



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
THE ASSEMBLY**

LAW

No. 24/2026

ON THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Pursuant to Articles 78 and 83, point 1 of the Constitution, upon the proposal of the Council of Ministers,

THE ASSEMBLY

OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

DECIDED:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Purpose

This law aims to regulate the activity and organization of the Foreign Service of the Republic of Albania.

Article 2

Subject matter

The subject matter of this law is as follows:

- a) the definition of the functions and organization of the Foreign Service of the Republic of Albania;
- b) the regulation of relations of the Foreign Service with constitutional, central and local institutions, in view of the implementation of foreign policy of the Republic of Albania;
- c) the procedures of establishment and interruption of diplomatic relations;
- ç) the functioning of diplomatic missions and consular posts;
- d) the procedures for the appointment of heads of diplomatic missions, consular posts, their staff and honorary consuls;
- dh) the procedure for the appointment, diplomat's status and diplomatic career system;
- e) legal, financial and social status of members of the diplomat's family.

Article 3

Legal framework for the functioning of the Foreign Service

The Foreign Service of the Republic of Albania exercises its activity in compliance with the Constitution, international agreements wherein the Republic of Albania is a party, law on civil servant, law on foreign service, as well as other legal acts and by-laws adopted for their implementation.

Article 4

Definitions

In this law, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below:

1. "Career diplomat" is a civil servant who is admitted to the Foreign Service of the Republic of Albania according to the criteria defined by this law and enjoys the status of a career diplomat in the Foreign Service.

2. "Diplomat" is any person who becomes part of the Foreign Service of the Republic of Albania according to the criteria defined by this law and enjoys the status of a diplomat as long as he is part thereof.

3. "Personal diplomatic rank" is the rank held by the career diplomat in the diplomatic rank system.

4. "Appointment diplomatic/consular rank" is the diplomatic and consular rank by which the diplomat is appointed to diplomatic missions and consular posts.

5. "Civil servant" is any employee of the Foreign Service who enjoys the status of a civil servant, but does not enjoy the status of a diplomat or career diplomat.

6. "Ministry" is the ministry responsible for foreign affairs.

7. "Minister" is the Minister responsible for foreign affairs.

8. "Diplomatic mission" is the institution representing the Republic of Albania in the host country or at an international organization.

9. "Consular post" is the institution representing the Republic of Albania, which exercises consular functions within its consular district.

10. "Member, collaborator and favored person of the former State Security" have the same meaning as the definitions made in the legislation in force on the right to information on documents of the former State Security of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

11. "Diplomat's family members" are the spouse, children up to 23 years old, disabled children without age restrictions, as well as third persons under his/her legal custody.

12. "Technical, administrative and support staff" are employees in the administration of the ministry, diplomatic mission and consular post, who perform technical, administrative and support functions.

13. "Special envoy" is the diplomat charged with a special diplomatic mission and/or for a specific issue.

14. "Consular district" is the territory in the host state within which consular functions are exercised.

Article 5

Principles of the Foreign Service

The Foreign Service is an integral part of the Civil Service of the Republic of Albania and operates based on the principles of professionalism, merit, integrity, political impartiality, transparency,

service to the public, career continuity, responsibility, as well as correctness for the implementation of legislation.

Article 6

Functions of the Foreign Service

1. The Foreign Service implements the foreign policy of the Republic of Albania in relation to other states, international organizations, other subjects of international law, in accordance with the governmental program.

2. The Foreign Service, through its activity:

a) expresses and protects the national interests of the Republic of Albania in the field of international relations;

b) promotes the cooperation of the Republic of Albania with other states, international organizations and other subjects of international law;

c) develops political, economic, social and cultural relations with other states;

ç) provides consular services according to the consular district for the Albanian citizens living and located outside the borders of the Republic of Albania;

d) protects the rights and interests of the Albanian citizens, as well as national rights of the Albanian population living outside the borders of the Republic of Albania;

d) coordinates the foreign activity of central and local institutions;

e) promotes and realizes the fulfilment of obligations arising from international acts wherein the Republic of Albania is a party.

CHAPTER II

RELATIONS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL, CENTRAL AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

Article 7

Cooperation with the President of the Republic

1. The Minister informs the President of the Republic about important issues of international relations within his duties and responsibilities.

2. At the request of the President of the Republic or upon his own initiative, the Minister delivers opinions and makes proposals on the international activities carried out by the President of the Republic.

Article 8

Cooperation with the Assembly

1. The Minister informs the Assembly of the Republic of Albania about foreign policy issues upon his own initiative or at the request of the Assembly.

2. The Minister proposes to the Council of Ministers to present to the Assembly important foreign policy issues in respect of which the Assembly is required to take a position.

3. The Assembly, as appropriate, informs the ministry about important issues in the interest of foreign policy of the Republic of Albania.

Article 9

Cooperation with the Prime Minister

1. The Minister informs and presents proposals to the Prime Minister on issues related to the definition and implementation of foreign policy.
2. The Minister reports to the Prime Minister on the inter-institutional interaction in view of foreign policy implementation.
3. The Prime Minister's Office, as appropriate, informs the ministry about important issues in the interest of foreign policy of the Republic of Albania.

Article 10

Cooperation with the Ministries, institutions subordinate to the Prime Minister and ministers, independent institutions and local self-government units

1. Ministries, institutions subordinate to the Prime Minister and ministers, independent institutions and local self-government units exercise their activity in the field of foreign policy in close cooperation with the ministry.
2. Ministers and heads of other state institutions, set out in point 1 of this Article, undertake actions, conduct and host visits at international level, take positions and make statements related to foreign relations, after having obtained prior consent and recommendation of the ministry.
3. Heads of local self-government units undertake actions, host visits at international level, take positions and make statements related to foreign relations, after having previously consulted the ministry and received its instructions.
4. The entities specified in point 1 of this Article, communicate officially, through the ministry, with diplomatic missions of the Republic of Albania accredited abroad and with diplomatic missions accredited in the Republic of Albania.
5. The entities provided for in point 1 of this Article, shall inform the ministry about the activity carried out by them in the field of foreign relations no later than 15 calendar days from the date of implementation of the activity.
6. Upon the proposal of the Minister, the Council of Ministers approves the rules of foreign activity of ministries, institutions subordinate to the Prime Minister and ministers, independent institutions and local self-government units.

