and development of free market economy, to ensure prosperity and national security.

Protection, ideals, and development of the national identity, are considered of crucial importance for the perspective of Albania. The public education and the protection of historical, cultural, moral and spiritual values enhance the dignity of the nation. Albania protects and respects by law the individual freedom and human rights.

The Republic of Albania aspires to be a factor of stability and peace in the region and shows no hostility or territorial claim about borders change by use of force.
Albania is declared against creation of crises and regional conflicts and against solving them by means of violence.

Integration in compliance with the international structures of collective security constitutes to be the best way for further strengthening of security of the country, aiming at the interests of peace and stability in the region. On the way towards membership we

will realize, also, the utilization of partnership mechanisms with these organizations, in the interest of national security.

The establishment and development of sincere and reciprocal relationships with neighboring countries and also, the rights and freedom of Albanian citizens everywhere, are a priority for the security of the Republic of Albania.

The consolidation and improvement of the instruments of security serve to the protection of national interests without violating the interests or security of the other countries. They are an expression of the protecting policy of sovereignty and independence, freedom and prosperity, peace and integrity of a democratic country, protecting oneself and as a pledge to give our contribution to the international context.

PART ONE

THE SECURITY STRATEGY

I .THE CONCEPT OF THE STRATEGY OF SECURITY

1. The National Security Strategy **of the Republic of Albania** represents the integral official means and instruments guaranteeing the protection of citizens, society and the Albanian state from external and domestic threats and risks. Its main object is to face the possible challenges of security for the present and the future, taking into consideration the geo strategic environment of security, the guarantee level that collective systems of security give, and also the Country's disposal resources and real capacities.

2. The principal feature of the Strategy of security is to respect the rule of law. The Strategy of security has as its own resource and basis the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and the Albanian legislation. It respects all international agreements, treaties, and conventions in which the Republic of Albania takes part. The Strategy becomes successful by bringing closer the viewpoints of all actors and components of the security, despite all the different affiliations.

3. Strategy vision focusing on integration. Collective security defense is the future perspective of all the countries that aim the fulfillment of the contemporary and democratic standards of security. The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania is based on the concept of an accelerated approach of our country, through multidimensional and graduated reforms, in the European and Euro-Atlantic collective security structures, putting special emphasis on EU and NATO, based on the United Nations provisions for the security and collective protection. It is to be taken in consideration that the efforts to the integration in the collective structures will be accompanied by the consolidation of reforms in the system of security and protection of the country, to adapt and come closer to the organization and functioning of collective structures.

4. The transformation of Albania from a security consumer into a country that contributes to the security. Our country is a NATO partner and aspiring country, included in the negotiations of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with EU, as well as into a considerable number of regional initiatives. The level of security of the country will be fostered by successfully accomplishing the programs and standards of Partnership for Peace and also the Agreement of Stabilization and Association. Another approach to foster the level of security will be the active participation and contribution in the initiatives for the enhancement of political and military confidence in the region. The implementation of the programs of bilateral and multilateral cooperation and of the standards of integration, will be closely related even with the continuation of concrete contribution of Albania in the interest of common missions, of peace and regional and global security, executed in compliance with the mandate of international organisms in which our country is an adherent.

5. The strategy of security is a strategy of action. The Strategy of Security of the Republic of Albania includes the interests, the objectives and the priorities of the country, and also the ways and the programs for their realization. The Strategy of Security constitutes a document integrated with the quality and authority of the basic and adjusting document of the development of all the sector strategies, which are part of the institutions of the state. Its main aim is to advance the national interests by consolidating the main instruments of the security of the country. The strategy supports the conception of a system for planning the security to achieve concrete result under the concept: " who does what, when, and cooperating with who".

6.The strategy of priority selection for the use of resources. Our country actually has limited national resources and well-defined priorities. As a result, the use of resources for the development of vital sectors of the economy of the country, of education, of public health, infrastructures for alleviation of social issues, and for the strengthening of the democratic institutions of the country will strongly influence in the raising of the level of security in the country. Based on our limited resources, this strategy supports with priority the development of national structures with two or more functions.

7.Dialogue, cooperation and peaceful means to solve disputes. Some of the priorities of our foreign and internal affairs policy are the respect of human rights in the Albanian territory, despite political, religious, regional, racial, ethnic, cultural, or social origin pertaining and also the protection by institutional means of the rights of the Albanian living out of the borders of the RA, also including Albanian citizens who are temporally or permanently living out of the country. The strategy supports the sensitive changes in the balance of security in favor of political means, of the institutions of security and diplomacy, and the dimension and human dignity in a democratic system. The use of military force will be executed only to guarantee the constitutional right to protect the vital interests of the country by all means, if they are at stake, as well as to contribute inside our country or outside, participating in humanitarian and peace support operations. Albania will never constitute a danger for its neighboring countries, nor will try to use its military capacities as a means of pressure and coercion towards other parties, as it will

not tolerate other countries to use or to threaten by using their military capacities against it.

