



Legal assessment: the additional demands on Law No. 21/2024, a trap against the aim of the protest

The demands circulated in the name of the 2026 Protest are not the protesters' demands and do not annul the projects

Question: Do the demands circulated in the name of the 2026 Protest, as worded, annul the contested projects?

Conclusion: The demand for the government's resignation is valid. The additional demands on the laws, as worded, do not annul the projects already signed: they are a trap against the aim of the protest. The full annulment of the laws concerned must be demanded.

The protesters' demands under Article 5 of the Joint Declaration of 3 October 2026:

1. Full and retroactive (ex tunc) annulment of Law No. 21/2024 and of every contract, concession or strategic-investor status derived from it.
2. Restoring the legal protection of protected areas under Law No. 81/2017.
3. An immediate moratorium on, and ban on the alienation of, Sazan, Vjosë-Nartë and public, environmental and national cultural-heritage property.
4. The lawful resignation of the Prime Minister and the cabinet.
5. A new Constitution, drafted by citizens and approved by mandatory popular referendum.
6. Free and fair elections under the new Constitution.

The following demands for legal change were circulated as additions in the name of the 2026 Protest. Demands with legal consequences must be drafted or reviewed by licensed lawyers who bear professional responsibility for them, under Law No. 55/2018 "On the legal profession in the Republic of Albania": the lawyer's personal identity number, local bar chamber, stamp and signature, and the period of validity of the licence.

1. Changing laws requires legal guarantees

The repeal, amendment or annulment of laws with a public impact requires legal guarantees: professional analysis and responsibility by licensed lawyers.

No.	Demand of the protest		Legal assessment
1	Resignation of the government.	✓	A valid demand, because this is what Albanians want after being robbed for 35 years.
2	Repeal of the status and legal framework for strategic investors.	✗	Caution: repeal does not annul projects already signed. Only the full annulment of the laws annuls the projects.
3	Repeal of the Mountains Package.	✗	Caution: repeal does not annul projects already signed. Only the full annulment of the laws annuls the projects.

No.	Demand of the protest	Legal assessment
4	Annulment of the amendments to the law on protected areas.	X Caution: annulling the amendments is not enough, because the old law has been replaced by the new law. Annulling the amendments does not touch the new provisions that replaced the old law. Only the full annulment of the law annuls the projects.
5	Annulment of the amendments to the law on Albanian cultural heritage.	X Caution: annulling the amendments is not enough, because the law has been replaced . Annulling the amendments does not touch the new provisions that replaced the old law. Only the full annulment of the law annuls the projects.

2. The legal difference between amending, replacing, repealing and annulling laws

2.1 Repeal or annulment

The legal terminology of the European Union (the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, TFEU, and EUR-Lex) clearly distinguishes the two terms:^{1, 2, 3}

shfuqizim (sq) = repeal (en)

anulim (sq) = annulment (en)

Using them wrongly for Law No. 21/2024 is fatal:

- i. **Repeal** does not annul projects signed before the law was repealed.
- ii. **Annulment** also annuls the projects that derive from the law, such as those for Sazan, Vjosë-Nartë and Zvërnec.

2.2 Amendment or replacement

According to the Joint Practical Guide of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission for drafting EU legislation:⁴

- a. an **amendment** is made through interventions in the existing text of the act;
- b. **replacement** means removing a whole part of the existing text (for example an article or part of an article) and putting a new text in its place.

Amendment and replacement are therefore not the same in legal terms. In Albania's case in 2026, the choice between them leads to two entirely different outcomes for the fate of the nation.

Conclusions

Albanian legislation and ratified European case law clearly distinguish the terms *repeal*, *annulment*, *amendment* and *replacement* of laws. They are not simply different words: they are four different legal concepts, with different legal and practical consequences. Applying each of them has different consequences for the legal, economic and political fate of Albania and for the rights of the Albanian sovereign, the people.

Sources

1. TFEU, Article 263 (EUR-Lex): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2012/art_263/oj/eng
2. Publications Office of the EU: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3879747d-7a3c-411b-a3a0-55c14e2ba732>
3. Publications Office of the EU: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/649510f2-4d17-11ec-91ac-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

4. Joint Handbook, Council of the EU (October 2023): https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/67390/joint_handbook_en_01-october-2023_clean_def_final.pdf