Article 11

Inter-institutional Coordination

1. In order to coordinate foreign policy implementation, the Minister appoints coordinators within structures of the Assembly, the President, the Prime Minister and main ministries that cover international relations in agreement with the heads of these institutions.
2. Coordinators are appointed by career diplomats for a term not exceeding two years, with the right to renewal, and are part of the organizational chart and structure of the ministry.
3. The duties of coordinators are determined by agreement between the ministry and the institution at which the coordinator is appointed.

CHAPTER III

RECOGNITION OF THE STATE, GOVERNMENT, ESTABLISHMENT AND INTERRUPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Article 12

Recognition of another state

Recognition of another state is done with the approval of the Assembly after the proposal of the Council of Ministers, upon the initiative of the Minister.

Article 13

Recognition of the government, establishment and interruption of diplomatic relations

The recognition of the government of another state, establishment and interruption of diplomatic relations with other states are approved by A Decision of the Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the Minister.

CHAPTER IV

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE

Article 14

Foreign Service Structures

The Foreign Service of the Republic of Albania consists of the ministry, diplomatic missions and consular posts.

Article 15

Ministry

1. Ministry is the leading institution of the Foreign Service that drafts, processes, coordinates and implements foreign policy of the Republic of Albania in accordance with national interests.

2. In addition to the general functions of the Foreign Service, the ministry:

a) coordinates official positions on foreign policy issues of the Republic of Albania with the institution of the President, the Parliament, the Council of Ministers and other state institutions;

b) communicates with diplomatic missions and consular posts of other states, as well as with missions of international organizations and other subjects of international law, accredited in the Republic of Albania in accordance with diplomatic practice;

c) leads and coordinates the activity of diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Republic of Albania;

ç) follows the procedures for the conclusion of international acts, as well as the membership of the Republic of Albania in international organizations according to the legislation in force on international agreements;

d) deposits original international agreements concluded in accordance with the legislation in force on international agreements in the Republic of Albania;

dh) processes, stores and archives all documentation of the Foreign Service activity;

e) exercises diplomatic protection in the form and within limits permitted by the international law.

Article 16

Minister

1. The Minister leads and represents the Foreign Service of the Republic of Albania.
2. In exercising his responsibilities and powers, the Minister ensures the implementation of the government's foreign policy program.

Article 17

Deputy minister

1. The Deputy Minister replaces the Minister in his/her absence for the management of the Ministry and implementation of the program of Council of Ministers.
2. The purpose of the Deputy Minister's work is to provide the Minister cooperation on certain foreign policy issues, according to the duties assigned by him.

Article 18

Secretary General

1. The Secretary General of the Ministry is the highest-level civil servant and diplomatic career officer in the Foreign Service. He ensures the implementation of legality, good administration and maintenance of continuity in the Foreign Service activity.
2. The Secretary General assists the Minister in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy objectives, by coordinating the work of Foreign Service structures.
3. The Secretary General is elected for this position by the Minister after open competition from among career diplomats, with a personal diplomatic rank no lower than "Minister Counsellor".
4. The procedures for electing the Secretary General are set out in the Foreign Service regulation.

Article 19

Ministry structure

The organizational chart and structure of the ministry are approved by Order of the Prime Minister, according to the provisions of the legislation in force on the organization and functioning of state administration, in view of meeting the priorities and objectives of foreign policy of the Republic of Albania.

Article 20

State Protocol

1. The structure of the ministry includes the State Protocol, which has the following duties:
 - a) coordination of all main protocol activity of the President of the Republic, the Chairman of the Assembly, the Prime Minister and the Minister for their activity within the country and abroad;
 - b) coordination of the protocol activity of members of the Council of Ministers and heads of high-level central institutions;
 - c) coordination and implementation of the program of visits of high-level foreign delegations;

ç) establishment of communication and supervision of the implementation of diplomatic privileges and immunities for diplomatic missions and consular posts accredited in the Republic of Albania.

2. The functioning of the State Protocol is approved by a Decision of Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the Minister.

Article 21

Diplomatic Academy

1. The Diplomatic Academy, hereinafter "DA", is a center for the development of diplomatic career. The DA is not subject to the legislation in force on higher education.

2. The DA offers advanced professional training to diplomats and to any other individual, local or foreign one, who meets the criteria to follow the study and training programs it offers.

3. The DA's mission is to organize qualification courses and periodic tests for career diplomats, contributing to the advancement of their career and the development of necessary professional skills.

4. In exercising its functions, the DA:

a) facilitates scientific study in the field of diplomacy for members of the Foreign Service through the design and implementation of joint study programs with other academic and scientific units within the country and abroad;

b) prepares and presents to the Minister reports, analyses, assessments and forecasts on foreign policy issues of interest to the Albanian state;

c) organizes, on its own or in cooperation with various structures, both within the country and abroad, activities, seminars and conferences on international policies and foreign relations;

ç) prepares and conducts dedicated training to which the head of diplomatic mission, the head of consular post and the diplomats appointed to the diplomatic mission and consular post undergo prior to taking up their mandate;

d) organizes and administers mandatory qualification programs and periodic tests for all diplomats, with the aim of advancing their career and developing professional skills in accordance with the standards and requirements of diplomatic service. The head of the DA proposes to the Diplomatic Career and Discipline Commission the candidates who qualify to undergo testing for the rank of "Attaché".

5. The DA may offer, against a fee, specific training courses in the field of diplomacy, protocol or international relations towards third parties.

6. The DA is organized and functions as an institution subordinate to the Minister, with public legal personality and its own budget. The head of Diplomatic Academy is appointed by the Minister.

7. Upon the proposal of the Minister, the Council of Ministers approves the rules for the organization, functioning and financing of the DA.

Article 22

Diplomatic Career and Discipline Commission

1. The Diplomatic Career and Discipline Commission, hereinafter "DCDC", evaluates and proposes to the Minister:

a) granting diplomatic rank to career diplomats according to the provisions of this law and the Foreign Service regulation;

b) imposing disciplinary measures on diplomats for committing serious or very serious violations.

2. The DCDC is set up by Order of the Minister in January of each calendar year and consists of five members, four of whom are career diplomats with high-level personal diplomatic rank and the director of human resources.

3. The DCDC is headed by the diplomat with the highest personal diplomatic rank. If the DCDC includes more than one diplomat with the same highest rank, the Commission shall be headed by the diplomat who has held this rank longer than others. In cases where the length of time in rank is the same, the Commission is headed by the diplomat with the less represented gender.