8.The promotion of a rapid development of the economy and free trade. The development of a healthy economy, struggling against the informal economy and corruption, constitutes a key factor in the consolidation of institutions and national unity, as well as for the accomplishment of other standards important for the integration. This will offer other opportunities for business development and for creating a favorable economic climate for foreign investors. Through a strategic participation and the integration of the Albanian economy at a regional, European and global level, we aim to gradually increase the impact of economic factor over national security.

9.The consolidation of security institutions of our country. The effectiveness of the security system of the country, will be measured and estimated by the level of security that this system will produce for its own citizens, for the state, for the region and furthermore. The essence of reform in the domain of security, as a cyclic and wholly inclusive process, will be the further transforming consolidation of all institutions of security. This reform will be concentrated on the solution of real challenges that have to do with the Albanian citizen and the country, starting from the facing of the demands in the economic development, up to the fight against corruption, unemployment and poverty. The reformation becomes necessary even in fighting the risks of a transnational character such as terrorism, illegal traffics and organized crime. These new challenges will require the development of new strategies of sectors in diplomacy, economy, protection, order, justice, intelligence service etc., reforming respective institutions.

10.The Armed Forces as one of most important institutions of the country's security. The Armed Forces will aim to accomplish the constitutional missions through the development of a military strategy and doctrine, a legal and contemporary context, and the organization of a military force more professionally qualified. Its aim will be, parallel to their basic constitutional mission to protect the independence and territorial integrity of the country, also to actively participate in a wide spectrum of humanitarian operations in the country, and also in international missions with constitutional mandates outside the country. The defense reforms will keep under special focus the programming of periodic review of the development and position of the Armed Forces adapting to the new situations of the security environment, reflecting concrete answers through new organizations missions, tasks and roles for all structures of the Armed Forces, always taking into account concrete needs of our country, and standards and structures of Euro-Atlantic collective defense.

11.An organized response towards organized crime, corruption, and illegal trafficking. The institutions of security, in close cooperation with the organs of Prosecution and the respective international bodies will aim at the implementation of the concept of preventing and neutralizing the risks and menaces against public order. The attack against organized crime, illegal trafficking and corruption will consist in a new strategy and organized response from the consolidated institutions of public order, justice, intelligence services, etc. The protection of stability and security against internal

challenges will be aimed and achieved through the further development of a specific legal context and a rigorous implementation of the law. The institution of justice will guarantee the implementation of laws in the country by establishing not only the rights but also the sanctions against whoever violates them. The long-term guarantee of national interests requires the approximation of legislation in these domains according to EU norms.

12.The contemporary use of information, in support of the national security. The rapid and accurate provision of information is inseparably related with the appropriate decision-making and rapid reactions undertaken to neutralize the consequences that affect the national security. The strategy considers information as a very important factor in strengthening national security by respecting the protection of the rights and constitutional freedom of citizens and the freedom of media. The protection of national security also requires the prevention of the use of information to manipulate the public. The protection of classified information of the state in special fields and between the states will be guaranteed without excluding the exchange of information with international organizations that spring from the agreements among the parties.

13.The evaluation of environmental factors in the security of the country. The protection and regeneration of Albanian nature will secure an ecological environment and favorable living conditions of the citizens and society. The national interests require the taking of measures for a rational exploitation of natural resources through the development of a balanced strategy of sectors for the protection of natural environment in favor of constant development of Albania.

II. THE SECURITY OBJECTIVES

14. The Security Strategy objectives are short term, mid term, and long term in nature. The realization of these objectives aims at creating a fundamental, interactive link among the national interests, needs and capabilities of the country.

15.The engagement for the realization of these principal objectives stands on a short term and mid term plan:

15. 1. Peace and security in the country. The inner stability of the country is a product of the state of law to protect its citizens, civil society and the state form anti-legal action.

15. 2. Regional cooperation. The establishment of regional relationships stands on the basis of this new vision, regarding the common policies of cooperation and mutual understanding. Our common aim is the integration in European and Euro-Atlantic structures so as to turn our region into a factor of peace, stability and prosperity.

15. 3. Consolidation of a democratic society and human rights observation. The strengthening of institutions of the state is the guarantee for the development of democratic society. A society that has high standards of respecting the human rights makes up a guarantee for a safe environment and harmonious relation between the

society and the individual. The individual, the society and the state have common obligations about the security of the country. The violation of these obligations even on one side, heavily damages its security. The active role of Non governmental organizations, contributes to the consolidation of democratic standards of society.

