

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
SUPPLEMENTING THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON EXTRADITION 1957**

Title of Treaty

Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Albania supplementing the European Convention on Extradition 1957

Command Paper Number: 9594

Subject Matter

The European Convention on Extradition 1957 ("the Convention") provides a basis for extradition between its parties, including the United Kingdom and Albania. Under Article 6 of the Convention, a state party has the right to refuse extradition of its own nationals. Albania exercises this right through domestic law, which prevents the government from extraditing Albanian citizens to other countries except within the framework of an international agreement.

The Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Albania supplementing the European Convention on Extradition waives each state's right under Article 6 to refuse extradition of their own nationals to each other. It also sets out the procedure for the exchange of extradition requests between the two countries and the time period and territory to which the new arrangement applies.

Ministerial Responsibility

The Secretary of State for the Home Department has overall responsibility for policy on judicial co-operation. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has overall responsibility for UK policy relating to the UK's relations with the Republic of Albania.

Policy ConsiderationsGeneral

The purpose of the treaty is to provide a framework in which the Albanian Government can extradite its own nationals. This will expand the scope of UK activity in relation to Serious and Organised Crime and prevent the risk of impunity for individuals accused or convicted of criminal activity in the UK. Enhancing judicial co-operation with Albania, one of our important partners in the Western Balkans, will enhance our joint efforts in the ongoing fight against organized crime and corruption.

Financial

The Agreement is not expected to pose any additional financial burden on the United Kingdom

Reservations and Declarations

None

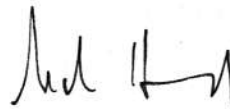
Implementation

Albania is already designated as an extradition partner under the relevant Part of the Extradition Act 2003 (Part II). The UK already extradites British Nationals. No further implementation activity is needed by the UK Government.

Consultation

The Agreement was negotiated on behalf of the United Kingdom by the Home Office and on behalf of the Republic of Albania by officials from the Ministry of Justice. The Home Office consulted across government before negotiating the Agreement. This included discussions with the Devolved Administrations, law enforcement partners and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NICK HURD



Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service