4. The DCDC meets:

- a) for applications for personal diplomatic ranks in March of each year,
- b) for reviewing disciplinary progress for serious and very serious violations, on a case-by-case basis.

5. The DCDC exercises its activity until replaced by the successor DCDC.

6. The functioning of the DCDC is defined in the Foreign Service regulation.

Article 23

Appeals Commission

1. The Appeals Commission, hereinafter "AC", has the duty to review appeals against the assessment of the DCDC, according to point 1 of Article 22 of this law.

2. The AC is set up by Order of the Minister at the same time as the DCDC and consists of three members, who are the Secretary General, a career diplomat with a high personal diplomatic rank, provided that they are not members of the DCDC, as well as the head of the directorate responsible for reviewing administrative appeals at the ministry.

3. The AC is headed by the Secretary General and exercises its activity until replaced by the successor AC.

4. The AC proposes to the Minister to uphold the decision or to amend it.

5. The decision taken by the Minister may be appealed to the relevant court that reviews administrative disputes.

6. The functioning of the AC is defined in the Foreign Service regulation.

Article 24

Diplomatic and consular representation

1. The diplomatic representation of the Republic of Albania abroad is carried out by diplomatic missions and consular posts in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963.

2. A diplomatic mission is:

- a) embassy;
- b) mission at international organizations;
- c) special mission;
- ç) joint mission with third countries;
- d) office of interest;
- dh) economic office and cultural center.

3. A consular post is:

- a) the consulate general;
- b) consulate;
- c) sub-consulate;
- ç) consular office;
- d) honorary consulate.

Article 25

Opening and closing of diplomatic mission and consular post

1. The diplomatic mission and consular post of the Republic of Albania are opened and closed by a Decision of Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the Minister.

2. The structure of the diplomatic mission and consular post are approved by Order of the Minister.

3. In order to carry out the diplomatic and consular mission activity, the Minister may propose to the Council of Ministers the purchase of real estates in the host country. The criteria that the real estate shall meet and the procedures to be followed for the purchase, shall be determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers.

Article 26

Embassy

1. An embassy is a structure of the Foreign Service that exercises its activity in another country and has the following main functions:

a) represents the Republic of Albania and maintains official relations with the host state in which it is accredited;

b) protects the legitimate rights and interests of the Republic of Albania, its citizens and legal entities;

c) implements tasks in the field of foreign policy of the Republic of Albania, respecting the legislation of the host state;

ç) promotes cooperative relations of mutual interest in all areas between the Republic of Albania and the host state;

d) cooperates with delegations of the Republic of Albania in negotiations held in the host state or international organization, participates in negotiations with the government of the host state or international organization, as well as in international activities and conferences;

dh) follows and sends to the ministry information on the political and economic situation or on the situation in other areas of interest in the host country, as well as information on the developments of interest in the international organization in which it is accredited;

e) informs the authorities of the host state or the international organization in which it is accredited about developments in the Republic of Albania.

2. The embassy may perform consular functions in the host state in accordance with the provisions of this law. Consular functions are exercised by diplomats assigned for consular activity.

Article 27

Mission at international organizations

The mission at international organizations is a structure of the Foreign Service and has the following main functions:

a) represents the Republic of Albania and maintains official relations with the international organizations in which it is accredited;

b) protects the legitimate rights and interests of the Republic of Albania, its citizens and legal entities in relation to international organizations in which it is accredited;

c) implements tasks in the field of foreign policy of the Republic of Albania, respecting the legislation of the host state;

ç) promotes cooperative relations of mutual interest in all areas between the Republic of Albania and the international organization;

d) cooperates with the delegations of the Republic of Albania in the negotiations held in the international organization, participates in negotiations with the international organization, as well as in international activities and conferences;

dh) follows up and sends information to the ministry on developments of interest in the international organization in which it is accredited;

e) informs the authorities of the international organization in which it is accredited, about developments in the Republic of Albania.

Article 28

Special mission

1. The special mission is the temporary mission representing the Republic of Albania in another state or international organization, with their consent to negotiate or carry out special tasks.

2. The special mission may also be a unit or formation created to work on a single task or activity defined at the ministry.

3. The special mission is led by a special envoy, who is appointed by the Minister.

4. The special envoy shall meet the requirements for admission to the Foreign Service.

5. The establishment, composition, functions and financial treatment of the special mission and special envoy are determined by Decision of Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the Minister.

Article 29

Joint mission

1. The joint mission is a diplomatic mission or consular post established in agreement with one or more other states, accredited to a third country or at an international organization.

2. The agreement on the establishment of joint mission is concluded on behalf of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania.

3. The establishment, composition, functions and financial treatment of the joint mission are determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the Minister.

Article 30

Office of interest

1. The office of interest represents the interests of the Republic of Albania in a third country with which it does not have diplomatic relations.

2. In countries with which the Republic of Albania does not have any diplomatic relations, the office of interest follows economic developments and promotes economic cooperation with the host country.

3. The opening, functioning and closing of the office of interest are determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the Minister.

Article 31

Economic office and cultural center

1. The economic office and cultural center represent the economic and cultural interests of the Republic of Albania in another state with which it has diplomatic relations.

2. The economic office and the cultural center exercise their activity under the subordination of the head of diplomatic mission, accredited in the host country.

3. The economic office and cultural center are opened by agreement with the host country. The functioning and closing of the office are determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the Minister.

Article 32

Consular post

1. The consular post of the Republic of Albania is a structure of the Foreign Service, which operates permanently in a foreign country and exercises consular functions in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 and the present law.

2. The consular post is, as appropriate: consulate general, consulate, sub-consulate, consular office and honorary consul.

3. The consular post exercises its functions in its consular district within the limits permitted by international law, in agreement with the host state and under the authority of the head of embassy or the head of consular post accredited in the host state.

4. The consular post may perform functions other than consular functions for which it is authorized by the Minister in accordance with the legislation in force.

5. Consular services provided by the consular post, the procedures and fees for their provision are determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the Minister.

Article 33

Consulate General

1. The Consulate General is the highest post of consular representation in the consular district, determined in agreement with the host state.