15.4 The consolidation of institutions and instruments of security. These should be seen as the ability to protect the national interests and as a responsibility to act in every situation. They are considered as decisive factors in the success of democracy and free trade economy in a developed Albania.

15.5 The economic consolidation. The economic consolidation of the country, toward European levels in infrastructure, being an active participant into regional and European markets, will enable Albania to profit more effectively from its favorable geo-strategic position.

16.The basic objectives of mid-term and long-term plans that should be taken into consideration are as follows:

16.1 The integration in Euro-Atlantic and European structures. The membership in EU and NATO remains the main objective regarding, and in the interest of, the security of the country.

16.2 The approximation of legislation to the standards of EU. The approximation of the legislation and the effective functioning of the state of law are long-term guarantees to protect the national interests and also for the integration of Albania.

16.3 The Albanian national issue. Regional stability is considered as a condition towards the integration of regional counties in Europe. Albania aspires to be an active partner in the regional policy. In this context, the Albanian national issue will be achieved through European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the countries of the region and also solutions that will provide a long-term and acceptable guarantee for the international community.

16.4 Environment and natural resource protection . The environment and the natural resources are key elements for generating instruments of security.

16.5 The consolidation of Armed Forces. This process will be executed through a periodic review of the strictures of the Armed Forces depending on the situations and developments in the environment of security. Capability to protect the territorial integrity and independence of the country are an expression of the people’s will to secure themselves without threatening other countries.

16.6 The fight against terrorism. The fight against terrorism directly engages all specialized structures of the state police, Intelligence Service of the state and the Armed Forces. In this context, in collaboration with international specialized organizations, the appropriate structures will work on the enrichment and improvement of the legal basis

and on the restructuring of specialized organs. Their objective is the maximum of efficiency in the fight against terrorism.

16. 7. The fight against organized crime and corruption. The fight against organized crime and corruption will continue to be at the center of activity of the state and Albanian society. The Albanian legal institutions are obliged to interact with effectiveness. The implementation of law in the war against organized crime and corruption, constitute a crucial element for the security in the Republic of Albania

PART TWO

THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT OF SECURITY

III .THE ENVIRONMENT OF SECURITY

17. The regional and worldwide situation at the beginning of the new Millennium has brought about new elements in the international strategic environment of security. These outcomes have tangibly influenced in the change of policy and the environment of security.

18. Trafficking of human beings, weapons and drugs, criminal organizations, organized crime, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are emerging as transnational phenomena and challenges that could considerably affect the security, peace and stability of all countries. These illegal activities have extended furthermore their area of activity, by surpassing the dimensions of national borders.

19. The existence of the increasing risk from these phenomena has made indispensable a comprehensive approach of all security and stability policies, taking into consideration all kind of aspects, political, military, economic, human, social, and environmental, of information, etc.

20. The complexity and interstate character of these phenomena emphasize the importance of a collective action and indispensability of establishing the reciprocal confidence building measures.

21. The incorporation of Central and Eastern European states in the international institutions, the stimulation of regional initiatives, the process of partnership, collaboration, dialogue, transparency and the establishment of common measures of security are the most effective ways for a new environment of security.

22. Historical outcomes have identified the Balkans as a region full of conflicts and frequent tensions. Having an important geo-strategic position as a bridge between East and West, this region has historically been included in the configuration of influences and interests of different worldwide powers, which many times has influenced in its becoming an area of confrontation and conflicts. On the other hand, the reasons for

numerous crises that have characterized this part of Europe are explained by the ethnic divisions, mixture of different cultures and religious communities, underdevelopment of economy, culture and democracy.

23. The conflicts in the Balkans in the last decade have exposed the region to the new challenges and threaten to put it in the center of phenomena such as: Trafficking of people, weapons, narcotics, organized crime, and terrorism. These are potential risks for the stability and peace in the region. As a consequence, the region has been frequently used as a bridge for illegal actions from problem countries of origin, towards the countries of destination in the European Union and further.

24. Like many countries of ex- Eastern block, Albania has had to face the consequences of totalitarian system and transition. The 1997 crisis and humanitarian crisis that came as a result of the conflict in Kosovo have had their own impact and aggravated the internal environment of security. All these needed the necessary time to be neutralized and overcome.

25. The Albanian factor in the Balkans is of prime importance, thus making the contribution and role of the Republic of Albania very important in creating a harmonious atmosphere of co-existence and reciprocal collaboration for peace, welfare and integrity of our region in the European family as fast as possible.

