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# ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE AND "SMART PARLIAMENT", THE CASE OF ALBANIA

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**Abstract**

Albania is facing one of the biggest technological challenges, "Artificial Intelligence". The main legislative institution in Albania, the Albanian Parliament, has been trying to create legislation for the "embrace" of "Artificial Intelligence" in the last three years, as a condition also by the European Union. According to the "Artificial Intelligence" Index Report for 2024 by Stanford University in the United States, it turns out that the global legislative landscape has seen a significant increase in laws related to "Artificial Intelligence" in recent years. From 2016 to 2023, parliaments in 127 countries around the world approved a total of 123 draft laws mentioning "Artificial Intelligence". These laws address a variety of issues, including educational reforms, non-discrimination in AI algorithms, and the establishment of AI training programs. This highlights the increasing recognition of the need for regulatory frameworks to manage the development and deployment of AI technologies responsibly. Such legislative measures aim to ensure that advances in AI benefit society by mitigating the potential risks of manipulation or misuse of advanced technology. Parliaments need to ensure that the adoption of AI is guided by strict policies, ethical testing, and comprehensive training. How does the Albanian Parliament stand up to such a challenge? By using the comparative method, we will attempt to bring to light the recent initiatives of the Albanian Parliament for adaptation to "Artificial Intelligence". We will also aim to show, by quoting the Albanian legislation today, the positive and negative effects of "Artificial Intelligence" on Albanian legislation and finally some recommendations for the legislative body regarding the challenges that "Artificial Intelligence" is expected to bring.

**Key Words:** *Artificial Intelligence, Albanian Parliament, European Union, European Integration, Translation, United States, Education*

## The Emergence of Artificial Intelligence: A 21st-Century Challenge

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents, for many, one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Human rights, economic systems, social dilemmas, political developments, and both international and hybrid conflicts are increasingly centered around the analysis of AI. The European Union, along with its executive body—the European Commission—has established strict regulations on how AI may be utilized for positive and constructive purposes.

Artificial Intelligence exerts significant influence on individuals and international organizations alike. For the European Commission, the development of advanced technologies signifies a transformative shift, an unprecedented opportunity to support its internal staff by reducing administrative burdens and enhancing the overall quality and efficiency of European Commissions.[1]

1 Europen Commision, "Artificial Intelligence in the European Commission (AI@EC) A strategic vision to foster the development and use of lawful, safe and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence systems

However, the pace of technological development can be difficult to keep up with, particularly for Albanian state institutions and others in the region. One such institution is the Albanian Parliament, the country's primary legislative body. There is a critical need to safeguard fundamental human rights by establishing an adequate legal framework, not only to keep pace with evolving technologies, but also to ensure ongoing, adaptive protection that enables the development of technology in a manner that respects human dignity.[2]

The Albanian Parliament has initiated the process of reviewing both international and national documents related to Artificial Intelligence. This analytical inquiry is grounded in a set of fundamental principles, some of which are embedded within data protection regulations, such as transparency and accountability.

However, the mere existence of adequate data protection legislation does not guarantee proper compliance with the rules, nor does it imply a high level of public awareness within society at large. Therefore, the present analysis concludes with a recommendation to better adapt national data protection laws in order to appropriately address Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies.[3]

No human right remains untouched by emerging technologies. The use of algorithms to influence elections—whether to encourage voter participation, manipulate election outcomes, discriminate against interest groups or marginalized communities, or spread misinformation,[4] are just some examples of potential technology misuse. These are challenges that the Albanian Parliament is aware of and actively working to address.

As a candidate country for European Union membership, Albania is obligated to harmonize its legislation concerning personal data protection with the "Acquis Communautaire"[5] and other relevant European and international privacy laws. This includes the establishment of independent supervisory bodies equipped with sufficient financial and human resources to effectively monitor and ensure the enforcement of national data protection legislation.[6]

**The "Smart" Parliament: The Case of Albania**

The work of the Albanian Parliament in relation to technology encompasses the audio-video components, parliamentary committees, plenary halls, as well as the Information Technology sector, parliamentary documentation, and parliamentary research. These are the two main pillars on which the Albanian Parliament currently operates.[7]

Within the Presidency building of the Albanian Parliament, there are nine rooms designated for parliamentary committees. Until 2017, the main parliamentary hall and the smaller rooms where parliamentary committees convened used analog dictaphones. The same method was used by the media present in these rooms. With the involvement of the European Union, through IPA funds, a new investment was made. The EU Office in Albania created and managed the project to implement the technological infrastructure of the Albanian Parliament. The project enables "online" and "hybrid" broadcasts. If five Members of

in the European Commission", Brussel, 2024, pg, 1

2 OSCE Albania Report, "Challenges and opportunities at the intersection of Data Protection and Artificial Inteligence", Tiranë, 2022, pg, 5.