2. The main functions of the Consulate General are as follows:

a) protects the interests and rights of the Republic of Albania, its citizens or legal entities, who are located in its consular district, within the limits permitted by international law in the host state;

b) provides consular services in physical presence and remotely;

c) develops relations with the host country in the fields of economy, trade, culture, education, science and information;

ç) informs the ministry about economic, commercial, cultural and scientific developments in the host country.

3. The Consulate General coordinates its activity with the embassy in the country of accreditation.

Article 34

Consulate, sub-consulate, consular office

1. Consulate, sub-consulate and consular office are consular posts functioning under the subordination of the embassy or Consulate General in the host country. Their functions are provided for in Article 33, point 2, letters "a" and "b" of this law.

2. The consular posts, provided for in this Article, may perform other functions for which they are authorized by the Minister in accordance with the legislation in force.

Article 35

Honorary Consulate

1. The honorary consulate is a consular post representing the Republic of Albania in the host country to exercise certain consular functions in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, the present law and the by-laws issued for its implementation.

2. The honorary consulate is headed by the Honorary Consul General or Honorary Consul and is subordinate to the head of diplomatic mission in the country where it is accredited.

3. The Honorary Consul General and the Honorary Consul are appointed and dismissed by the Minister.

4. The mandate of the Honorary Consul General and Honorary Consul is four years, with a right to renewal.

5. Honorary consulates exercise the following main functions:

a) protection of the interests of Albanian citizens and entities in the host country;

b) promotion of commercial, economic, cultural and scientific relations with the host country;

c) provision of support to Albanian citizens, including health issues, legal advice and consular notifications;

ç) provision of information to the host country on internal economic, commercial or cultural developments in the Republic of Albania and vice versa.

6. The Honorary Consulate General may perform other functions for which it is authorized by the Minister in accordance with the legislation in force.

7. The procedures for opening and functioning of honorary consulates and appointment of the Consul General are determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers.

Article 36

Diplomatic representation from/to third countries

1. The Council of Ministers may enter into agreement with the government of another state to represent and protect interests of the state and citizens of the Republic of Albania in a third country where the Republic of Albania does not have a diplomatic mission. The agreements are subject to ratification by the Assembly of Albania.

2. The Council of Ministers may enter into agreement with the government of another state to open an office of interest at the latter's diplomatic mission.

3. The Council of Ministers may enter into agreements with the government of another state to represent diplomatic interests of the state party to the agreement or even the interests of its citizens in a third country.

Article 37

Head of diplomatic mission

1. The diplomatic mission is headed by the ambassador or chargé d'affaires.

2. The Ambassador is appointed and dismissed by the President of the Republic no later than 30 days after the proposal of the Prime Minister.

3. The Minister submits to the Prime Minister the proposal for the appointment and dismissal of the ambassador.

4. Before the appointment of the ambassador by the President of the Republic, the parliamentary committee responsible for foreign policy, organizes a hearing session with the candidate for ambassador and conveys to the President of the Republic the opinion on the proposed candidacy.

5. The mandate of the head of a diplomatic mission is four years. The head of diplomatic mission may not serve more than two consecutive mandates as head of diplomatic mission and consular post.

6. The head of diplomatic mission, who is a career diplomat, after the end of mandate or successive mandates, works at the ministry for a period of no less than half of the mandate/duration of time spent at the diplomatic mission or consular post.

7. The head of diplomatic mission, in the case where diplomatic representation is at the level of permanent charge d'affaires, shall be appointed by the Prime Minister, upon the proposal of the Minister.

8. In the event of temporary absence of the head of mission, the management of diplomatic mission and functions of the chargé d'affaires shall, as a rule, be transferred to the diplomat with the highest rank, unless otherwise decided by the Minister.

Article 38

Election of the head of diplomatic mission

1. The head of diplomatic mission is elected from among career diplomats with a high rank no lower than counselor.

2. In special cases, based on the interests of foreign policy of the Republic of Albania, the Minister proposes to the Prime Minister candidacies for the head of diplomatic mission outside the diplomatic career system, distinguished personalities in the field of international relations, law, economy, culture, science or civil society, with beneficial connections or relations with the host state.

3. The candidate for head of diplomatic mission, elected under point 2 of this Article, shall meet the requirements for admission to the Foreign Service provided for in Article 45 of this law.

4. The rights and obligations of the head of diplomatic mission, elected under point 2 of this Article, are defined in the Foreign Service regulation.

Article 39

Functions of the head of diplomatic mission

1. The head of diplomatic mission exercises the following main functions:

a) represents the Republic of Albania and acts on its behalf in the host state or international organizations;

b) negotiates and signs diplomatic instruments with the consent of the Minister;

c) makes statements and takes positions on behalf of the Republic of Albania, based on the instructions of the ministry;

ç) performs any other functions defined by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961.

2. The head of diplomatic mission performs other functions and activities for which he is authorized by the Minister, in accordance with the legislation in force.

3. The head of diplomatic mission has authority over all civilian and military staff forming part of the diplomatic mission structure. He leads, instructs, controls and evaluates all official activities of the diplomatic mission staff.

4. The head of diplomatic mission is responsible for the good administration of the mission's financial resources, in accordance with the legislation in force.

5. The head of diplomatic mission bears direct disciplinary responsibility for the failure to strictly implement the instructions addressed to him by the relevant superior bodies of the ministry.

6. The head of diplomatic mission coordinates and supervises the activity of consular posts, provided for in Articles 34 and 35 of this law, of the Republic of Albania in the host country.

Article 40

Accreditation of the head of diplomatic mission

1. The head of diplomatic mission of the Republic of Albania may be accredited in one or more other states, in addition to the state in which he is a resident.

2. The head of diplomatic mission may be accredited in one or more international organizations, which have their headquarters in the state of accreditation.

3. In countries where the Republic of Albania does not have diplomatic representation, non-resident ambassadors may be accredited. The same conditions, criteria and procedures that apply to ambassadors appointed to head diplomatic missions, apply to the appointment of non-resident ambassadors.

Article 41

Head of consular post

1. The consular post is headed by the Consul General or, as appropriate, the consul.

2. Consul General is appointed and dismissed by Order of the Prime Minister, upon the proposal of the Minister. The head of consular post is elected under the same procedure as for the election of the head of diplomatic mission, from among career diplomats, with a personal diplomatic rank no lower than "Counselor".

3. The head of consular post may also be elected from outside the diplomatic career system according to the requirements for admission to the Foreign Service set out in Article 45 of this law.