26. Albania has taken and is still taking continuous measures to strengthen the internal security. Fulfilling the standards for integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures requires maximal and continual engagement of state structures implementing a range of important duties such as:

- Strengthening the rule of law and democratic institutions;
- Restructuring and modernization of the Armed Forces, the strengthening of civil and democratic control.
- Further development of economy and increase in standards of life;
- Solution of vital problems of people, possibly in short periods of time.
- The close cooperation between political leaders and opposition about important issues of national security.
- The Deepening of respect of human rights and also national minorities' rights;
- The close cooperation with international organisms and neighboring countries in the fight against illegal traffic.
- The constant engagement in the process of arms control and disarmament.

IV. RISKS AND THREATS FOR THE SECURITY

27. When the cold war ended, the geo-political and geo-economic developments have put forth new risks and menaces about the interests and security of the Republic of Albania. The today's risks and menaces are characterized by different natures and difficulty in prediction. Despite the difficulties of the definition of a clear-cut division, they could be classified into risks and menaces of an internal transnational and global nature.

28. The internal risks and threats:

28.1 The organized crime in the country, becoming more perfect and professional, represents a great risk for society and security of the Republic of Albania. The disproportion between insufficient instruments at state disposal to discover, fight and punish crime and dimensions and trends in the development of nowadays crime, consists a real danger for the present and the future security of the Republic of Albania.

28.2 Political instability is a risk for the security of the Republic of Albania and protection of national interests. The experience of democracy in Albania so far proves that the political instability has been present in the internal environment. This phenomena makes it difficult for the institutions to function the best way possible; it risks the absence of social peace and public tranquility; it influences in the inability to achieve political consensus about very important issues of the country and damages the prestige of Albania in an international context. Political stability is a vital issue about Albanian society.

28.3 The insufficient economic development and not fulfilling the vital elementary necessities count for instability in the security and life of people in the Republic of Albania. The negative phenomena that come as a consequence, like smuggling and corruption bring about a deceleration of reforms, their deformation, stimulation of unemployment, traffic and organized crime.

28.4 the illegal immigration of Albanian citizens towards other countries presents a risk for the Albanian nation, for the country development and security in the Republic of Albania. The effect of this uncontrolled phenomenon are shown by the loss of lives, the uncontrolled flow of intelligence out of the country, artificial ageing of the population, loss of desire to work and strengthening the sentiment of leaving the homeland.

28.5 Natural disasters present a danger for the security of the Albanian Republic. Most possible natural disasters are: earthquakes, bad weather conditions, like: floods, massive slides, massive forest fires, different epidemics. Disasters may also come from human activity, such as industrial, terrestrial, air and naval disasters, results of criminal and terrorist activity, etc.

28.6 As far as security is concerned, **demographic problems** are a serious disturbance in the Albanian Republic. Uncontrolled population movement, mainly from the rural areas towards the urban centers, has created considerable disproportion, not only regarding overpopulation, but also abandonment of areas that for now and for the future, will need human resources.

28.7 Misinformation of the public opinion favors the destabilization. Inaccurate information, willingly or not, creates situations of insecurity, fear and unnecessary tension and may very often lead to unfair public reactions and decision making. As such

misinformation of public opinion consist a risk for the security of the Republic of Albania.

28.8 Inadequate development of education, science and culture has a negative impact on the Albanian republic security. A fundamental condition for the development, prosperity and protection of the national identity are specialized human resources, scientific capacities and a realistic presentation of our culture and tradition.

29 Threats and dangers of a transnational nature include **regional and foreign** dangers, in themselves.

29.1 Military force usage, or of force in any other forms that endanger sovereignty, independence and integrity of the country, are a danger for the Albanian Republic.

29.2 Regional destabilization, through revival of desire for the **nationalistic** feelings and **ethnic conflicts** performance, presents transnational danger for the Albanian Republic.

29.3 Terrorism, as an extreme means of violence presents a real transnational danger for the Albanian Republic security. As an international danger, terrorism has widely spread geographically. The geo-strategic position of Albania is one more element that leads towards our country being used as a logistics and communication route. Militant and extremist groups, which use violence as a way of realizing their political objectives, are a serious danger in the security of people's lives and functioning of the state in the Albanian Republic.

29.4 Organized crime presents direct danger of a transnational nature for the Albanian Republic security. Perfection of methods and means used by it, its regional and even further geographical spreading, continuous economic strengthening, present a danger for the Albanian Republic security.

29.5 Illegal trafficking is a danger of a transnational nature for the Albanian Republic security. The Albanian geographical position, different economical and social conditions, unemployment, poverty, loss of faith among social strata of the population, low education level are a pre-condition that the region, and especially our country, be resource and logistic communication routes for traffickers.