3 Ibidem, pg 16.

4 Venice Commission, CDL(2020)037, 11 December 2020, Principles for a Fundamental Rights-Compliant Use of Digital Technologies in Electoral Processes. Available at: https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default. aspx?pdffile=CDLAD(2020)037-e.

5 The common legislation and rules of the European Community, which constitute the body of law of the European Union.

6 Article 79 of Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part, 2009, O.J. (L107). Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/ EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22009A0428(02).

7 Dritan Kaloshi, Director of Information Technology at the Presidency of the Assembly "Parliament and Artificial Intelligence", Interview given to the author of this paper, dated 9.April.2025.

Parliament are not physically present in Tirana or Albania, they have the possibility to participate in committee meetings through the "online" format.[8]

Regarding the plenary hall, it is important to highlight that in the past, the work was conducted using standard paper formats. For every meeting, printed materials were prepared. Each Member of Parliament received printed documents, and all the materials were on paper. The same procedure was followed for filing. However, this incurred a significant cost for the administration of the Albanian Parliament. According to expert calculations, the use of paper alone cost approximately 80 million old ALL per year. Additionally, ink costs and the extra work for staff must be considered.[9]

Another issue concerns the use of an internal software system utilized for meetings of the Parliamentary Committees. Communication between institutions is conducted through an internal mechanism called "E-Parliament." This is a confidential platform operating on a central server located in the Prime Minister's Office. It manages the flow of parliamentary information from the Council of Ministers to parliamentary sessions. Previously, only one software system was used for these institutions, which dated back to 2015. Currently, a 2024 version of the software is in operation.

The Albanian Parliament and the Presidency of the Assembly have incorporated "Parliamentary Research" as part of their infrastructure. A key component of this system is the Parliamentary Institute[10], which brings together a selected number of experts and researchers focused on the historical study of the Parliament over the years. The Institute operates through a communication method that is not accessible to the public. It functions via an internal dashboard[11] accessible only to Parliamentary Institute officials. This communication and analysis system is also available to Members of the Albanian Parliament. Through this software, MPs receive all study materials, previously approved laws, and any research papers they may require.

It is a fact that the majority of Members of Parliament are not actively engaged in acquiring skills and knowledge in Information Technology. The only elected representatives who utilize this space are Etilda Gjoni (PS), Mimi Kodheli (PS), Besnik Bare (PS), and Milva Ikonomi (PS). These individuals have a scholastic approach to their parliamentary activities.[12] Official Information Technology authorities aim for all elected Members of the Albanian Parliament to become part of the Information Technology framework.

**Use of Artificial Intelligence**

The approach of the Albanian Parliament towards Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been driven by the need to employ it in work processes essential for the normal functioning of Parliament. In this regard, Parliament has been somewhat cautious. However, Parliament and its structures are laying the groundwork for the use of "Transcripts." This method will initially be developed through public procurement. The transcript will be used to digitally input all audio and video information produced by the Albanian Parliament. Audio files will be prepared with special software that employs AI models to transcribe spoken language, thereby creating an automatic text for each Member of Parliament.

This initiative serves individuals with hearing impairments, thus targeting various social groups. Accord-

8 Ibidem

9 Ibidem

10 The Parliamentary Institute (PI) is a general directorate in the administration of the Assembly that supports members of parliament in the exercise of their representative, legislative, and oversight functions. The Bureau of the Assembly established the PI as a separate service of the administration of the Assembly on December 29, 2020. (Taken from NDI sources).

11 An instrument or device used to control other functions in a system. It can be physical or virtual and is used in many contexts, such as computers, telephones, and electronic devices, quote from Dritan Kaloshi, Director of Information Technology at the Presidency of the Assembly.