4. The head of consular post is directly subordinate to the Minister and exercises his functions in accordance with the legislation on consular services and the present law, as well as based on the instructions of the relevant structures of the ministry.

5. The mandate of the head of a consular post, is four years. The head of consular post may not serve more than two consecutive mandates as head of a consular post and diplomatic mission.

6. The head of consular post, who is a career diplomat, after the end of mandate or successive mandates, works at the ministry for a period of no less than half of the mandate/duration of time spent at the diplomatic mission or consular post.

7. The head of consular post heads the consular activity in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, the legislation in force on consular services and the present law.

8. The head of consular post leads, instructs, controls and evaluates all official activity of the consular post staff.

9. The head of consular post is responsible for the good administration of financial resources of the consulate, in accordance with the legislation in force.

10. The head of consular post bears direct disciplinary responsibility for the failure to strictly implement the instructions addressed to him by the relevant superior bodies of the ministry.

Article 42

Staff of diplomatic missions and consular posts

1. The staff of diplomatic missions and consular posts consists of career diplomats, diplomats appointed under the provisions of point 3 of this Article, administrative, technical and service staff.

2. The staff of diplomatic missions and consular posts may also include civil servants appointed by the Minister based on an agreement with other ministries or state institutions to perform duties in economic, legal, cultural, scientific, defense, security and any other related fields for a definite term. During the period of service at the diplomatic mission or consular post, these civil servants enjoy the same status as diplomats and, upon completion of this service, are returned to their previous position or to an equivalent position. The procedures for the appointment and financial treatment of these civil servants are regulated by a Decision of the Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the Minister. The costs for this category of civil servants are borne by the sending institution.

3. The Minister may appoint at diplomatic missions and consular posts experts from outside the ranks of career diplomats, with a rank of appointment not higher than "First Secretary". These experts shall possess knowledge and expertise according to the specifics of the position of appointment, or have experience in public international organizations. During the period of service in the diplomatic

mission or consular post, these employees enjoy the same status as diplomats. The rights and obligations of these employees shall be determined in the Foreign Service regulation.

4. The Minister may appoint as external Counsellors in the economic and cultural fields at diplomatic missions, Albanian citizen residents in the host country. The mandate of these Counsellors shall be for a four-year term and not exceed two consecutive mandates. During the period of exercising their function as external Counsellors appointed under this point, they shall not enjoy the status of diplomat, nor shall they benefit a salary and financial treatment. The functions and conditions provided for in this point, are determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers.

5. As part of the diplomatic mission at international organizations, in cases of membership or chairmanship of the main bodies of these organizations, in addition to the ambassador appointed by the President of the Republic, the Minister may appoint diplomats with the rank of "Ad hoc Ambassador", exercising the functions of the deputy head of mission, under the authority of the head of diplomatic mission.

6. The mandate of diplomats appointed to diplomatic missions and consular posts, is four years. The appointed diplomats cannot serve more than two consecutive mandates in diplomatic missions and consular posts.

7. After the end of mandate, the career diplomat appointed to the diplomatic mission or consular post, works at the ministry for a period of not less than half of the mandate/duration of stay at the diplomatic mission or consular post.

8. Persons appointed under points 2 and 3 of this Article, shall meet the requirements for admission to the Foreign Service under Article 45 of this law.

9. Technical, administrative and service staff in diplomatic missions and consular posts is appointed to duty in accordance with the provisions of Article 67 of this law.

10. Rules for the employment of administrative, technical and service staff are set out in the Foreign Service regulation.

11. Administrative, technical and service staff may consist of citizens of the host country, as well as citizens of the Republic of Albania or citizens of a third country, who have a residence permit in the host country. The employment contract cannot exceed the duration of residence permit and shall comply with the domestic legislation of the host country.

12. Identification of the need for recruitment of persons residing in the host country and the procedure for contracting work or service from third parties in the host country, based on the needs of diplomatic mission and consular post, are determined in the Foreign Service regulation.

Article 43

Immunities and privileges

1. The head and staff of diplomatic mission and consular post, accredited at diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Republic of Albania, as well as members of their families, enjoy the immunities and privileges enshrined by acts of international law or by bilateral agreements concluded with the host state.

2. At the request of authorities of the state of accreditation, the Minister may waive the immunity of entities set out in point 1 of this Article.

CHAPTER V

FOREIGN SERVICE STAFF

Article 44

Categorization of Foreign Service staff

The Foreign Service staff consists of:

- a) diplomats;
- b) civil servants;
- c) technical, administrative and service staff.

Article 45

Requirements for admission to the Foreign Service

The Foreign Service admits persons who meet the general requirements for admission at the civil service, as well as the following requirements:

- a) not to belong to any political party or association;
- b) not to have been persons under prosecution for espionage or terrorism, members, collaborators or favored persons of the former State Security before July 2, 1991 and not appear in the documents of the former State Security according to the legislation in force on the right to information on the documents of the former State Security of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.
- c) meet the criteria to be equipped with a staff security certificate (CSP) according to the legislation in force on classified information;
- ç) based on the relevant certification, have a good knowledge of at least two foreign languages, one of which shall be English and one of the official languages of the UN or European Union;
- d) complete the dedicated training of the Diplomatic Academy.

Article 46

Admission to the Foreign Service

1. Admission to the Foreign Service is made through recruitment with open competition in accordance with the procedures set out in the legislation in force on civil servant, the present law and the by-laws for its implementation.

2. Recruited persons are candidates for admission to the Foreign Service and are subject to a probationary period. During the probationary period, in addition to completion of the mandatory training cycle according to the law on civil servant, the candidate undergoes a mandatory training cycle in all main structures of the ministry, according to the program determined by the Diplomatic Academy.

3. During the probationary period, the candidate shall be equipped with a security certificate and have successfully completed the procedure for verifying the personal integrity, according to the provisions of Article 48 of this law.

4. After the end of the probationary period and the fulfillment of requirements under Article 21, point 4, letter "d" of this law, and point 3 of this Article, the candidate who successfully passes the test organized by the DCDC, becomes part of the diplomatic career system and obtains the rank of "Attaché". If the candidate does not fulfill the requirements under this point or does not successfully pass the test, the employment relationship in the Foreign Service is terminated.

5. Exceptions to points 2 and 4 of this Article are made by persons who have experience in public international organizations, who are subject to recruitment through open competition in accordance with the procedures set out in the legislation on civil servant and at the same time to testing organized by the DCDC to become part of the diplomatic career system.