30. Dangers of Global nature present a real challenge for the whole international community.

30.1 Weapons of mass destruction and nuclear proliferation present a real danger of global nature that may touch even the Republic of Albania.

30.2 Environment pollution and diseases of a massive nature are an increasing global threat to peoples' lives and the security of the Albanian Republic. There are different reasons for the environmental pollution, such as: industrial (caused by factories and transport vehicles' remains), biological or chemical ones (caused by the scattering of the

toxic remains and materials). They may also be caused by people's carelessness, (trade of uncontrolled food).

30.3 Water resource reduction is a real increasing global danger. Climate and atmospheric change and further development of the society, are an evidence of water resource insufficiency as a global danger.

V. NATIONAL INTERESTS

31. Definition of national interests is decisive for the security development of the country. They give responsibility, legitimacy and credit to the political power, for the functioning of the democratic state according to international norms. As a unique system of interdependence among the power, society and citizens, the state is led, in essence by definition and realization of national interests.

32. It is the sublime duty of the political power to define, protect and develop national interests. This duty should be associated by the request and insurance of a wide consensus among the public debate. Not all national interests (excluding survival interests) can be mutual interests or interests in service of all. Thus, unanimity for the definition and realization of national interests is not a necessity, but acceptance and consensus are rules to be applied consequently in a democratic system.

33. Vital interests guaranteeing, such as: exercise of sovereignty, protection of independence and territorial integrity of the country, protection of constitutional order; protection of citizens' life and of fundamental rights and duties, economic development, protection of properties and values, form the essence of Albanian Republic security.

34. National interests and deadlines of their realization are organically linked with security. Responsibility, legitimacy and honesty of the political power to be in service of its nation and state, regardless of how long they stay in power; are the essence of national interests' realization. This softens and avoids contradicts which may exist between time of a certain governing and the time it needs for the national interests.

35. Determination of other interests helps in determining strategic solutions for the country's security, in conformity with dangers, needs and objectives that should be achieved. Such interests include: integration processes of the EU programs, NATO and other Euro-Atlantic structures and organisms, development of bilateral relations with neighboring countries and partners, solutions of social problems, protection of the environment problems, etc.

PART THRE

THE ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER

36. National security requires application of a multidimensional policy in function of national interests' protection against possible dangers. No policy can be successful in facing actual and coming challenges, without an efficient coordination and increase of capacities of all elements of natural power. Preparation and development of the country's security cannot be defined only in the efficiency of a determined direction. Preparation in all directions is a pre-condition. This approach enables increase of ability to face against the broad spectrum of possible crises in time and effectively.

VI. DIPLOMACY

37. Diplomacy is the most important instrument in creating an international environment suitable for preventing crises and conflicts and solving them by peaceful means. Continuous political dialogue, that aims at the deepening of cooperation with neighbors, partners and international institutions, is provided through it. The objective and essential strategic solution for the country's security and protection of national interests is the integration policy in the Euro-Atlantic, European and regional structures. Level of success in the realization of this policy depends on inner stability achievement and consolidation of the state's democratic institutions, affirming the Albanian republic in continuance as a progressive and contributing factor in the regional and global security processes.

38. The Albania Republic pays special attention to further developing relations with the European Union. The Albanian government considers European and Euro Atlantic integration to be a very important process in the development and future of the country. The Republic of Albania is working on arriving at European standards and following the example of the ten new members from Central and Eastern Europe, which signed the European Union Membership Tractate; in close cooperation with other regional countries, included in the Association Stabilization Process. Our country supports the EU role increase in the security and defense fields, in application of the European Defense and Security Policy, being convenient that it is a complementary element of the North-Atlantic Alliance.

39. Euro-Atlantic integration in one of the main piles of the foreign policy of the Republic of Albania. This fact, is evident and clearly testified by the progress done in the Albania-NATO relations from the '90-s, form a close and specific cooperation that Albania has reached with Atlantic Alliance, as well as by the full and without any reserves support given to the political-military Alliance activity in the region. Our country has been active in support of the widening of the Alliance in the South-Eastern Europe, considering it a natural process, which will not only strengthen the South-Eastern side of NATO, but it also will help in the strengthening of the democracy, peace, stability, market economy and legal state in this area.

40. The role and contribution of U.S.A. on the consolidation of the democracy, legal state institutions as well as in the fight against crime and strengthening of the security in Albania has been and remains fundamental. In a broader plan, the U.S.A. has given an indispensable support in strengthening the security and stability in region, culminating with firm intervention of NATO in resolving the Kosovo's conflict.