12 Dritan Kaloshi, Director of Information Technology, at the Presidency of the Assembly, interview given to the author of this paper, dated April 9, 2025.

ing to several social studies, the number of people with hearing difficulties is approximately 20,000. This initiative arises from a parliamentary procedure which requires that every meeting of parliamentary committees and plenary sessions be transcribed and edited. This process creates the minutes, which is a parliamentary and public document. Currently, there are around 18 public editors responsible for transcribing the audio produced during parliamentary sessions. With the introduction of the transcription model, this lengthy process will be reduced to about 20 minutes.

The method used by the editorial staff is the traditional one: manual transcription using computers, resulting in a document spanning several dozen pages.[13] Parliamentary committees work on average 60 hours per week. It is estimated that for one plenary session, it takes about three weeks to fully transcribe all parliamentary debates. This is due to the heavy workload and fatigue experienced by the editorial staff. It should be noted that parliamentary committees meet frequently, with 10 to 12 meetings held daily. The duration of each meeting is approximately two hours. This causes significant delays in finalizing the minutes, as according to regulations, the minutes must be widely approved in the subsequent session.[14]

To avoid these delays, the Information Technology Directorate of the Albanian Parliament is considering using the "Whisper"[15] model. A procurement tender has already been opened for a foreign company to provide this service.[16]

One concern regarding AI is job displacement. However, in the case of public editors at the Parliament's Presidency, this will not happen. Currently, there are 30 editors, and when the transcription process is implemented, they will transition to other services. Editors will focus on editing, a task which will take approximately 20 minutes, and they will be responsible only for editing the minutes of committee meetings and the plenary sessions.

Experts believe there should be a move towards a "zero transcription" process for minutes. This is the model used by the Italian Senate. They have conducted research on this matter using transcripts as well as more advanced models, such as document translation models. Similarly, the Estonian Parliament automates stenography; the Finnish Parliament uses AI to summarize documents and create audio podcasts; and the Chamber of Deputies in Brazil employs AI to transcribe audio and video files. These tools save time, increase productivity, and allow staff to focus on more complex tasks.

In order to classify and manage large volumes of data, the Italian Chamber of Deputies uses AI to categorize plenary session reports, while the European Parliament applies it for automatic text classification with predefined tags.

"AI" is a very costly program, and state institutions will also follow the principle of financial interest. The Albanian Parliament, in its functioning, is somewhat archaic; it does not move directly but relies on classical working methods. Currently, the portal "PublicConsultation.al" is operational, where interest groups or researchers can use it for their purposes. It should be emphasized that the procurement procedure for the "Transcript" will open on April 14. It is planned to be implemented within 2025 and will be ready for use in the first quarter of 2026. The tender for this procedure is international.

13 Ibidem

14 Ibidem

15 "Whisper" is a general-purpose speech recognition model. It aggregates a large dataset of diverse audio and is also a multi-task model that can perform multilingual speech recognition, speech translation, and language identification, the paper's author quotes.

16 Until the presentation of this paper, the public procurement procedure has not yet been completed. b-Maintenance for 48 (forty-eight) months with a fund value estimated at up to 33,164,800 (thirty-three million one hundred sixty-four thousand eight hundred) lek excluding VAT, based on the estimated monthly value.'- announces the Assembly.

## Conclusions

The application of "AI" will be extended to other public institutions. It aims to be used in several administrative work processes that seek to align certain legal and regulatory aspects of the Albanian framework with those of the European Union.

The law adopted by the European Parliament classifies artificial intelligence systems based on four levels of risk, from minimal to unacceptable. One of its debated amendments, which would have allowed the police to collect biometric data in real-time, was rejected.

According to the law, for the use of artificial intelligence in higher-risk situations, such as targeting children, companies will face stricter rules, including a higher level of transparency and more accurate use of data. Companies violating this law may be fined up to 33 million dollars or 6% of their annual revenue, which in the case of technology companies such as Google and Microsoft could amount to billions of dollars. The law prohibits the use of programs for identifying people in public spaces.

On the other hand, the reduction of human resource costs is accompanied by high costs for building and maintaining an artificial intelligence algorithm or platform. One of the main disadvantages of artificial intelligence is the cost of maintenance and repair. The software must be continuously updated to meet changing requirements. In case of a malfunction, repair costs can be very high.

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