6. The testing procedure according to points 4 and 5 of this Article, is defined in the Foreign Service Regulation.

Article 47

Transfer, lateral transfer, promotion

1. The transfer of diplomats from the ministry to diplomatic missions and consular posts and vice versa, as well as in cases of restructuring of the ministry, is carried out by Order of the Minister.
2. Lateral transfer and promotion are made by Order of the Minister, based on the evaluation of the diplomat's work, in accordance with the vacant positions in the approved organizational structure.
3. The procedures for carrying out transfers, lateral transfers and promotions are set out in the Foreign Service regulation.

Article 48

Personal integrity and security verification

1. Diplomatic, technical and administrative staff in the Foreign Service is subject to personal integrity and security verification, according to the provisions of the legislation in force and the present law.
2. Fulfillment of criteria on the basis of which the issuance of a staff security certificate is considered, is a condition for the continuity of relationship in the Foreign Service.
3. In the event of refusal or revocation of the staff security certificate, the employee is expelled from the Foreign Service.
4. The procedure for verifying the personal integrity is set out in the Foreign Service regulation.

CHAPTER VI

CAREER DIPLOMAT STATUS

Article 49

Diplomatic career development

1. After confirmation as a civil servant, the latter takes the oath and acquires the status of a career diplomat and the diplomatic rank of "Attaché".
2. The oath ceremony takes place at the Diplomatic Career and Discipline Commission. The oath formula is as follows:
"I swear before the national flag, upon my honor and belief, that I will comply with the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and serve the interests of my people and homeland. I swear!"
3. The career diplomat is appointed to management positions in the ministry in accordance with the hierarchy of diplomatic ranks as follows:

a) Head of Sector	With a rank no lower than "First Secretary".
b) Director	With a rank no lower than "Counsellor".
c) Director General	With a rank no lower than "Minister Counsellor".
ç) Secretary General	With a rank no lower than "Minister Counsellor".

Article 50

Employment outside the Foreign Service

1. A career diplomat may be employed in positions covering foreign relations in constitutional institutions and state administration after the relevant agreement between the ministry and these institutions. This period is considered an uninterrupted continuity of the diplomat's status.
2. A career diplomat may be employed in public international organizations of which the Republic of Albania is a member or candidate for membership for temporary periods after approval by the

Minister and by agreement between the Ministry and the diplomat in question. This period shall be considered an uninterrupted continuity of the diplomat's status.

3. The period of employment in the duties referred to in points 1 and 2 of this Article, shall be taken into account with a view of calculating the time limit required for obtaining personal diplomatic ranks.

4. Upon termination of duty in the institutions referred to in points 1 and 2 of this Article, the career diplomat has the right to return to the Foreign Service in accordance with the relevant agreements.

5. The employment procedures provided for in points 1 and 2 of this Article, are set out in the Foreign Service regulation.

6. The Ministry shall notify the Department of Public Administration of the employments provided for in this Article.

Article 51

Appointment and termination of duty in diplomatic missions and consular posts

1. Career diplomats are appointed to diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Republic of Albania by the Minister, after having obtained the diplomatic rank of "Third Secretary".

2. Career diplomats who hold personal diplomatic ranks from "Third Secretary" to "First Secretary", are appointed to diplomatic missions and consular posts with a higher appointment rank than their personal diplomatic rank.

3. The Minister orders the transfer and appointment of the career diplomat to another position in the Foreign Service three months prior to the date of transfer.

4. The procedures for appointment and termination of duty in diplomatic missions or consular posts, are set out in the regulation of the Foreign Service.

Article 52

Early termination of office and transfer of the head and staff of diplomatic missions and consular posts

1. The Minister orders the early termination of office or transfer of the head of diplomatic mission or consular post, as well as of any member of the staff of diplomatic mission or consular post for the following reasons:

- a) when so requested by the host State;
- b) when he/she or his/her family members carry out actions that are contrary to foreign policy, harm relations with the host state and the reputation of the Albanian state;
- c) for serious violations of the provisions of the present law or other acts in force;
- ç) for working needs of the Foreign Service;
- d) based on the diplomat's own request, when the request is approved by the Minister;
- dh) when he/she reaches retirement age;
- e) when the state of health disability is proven to permanently prevent the fulfillment of his duties.

2. In cases provided for in letters "ç" and "d" of point 1 of this Article, the Minister orders the initiation of procedures for the termination of the diplomat's duty no less than three months from the date of appointment to a position in the Foreign Service.

Article 53

Termination of employment in the Foreign Service

Except for the cases provided for in the legislation on civil servant, the diplomat terminates his employment relationship with the Foreign Service when he/she:

- a) resigns;
- b) is dismissed with a disciplinary measure;
- c) it is proven that he/she has been a person under prosecution for espionage or terrorism, a member, collaborator or favored person of the former State Security before July 2, 1991 and appears in the documents of the former State Security, according to the legislation in force on the right to information on the documents of the former State Security of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania;
- ç) the staff security certificate (CSP) renewal is waived or refused according to the legislation in force.

Article 54

Diplomatic and consular ranks

1. While exercising their functions in the Foreign Service, the diplomats obtain diplomatic or consular ranks.

2. Diplomatic ranks in the Foreign Service are as follows:

- a) "Ambassador";
- b) "Plenipotentiary Minister";
- c) "Minister Counsellor";
- ç) "Counsellor";
- d) "First Secretary";
- dh) "Second Secretary";
- e) "Third Secretary";
- ë) "Attaché".

3. The consular ranks in the Foreign Service are as follows:

- a) "Consul General";
- b) "Consul";
- c) "Vice Consul";
- ç) "Consular agent".

Article 55

Granting of personal diplomatic ranks

1. Career diplomats obtain personal diplomatic ranks one after the other. The criteria for granting a diplomatic rank, are as follows:

- a) compliance with the deadlines provided for in Article 56 of the present law;
- b) job evaluation;
- c) professional qualifications inside the country or abroad;
- ç) successfully passing the test provided for in point 4 of this Article.

2. The rank of "Attaché" is obtained upon confirmation of the status of a career diplomat according to Article 46, point 4 of the present law.

3. Ranks from "Third Secretary" to "Plenipotentiary Minister" are proposed by the DCDC according to the definitions provided for in the Foreign Service regulation.