41. Republic of Albania considers the regional policy as one of its basic priorities. Through the application of the common sense dialogue with all regional factors, its foreign policy aims at promoting the image of an Albania as a stability and peace factor for the region.

42. With its foreign policy Albania aims to be definitely separated from the troubled context of the '90 and conflicting Balkan inheritance, in order to concentrate on important processes of collective cooperation at a regional level and beyond. Its motto has been generation of common energies for a regional and Euro-Atlantic integration, for the creation of economic interrelated webs with its aim to create a regional integrated market of free commerce, energy, road infrastructure, etc. All of this will influence in the continuing improvement of the security environment in the region.

43. For the Albanian diplomacy, it is natural the following of the Kosovo development with priority and concentration, of the progress of relations and cooperation with it, as well as its inclusion into the European integrated processes. In this context, our viewpoint has always been and remains always the following of the 1244 Resolution of the UN international community and fulfillment of the defined standards by the international community before the final status. In the meantime, the Republic of Albania remains firm in the viewpoint that the final status of Kosovo is an issue that pertains to its people and to the international community that administrates it, as it continues to believe in independence without the final solution of this status, and as a result there can't be stability and regional integration.
In this context, for the strategic security of the state and the whole Albanian society a definite, democratic, as soon as it's possible, resolution of the Kosovo status and it's corporation, as an separate entity, in the integration processes towards Euro-Atlantic structures, has a fundamental importance.

VII. Protection of public's order and security

44. Construction and normal functioning of the state democratic institutions and of the legal state are the most effective ways for the achievement of stability and of the inner security. All the state activity, and that of the society, and of the individual must be covered by the correct application of this law. The citizen, society and state make a permanent unity of the existence in Albania, and they must respect their respective obligations. Realization and protection of their rights, expressed in the constitutions and laws, is a duty of the state democratic institutions. All of these make the security structure of the Republic of Albania, whereas the Constitution is the fundamental element of this structure.

45. Consolidation of the democracy and inner stability will be achieved parallel to the growth of the executive capabilities of the justice organs, to hit crime in all natures of its appearance. This seeks the programming and unification of the respective strategies and an efficient cooperation in the inner plan and that international one.

46. Consolidation and functioning of inter-institutional organs to fight crime, drugs, smuggling, corruption and different traffics, growth of effectiveness of the police structures for their prevention and the protection of the public order, as well as the growth of cooperation and public administration and society, make the main directions of effective structure of Police in the realization of its mission.

47. War against criminality and trafficking is the priority task of the State Police.
The reformation and modernization of Police structures are indispensable conditions guaranteeing effective fulfillment of it's constitutional mission and tasks.

48.Security and exchange of the necessary information for the prevention of crime and inner crises. We can't exclude the possible existence of criminal groups and public tumults. The function of an efficient and modern system of the State Intelligence Service is the basis for time discovery and prevention.

49. Protection and custody of national borders. Integrated control and management of national borders remains a priority task for preventing organized crime, terrorism and trafficking.

50.The active role in the international cooperation in the fight against organized crime. Increase of efficiency in the fight against organized crime, terrorism and traffics of all kinds will be enabled by cooperation with neighboring countries in information exchange, common border management programs, training programs, as well as modern technology installation for a rapid communication with partners and international institutions.

51.Protection of citizens' rights and freedoms, and of property is a guarantee for the normal functioning of the rule of law state. Respect for human and property are the essence for construction of the civil democratic society. Development of democratic state institutions, cooperation with international institutions for human rights and the prevention of violence and other acts, that violate human rights; will be the main objective of our attempts in protection of the Constitution.

VIII. ECONOMICAL AND FINANCIAL POLICY

52. Development of efficient economical-financial policies for the realization of the country's economical and social development strategy guarantees security and inner stability, as well as fulfillment of the citizens' interests. Development of the regional and European integration, as well as deepening of the economical structural reforms remain a priority.

53. In this direction, the main objectives are:

53.1. Further consolidation of the country's macro-economical stability and creation of legal mitigating conditions for attracting foreign investments.

53.2 Pledging of agreements and application of common partnership strategic projects.

53.3 Qualitative improvement of the business atmosphere for the increase of private investments in infrastructure and technology, strongly supported by the financial and banks sections, to increase the level of employment and improve the financial and commercial balance.

53.4 Consolidation of property rights, continuance of the privatizing process in the strategic sections of the economy.

53.5 Encouragement of more dynamic developments of branches with higher and faster economical results, aiming at, among others, softening of economical inequality of the rural areas and reduction of poverty inside the country.

