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# RESOLUTION

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ON THE STATE POLICY REFORM FOR DIASPORA

A P P R O V E D

S P E A K E R

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## **RESOLUTION**

### **ON THE STATE POLICY REFORM FOR DIASPORA**

#### **Parliament of Albania:**

- Assessing the steps taken to build state policy structures for the Diaspora;
- Praising the legislative reform devoted to the Albanian communities abroad and concretely the adoption within a short period of the Law No.16 / 2018 "On Diaspora", Law no. 115/2017 "On the establishment of the National Diaspora Agency" and Law no. 32/2018 "On the Diaspora Development Fund";
- Considering the state activity in this field as of a special importance, which links the responsibilities of the Albanian state with the legal status of our citizens and our fellow countrymen abroad;
- Assessing cooperation with the state of Kosovo and other neighboring countries in this important and strategic direction for the future, as part of the European integration process of the region;
- Considering the proposals of the Sub-Commission on Diaspora regarding:
  - ❖ Adoption of the National Strategy for Diaspora 2018-2024 by the Council of Ministers as a key document for the operation and application of new policies of state institutions in this field of state activity.
  - ❖ Initiate the functioning of the institutions as soon as possible by the new legislation adopted for this purpose.
  - ❖ Institutional cooperation, in particular, with the state of Kosovo to define a sustainable and long-term policy in function of the interests of the Albanian communities where they live in the host countries.
  - ❖ The preliminary work of the Electoral Reform Commission, in the program of which one of the issues to be discussed and decided is the granting of the right to vote to Albanian citizens who reside abroad.
  - ❖ Decision of the Council of Ministers on the occasion of the year of George Castriot Skanderbeg to organize in Tirana the activity of the Second Albanian Diaspora Summit.

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## **Noting and evaluating that:**

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- In 2017 - 2018, in the Presidency of the Assembly, several activities were organized in the function of diaspora and migration interests. These public meetings have been an occasion to make it even more sensible for different levels of politics and administration to guarantee the constitutional rights of diaspora and migration.
  - The creation of a TV channel "TVSH 3" by the Albanian Public Radio Television pursuant to the Law "On Diaspora" is an important step in strengthening communication with the country's peoples abroad.
  - The beginning of work by the National Museum, based on the new Diaspora law, for the space within it dedicated to the history of the Albanian Diaspora, is a legal and moral obligation to the Albanian society that has helped the country from the distance of exile. Examples of this aid are still valid today the conditions of a global society, where preserving identity is a state duty and challenge.
  - The approval by the ministries responsible for education of Albania and Kosovo of the "curricula" of diaspora education is an important step in preserving the Albanian cultural and educational identity in the Diaspora. This work should be completed with the realization of the necessary textbooks for the new generation of exiled Albanians.
  - Diaspora cultural organizations have started to have a first-rate role in preserving identity abroad. The establishment of cultural centers in the diaspora, under the new legislation and in cooperation with the state of Kosovo, in the function of bilateral agreements between the two states, will assist in creating a common cultural program for young people and young people in the diaspora.
  - The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Policy has taken important actions in the field of consular services for Albanian citizens living abroad. On-line services have facilitated and reduced bureaucratic procedures in consular services. This ministry has signed and negotiating important agreements on the quality of life of Albanian citizens abroad, such as those in the insurance field.
  - The establishment of the Diaspora Publishing Center, in implementation of the new diaspora legislation, is an important step in preserving identity and education for young Albanians far from home. This center will serve as a new quality in the field of publications and distribution of the diaspora book.
  - For the nationals who have left the country, there are a small number of on-line publications in Albanian. In this regard, an institutional cooperation of the ministries responsible for education, culture and diaspora is required to find solutions and create results.
  - Albania's relationship with the diaspora is feeling the need for cooperation with skilled intelligence and skilled workforce abroad.
  - Diaspora involvement in Albania's sustainable economic development is an administrative challenge. The beginning of work for the establishment of the Business Chamber for Diaspora is an important step in the right direction.
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## Requires

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- Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration created by decision no. 98/2017 of the Albanian Parliament as an indicator of increasing attention that the Assembly, as the highest institution of the country has devoted to this issue, has an active role in following the implementation of the legal framework for the Diaspora and to be an interlocutor name of the Assembly, for verification and information on the progress of the reform in the areas it covers.
- Continuous engagement by the institutions and responsible agencies of the administration in evaluating the measures of the Action Plan of the National Diaspora Strategy 2018-2024.
- Resolving the right to vote for Albanian citizens abroad with legal mechanisms by the Electoral Reform Commission, based on the models known in the Western, in cooperation with OSCE-ODIHR.
- Making it functional based on approved legislation, institutional organization and state structures for the Diaspora, within 2018.
- Co-ordination with responsible institutions in the diaspora of the state of Kosovo for joint action, in a relationship where cooperation with other neighboring states and the region is also important.
- Creation of a special program by the ministries responsible for education, culture and diaspora for on-line publications in the field of education and the Albanian book, for which the responsible committees in the Albanian Parliament request information periodic for the stages of its realization.
- Encouraging local self-government bodies to enable diaspora access to reduce administrative "distances" to the non-domestic population layer.
- Introducing and / or undertaking necessary initiatives from competent bodies for reviewing the law "On Citizenship" and the relevant legal framework to respond to the concerns of Albanian citizens abroad and the "statelessness" phenomenon established by the responsible UN structure for this issue, the UNCHR office in Tirana.

The Albanian Parliament considers it necessary to discuss and evaluate periodically issues related to the Diaspora and the interests of Albanian citizens abroad. He considers that in the new social conditions and the process of integration into the European Union, the differences of citizens, who live "outside" and "inside" the country, have narrowed. They require proper legal and administrative responses.

Diaspora is the national wealth of Albania. Albania's Assembly is committed to turn this into a tangible reality from the citizens who have voted or will vote tomorrow for the common future.

Approved on 23.7.2018

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