4. The personal diplomatic rank of "Counselor" is obtained after successfully passing the test by the DCDC and the relevant training organized by the DA. The method of conducting this test, is determined in the Foreign Service regulation.

5. To obtain the rank of "Minister Counsellor", in addition to the conditions of point 1 of this Article, the candidate shall have at least 3 years of experience in management positions, as well as have served at least once in a diplomatic mission or consular post.

6. To obtain the rank of "Plenipotentiary Minister", in addition to the conditions of point 1 of this Article, the candidate shall have at least 6 years of experience in management positions, as well as have served at least once in the position of head of a diplomatic mission or consular post.

7. Diplomats shall obtain the rank of "Ambassador" after having successively acquired all diplomatic ranks under this law and having served as head of a diplomatic mission or consular post at least three times, but not less than 10 years in total.

8. Based on the proposal of the DCDC, the minister proposes to the President of the Republic the granting of personal rank of the "Ambassador" to the career diplomat who meets the criteria provided for in point 7 of this Article.

9. The maximum number of ambassadors, plenipotentiary Ministers and Ministers Counsellors is determined in the Foreign Service regulation.

Article 56

Deadlines for obtaining diplomatic ranks

1. The minimum period for the diplomat's **career** transition from one rank to another higher rank, is:

- a) from "Attaché" to "Third Secretary", 2 years;
- b) from "Third Secretary" to "Second Secretary" 3 years and 5 years from obtaining the rank of "Attaché";
- c) from "Second Secretary" to "First Secretary" 3 years and 8 years from obtaining the rank of "Attaché";
- ç) from "First Secretary" to "Counselor" 4 years and 12 years from obtaining the rank of "Attaché";
- d) from "Counsellor" to "Minister Counsellor" 4 years and 16 years from obtaining the rank of "Attaché";
- dh) from "Minister Counsellor" to "Plenipotentiary Minister" 4 years and 20 years from obtaining the rank of "Attaché";
- e) from "Plenipotentiary Minister" to "Ambassador" 4 years and 24 years from obtaining the rank of "Attaché".

2. An exception to the deadlines of point 1 of this Article shall be made for diplomats admitted under Article 46, point 5 of the present law, who have experience in public international organizations, whose period of work in these organizations is recognized for the purpose of calculating their personal diplomatic rank.

Article 57

Equivalence of ranks

Diplomats are appointed to consular posts and duties with consular ranks. The transition from diplomatic to consular rank is made by respecting the equivalence of ranks as follows:

- a) Consul General "Minister Counsellor";
- b) Consul "First or Second Secretary";
- c) Vice-consul "Second or Third Secretary";
- d) Consular agent "Third Secretary" or "Attaché".

Article 58

Rights

In addition to the rights provided by law on civil servant, career diplomats have the right:

- a) to enjoy the status of career diplomat;
- b) to obtain personal diplomatic rank;
- c) to hold functions at ministries, diplomatic missions or consular posts in accordance with the personal diplomatic rank;
- ç) to benefit from the immunities and facilities granted by the status of diplomat, in accordance with international acts and law, during the period when he is appointed to the diplomatic mission or consular post;
- d) to benefit from qualifications and training offered by the ministry, by the DA or other institutions in cooperation or with the consent of the ministry;
- dh) to receive financial treatment in accordance with his status;
- e) to hold and use a diplomatic passport while exercising official functions.

Article 59

Obligations

In addition to the obligations provided for in the law on civil servant, the diplomat has the following obligations:

- a) to protect the interests of the state and Albanian citizens or legal entities in the state or organization where he is accredited and performs his functions;
- b) to exercise honestly and correctly the functions and duties assigned in accordance with the Constitution, international acts binding upon the Republic of Albania, the present law, as well as other legal acts and by-laws;
- c) to bear full responsibility for the legality of actions during the performance of duty and, when he is not convinced of the legality of orders and decisions he implements, to notify the ordering levels and the superior levels of the latter;
- ç) not to belong to any political party, organization or association and not to participate in the activities organized by them;
- d) to maintain a decent and impeccable moral attitude in all circumstances;
- dh) not to make public statements that conflict with foreign policy of the Albanian state;
- e) to respect the laws of the state where he is accredited and not to engage in activities that could be considered as interference with the internal affairs of that state;
- ë) to exercise his activity in the country where he is accredited in accordance with the immunities and privileges he enjoys as a member of the diplomatic corps;
- f) not to exercise in the country where he is accredited, any commercial activity or any other profitable activity on his behalf, on behalf of his family members or third parties;
- g) to implement the rules for classified information even after leaving the Foreign Service, as well as to ensure the preservation of data and information entrusted to him;
- gj) to avoid any conflict between his private interest and the public interest in the exercise of his duties at the civil service in accordance with the applicable legislation in force.

Article 60

Financial treatment of the Foreign Service staff

1. The gross salary of career diplomats working at the ministry, is determined based on their personal diplomatic rank and the function they perform.
2. The gross salary of a diplomat appointed to diplomatic missions and consular posts, is determined based on the diplomatic rank of appointment.
3. The diplomat appointed to the diplomatic mission or consular post, receives financial compensation based on the standard of living in the host country.
4. A diplomat appointed to a diplomatic mission or consular post, shall receive financial compensation when he/she:
 - a) performs duties in areas classified as high risk;
 - b) exercises special functions/duties of a specific nature or importance.
5. The Ministry covers the costs of mandatory insurance according to the legislation in force, the costs of basic health insurance in the host country, as well as life insurance of the diplomat and family members in cases where the diplomat exercises his function in areas classified as high risk, as long as the high-risk situation continues.
6. The ministry covers the costs of a diplomat appointed to a diplomatic mission or consular post for transportation, accommodation and other costs incurred for the performance of his/her duties.
7. The gross salary of the diplomat according to points 1 and 2 of this Article, financial compensation according to points 3 and 4 of this Article, identification of areas classified as high risk, their duration, specific functions/duties according to points 4 and 5 of this Article, as well as rules and standards for incurring costs according to point 6 of this Article, are determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers.