53.6 Strengthening of the legal state in function of the improvement of customs and taxative administration. This requires the decrease of fiscal evasion and the fair management of public expenses, in limitation of the scale of corruption and increase of transparency.

53.7 Realization of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania asks for the optimal spreading of the economical-financial resources giving priority to the inner stability, as well as the creation of necessary reserves in support of state policies for the fulfillment of the constitutional mission in the national security field.

IX. CIVIL DEFENSE

54. Civil protection issues require a realistic evaluation, based on dangers that threaten the population, property, environment and cultural inheritance of the country. Currently, Albania has a complete institutional and legal structure for the treatment of issues dealing with civil emergencies, which may be caused by natural or human factors. An increase of operational reaction capacities in different levels is a necessity. The phenomena, that the country has been faced with in the last years, such as: massive floods, winter disasters, earth slides, massive fires, etc, raise the need of increase of responsibility for a more completed organization and a better functioning of these structures raised in the central and local authority, to increase the prevention, decrease and rehabilitation of damages that may touch the population, the animals, the property, the cultural inheritance and the environment. Coordination of the activity of these structures with NGO-s and cooperating in the international level, will enable a higher and more qualitative organizational level, preparation and efficiency in the realization of duties. Estimation of the dangers for the

five natural disasters that may strike our country: earthquakes, floods, slides, fires in forests and possible epidemics, to serve as a basis for the improvement of the National Plan in facing civil emergencies in Albania. The compilation of this plan is under process.

X. THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

55. Environmental protection, stable utilization of natural resources, as well as protection of the public health remain a strategic priority of security ion the Albanian Republic. Difficulties encountered in the above directions may prevent development projects and may be a danger and insecurity for life.

56. The main intention for the environment is and will be prevention of negative phenomena and creation of premises for introduction into the stable development. Environmental pollution reduction from the existing resources , as well as prevention of epidemic and massive diseases in the field of health will enable environmental and public health protection.

57. The required standards for the required internal ability in these fields will be achieved by special financing, the sensibility of public opinion and enhancement of international cooperation programs.

XI. RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC OPINION

58. Transparency in public information and assurance of consensus for the strategic solutions and increase of resources for the national security are seen as decisive for the security strategy success. Respective state institutions will aim at procedures based on law in giving information and will not allow the information to be used for purposes of deceive and public opinion manipulation.

59. Strategic priority solution issues and those of increase of the security resource will undergo debate and opinion public likeliness. Albanian tax-payers will have to be secured of obtaining the right information in using resources from the part of the respective state structures. This approach will help in having faith in and better understanding of strategic priorities to be followed in order to realize objectives and national interests. The country's security system will convince and be believable for the citizens, for its aims and effectiveness.

XII. THE DEFENSE POLICY

60. The strategic objective of foreign policy of the Republic of Albania is the integration in European and Euro-Atlantic Security structures, an objective which has now not only the full support of the Albanian public, but also that of the whole political spectrum in our country. In this framework, Albania considers its integration in the NATO not only as

a security factor, but also as an important long-term investment towards Euro-Atlantic integration of the country.

61. The Defense Policy is an important, active part of the national security system, which take into consideration strategic environment, advantages and challenges, risks and threats against our national security. It elaborates concepts and defines objectives for the development of defense capacities of Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania.

62. Fundamental objectives of the Defense Policy are provisions of necessary defence capacities for:

guaranteeing sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Albanian , the protection of population during peace, crisis and war time, and safeguarding of the national interests.

supporting the government's foreign policy objectives, especially for county's integration in the Euro-Atlantic structures and promotion of international peace and security.

63. Reforms in the field of defense in the Republic of Albania focus at the creation of a small armed force, but more operational and professional, able to fulfill its constitutional missions and to be interoperable with armies of Alliance countries.

64. Roles and missions of the Armed Forces are defined in compatibility with the in security strategic contexts, the strategic objective of NATO integration and, their increase participation and contribution in international peace support operations.

65. The Armed Forces, in fulfillment of their missions and duties, respect the Constitution of the AR, the international conventions and Treaties, and the laws that derive from them.

66. The presence of NATO, USA and the OSCE in the region creates positive premises for the development and implementation of transformational reforms the security system of our country, including the successful development of reforms in the field of defense for the reorganization and modernization of the Armed Forces.

67. The Albanian Republic requires that it's Armed Forces to be able to deter a military attack against it's territory, infrastructure or institutions. In the case when enemies deterrence fail, the armed forces will be able to counter react against the danger until up to the crisis solution, as well as with the intervention of the international community.

68. Confronting asymmetric threats of terrorism, organized crime and other domestic challenges will be realized through close cooperation and coordination among the Armed Forces, Order Protection Forces and National Intelligence Service.

