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Germany Puts the Brakes on PM Rama

It must be said that Rama government used to be “pampered” by the internationals until yesterday, despite the fact that cannabis had spread all over the country and Ambassadors Lu and Vlahutin were keeping silent about it. Many mistakes, scandals, and blunders would have put the government in a difficult position during its five years. Instead of criticism and strong reactions from foreign chancelleries, the government got instead only good marks about the reforms that it has not completed, or about issues that the Albanian public considers as not positive. This has happened because the internationals are sticking to the principle, “It’s better to have stability than democracy”. So they have closed their eyes before such violations. But they know that behind the façade of stability for the moment there is political destabilization, and this may be true not only for Albania.

Since yesterday, one cannot say that Rama government enjoys the strong support of internationals. The statement given by Thorsten Frei, Rapporteur for Albania in the German Bundestag, was a big slap in the face for all the ‘successes’ of the government. And

when a German strikes you, it’s as if the entire EU has stricken you.

After holding meetings with the government, the opposition, and different groups of interest, the German envoy to Tirana spoke frankly, as no other Ambassador or representative of the EU in Tirana. Frei said that the former Interior Minister Saimir Tahiri should have been sent to prison. According to him, it was up to the court to decide if the accusations of the prosecutors were true or not, and not to the Socialist Party (SP).

“I have followed the case of former Interior Minister Saimir Tahiri very closely, and how this case has been treated from a political view. There is no reason to protect certain individuals from the political view. All are equal before the law and politics does not decide on responsibilities, but the judicial bodies. This is a very important case for the question: is Albania really unable to be stopped before such individuals?” the German lawmaker said. He was frank in his view and he was talking on behalf of the German Parliament, especially now that Chancellor Merkel is no longer in those strong positions of the past, when she was supporting PM Rama. Even the Chancellor knows now that the

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comments
on statements made
by Thorsten Frei, Rap-
porteur for
Albania of
the German
Bundestag*



Thorsten Frei Rapporteur for Albania in the German Bundestag

Albanian government has many problems, and that’s why she has been careful with the PM in recent months, despite the fact that she follows the diplomatic ethics.

This statement of the German Rapporteur at a time when Tahiri case seems to have been forgotten for the SP is a strong blow against the personal stance of Edi Rama and his government in protection of him. No international has put it so bluntly that by protecting the former Minister, the government has damaged its reliability. Certainly no man can be declared guilty without a court decision, but hindering his investigation by using all the state links has made the German Rapporteur to speak up.

The second critique of Frei has to do with the fight against drugs. The government claims

that after the removal of Tahiri, it has eliminated the problem of cannabis in the last year. The Rapporteur asked an embarrassing question to the government. In a direct way, he said that it must be verified if the capture of big amounts of drugs shows success, or if it shows that the cultivation of drugs in the country has increased?

The third critique of the German politician was linked with the Judicial Reform. According to him, there are no sufficient results against corruption and in capturing “the big fish”. His statement was a cold shower for Rama government. The German strike was a warning. That’s why PM Rama must be more collaborative with the opposition in general, and not use old invisible Viennese links for deals of the moment.