69. The Armed Forces need to obtain/provide necessary capacities according to the law, if they are needed, to support civil authorities in the case of emergency, deriving from natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, or human made disasters.

70. The Defense Policy of the Republic of Albania foster active participation of our country in the regional and international institutions and initiatives. Albania seeks to create stronger relations with the Alliance, through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and Partnership for Peace programs and increasing of bilateral relations with NATO members and partner countries. The enhancement and intensification of military diplomacy and arm control activities consist the main instruments for the realization the above-written goals.

71. Aiming to effectively act during peace, crisis and war time and, the legitimate and necessary use of the military instrument asks for a unified, integrated and synergetic method in the doctrinal field of planning, commanding and managing the Armed Forces. Special emphasis to be put on the commanding, controlling, communication, computerizing and intelligence system. Also, more attention need to be paid to the mobility of the troops and effective use of them, to the logistics support and troops protection.

72. The development and modernization of the Armed Forces will further continue based of the Long- Term Plan 2002-2010. The defense budget will assure financial support for the realization of objectives defined in the Military Strategy.

73. The fulfillment of obligations for the Membership Action Plan (MAP), the realization of the Individual Partnership Program (IPP), the accomplishment of the Planning and Reviewing Process (PARP), fulfillment of Partnership Objectives (PG), active participation in join exercises and peace support operations, are the bridges that could shorten the way our country towards integration in NATO structures.

74. The Defense policy realizes the integration of the political and military factors for achieving the following objectives:

74.1 In the political field

74.1.a. the compilation of the Military Strategy, defense policy and programs, in accordance with current and perspective requirements for the country's security;

74.1. b. help to slowdown hostility and tension and, building reciprocal confidence and good understanding, through military diplomacy;

74.1.c guaranteeing a clear / distinct and on time strategic leadership for the participation Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania in conflicts prevention, crises management and operations evolvement;

74.1.ç encouraging competitive power among suppliers for the defense sector.

74.2 In the military field:

74.2.a. the unification in a joint modern force of land, air and naval military components, under a Join Command of General Staff, entirely capable to realize national strategic objectives.

74.2. b. the development and maintenance of motivated and needed personnel, completed, trained and equipped according and in appliance with the demands of Military Strategy of Republic of Albania, reaching the required level of military readiness, in order to realize its assigned missions and tasks.

PART FOUR

THE STRATEGIC SECURITY LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

XIII. The constitutional base of leadership

75. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, The Parliament, the President and the Council of the Ministers have their responsibilities and rights, according national security issues.

76. The Parliament of the Republic of Albania is the only organism that approves laws in the security and defense field of the country. The Parliament has constitutional competencies to declare the war, emergency state, partial and general mobilization, ratification of the agreements and the scrutiny, management and approval of budget and official policies.

77. Parliamentary democratic control is exercised through legal means, directly from the Parliament and the respective commissions. In this context, its activity against executive organisms is focused in laws, budget and policies execution in order to avoid and minimize the risks for security, as well as to realize the developmental programs of security instruments.

78. The President of the Albania, with the constitutional authorities of the Head of the State, of representing the unity of the people, of Head of the National Security the Council is the highest functionary responsible for the realization of mission, principles and the objectives of country's security and for the protection and development of the national interests.

79. The National Security Council is an advisory organism of the President. This Council exercises its activity based on the Constitution, laws and obligations derived by international agreements ratified from the Parliament.

80. The National Security Council advises the President of the Republic for the issues concerning security and defense of our country, as well as the leading, organization, and mobilization of human and material resources in the interest of the security and defense of the country.

81. The national Security Council is compose of the Head of the Parliament, The Prime Minister, Minister of the Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defense, Minister of Public Order, Minister of the Local Power and Decentralization, Minister of Finance, Minister of Transport, Chief of the General Staff, Director of the State Intelligence Service and General Director of Police.

82. The Council of Ministers is the highest organism of the executive power. It is responsible for the implementation of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania and the state and developments of security instruments and national resources. The Council of Ministers defines the main directions of security policy, submits them in the National Security Council and leads the activity of organisms and institutions in dependence, in accordance with Constitution and laws.

83. The Prime Minister is the highest functional of the executive power. He conceive and represents the main directions of the security policy and assures the coordination and implementation of them in conformity with the Constitution and laws. The Prime Minister is responsible before the Parliament and President of the Republic national security issues. The Prime Minister establishes and leads The Committee of National Security Policies.

84. The Prime Minister initiates the review of the security strategy. The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania is reviewed within a period not longer than 3 (three) years, from the time of its approval.