Article 61

Treatment of families of diplomatic mission and consular post staff

1. Members of the diplomat's family enjoy the right to hold a diplomatic passport.
2. The Ministry covers the health insurance costs for the diplomat's family members.
3. The spouse accompanying the diplomat on duty at the diplomatic mission or consular post, shall be credited with the time spent abroad for the purpose of job seniority. For this period, the diplomat's spouse shall be entitled to payment of mandatory insurance contributions, calculated on the basis of the salary he/she received before joining the diplomat on this duty. In cases where the spouse has not been in an employment relationship, the minimum salary determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers, shall be taken as reference salary.
4. The spouse of a diplomat, who accompanies him/her on duty at the diplomatic mission or consular post and who does not receive employment income during the diplomat's mandate, receives a monthly allowance equal to 50 percent of the salary of the "Attaché" rank, appointed in the host country. Each child up to 23 years of age, living with the diplomat in the host country, receives a monthly allowance equal to 20 percent of the salary of the "Attaché" rank, appointed in the host country, except in cases where he/she is in an employment relationship.
5. The ministry covers travel health insurance for the diplomat's family members.
6. The spouse and adult children accompanying the diplomat appointed to the diplomatic mission or consular post, have the right to be employed in the host state in cases where such employment is provided for by a bilateral agreement that the Republic of Albania has concluded with the host state or when permitted by the state in question. The diplomat notifies thereof the head of diplomatic mission or consular post. The head of diplomatic mission or consular post notifies the ministry of such employment. The spouse and employed adult children do not benefit from the remuneration provided for in point 4 of this Article.
7. The spouse who, at the time of the diplomat's appointment to the diplomatic mission or consular post, is employed in the civil service, shall be suspended from the civil service for the spouse's duration of stay in the diplomatic mission or consular post. At the end of the term, unless the termination of the civil service relationship is decided, he/she shall be returned in his/her previous

job position or, if the previous position is definitively filled, shall be transferred to another position of the same category. If this is not possible, he/she shall be registered on a list administered by the responsible unit, in accordance with the legislation in force on civil servant. The appearance on this list continues until placement in a regular position in civil service.

8. Point 7 of this Article also applies to other cases when the employment relationship of the diplomat's spouse with the public institution, is regulated by legislation other than that on civil servant.

9. The administrative, technical and service staff of the diplomatic mission or consular post, as well as members of their families, who are not local staff, shall be equipped with a service passport and shall benefit from the rights provided for in points 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of this Article.

10. The Ministry covers the financing of preschool and pre-university education of the children of diplomats appointed to the diplomatic mission or consular post, as well as of technical, administrative and service staff who do not fall into the category provided for in Article 42, point 11 of the present law. The financing of this education is made in cases where:

a) public education in the country where the diplomatic mission or consular post is accredited, is paid; or

b) language of education in public schools is not English, French, Italian or German.

11. The method, criteria and amount of financing, provided for in this Article, shall be determined by a Decision of Council of Ministers.

Article 62

Death of diplomat or his family members

If a diplomat or a member of his family dies while on duty, the ministry shall fully cover the costs of transportation and funeral ceremony.

CHAPTER VII

SUSPENSION, RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Article 63

Suspension

1. The diplomat is suspended from the relationship with the Foreign Service for the reasons provided for in the legislation in force on civil servant, as well as when a criminal proceeding has been initiated against him by the host state.

2. If the criminal case is dismissed or the person is declared not guilty by a final court decision, the civil servant shall be returned in the Foreign Service and concurrently regains the status, salary and any other rights terminated from the moment of suspension.

Article 64

Disciplinary responsibility

1. The diplomat, as well as any civil servant of the Foreign Service, is responsible for violations committed during the exercise of function and fulfillment of the assigned duties in accordance with the rules set out by the legislation on civil servant, the present law and by-laws for its implementation.

2. In addition to the provisions of the legislation in force on civil servant, failure to fulfill the diplomat's obligations provided for in Article 59 of the present law, is considered a very serious violation.

3. The disciplinary responsibility of each civil servant of the Foreign Service is determined according to the provisions of the legislation in force on civil servant.

4. The disciplinary responsibility of the diplomat is determined by the DCDC, which proposes to the Minister the imposition of a disciplinary measure in accordance with the legislation in force on civil servant, the present law and its by-laws.

5. The procedures for imposing disciplinary measures are defined in the legislation in force on civil servant.

Article 65

Disciplinary measures

1. Disciplinary measures against a diplomat are issued in accordance with the violations provided for in the legislation in force on civil servant.

2. In addition to the disciplinary measures provided for in the legislation in force on civil servant, the following measures may also be taken against a diplomat who commits very serious or serious violations:

- a) for very serious violations, dismissal from the Foreign Service;
- b) for serious violations:
 - i. suspension from the right to rank promotion for a period of up to 2 years;
 - ii. rank demotion.

CHAPTER VIII

CIVIL SERVANTS AND TECHNICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE STAFF

Article 66

Status of civil servants

1. Civil servants at the ministry, who do not enjoy the status of diplomat, perform duties in the audit and finance sectors, internal legal relations and judicial representation, real estate administration, data processing, liaison, communication, information technology, in administrative matters. The provisions of the legislation in force on civil servant and by-laws for its implementation shall apply to these officials.

2. A civil servant in the ministry, except for the cases provided for in the legislation in force on civil servant, interrupts the employment relationship when he or she is under the conditions provided for in letters “c” and “ç” of Article 53 of the present law.

3. A civil servant at the ministry has the right to use a service passport during the exercise of his/her functions.

Article 67

Status of technical, administrative and service staff

1. Technical, administrative and service staff at the ministry is considered the category of employees performing duties in the auxiliary, maintenance and support sectors, whose status is regulated under the provisions of Labor Code.

2. Technical and service staff at the ministry have the right to use a service passport during the exercise of their functions.

CHAPTER IX

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 68

By-laws

1. The Council of Ministers is hereby charged to approve, within 3 months from the entry into force of this law, the by-laws pursuant to Articles 10, point 6; 12; 13; 19; 20, point 2; 21, point 7; 25, points 1 and 3; 28, point 5; 29, point 3; 30, point 3; 31, point 3; 32, point 5; 33, point 5; 35, point 7; 42, points 2 and 4; 60, point 7, and 61, point 11 of the present law.

2. The Minister is charged to approve the by-laws pursuant to Article 25, point 2 of the present law.

3. Within 12 months from the entry into force of the present law, all diplomats in service shall undergo a transparent, competitive and objective professional evaluation procedure based on performance in the Foreign Service, ethical-professional integrity and qualifications in accordance with the procedures set out in the legislation in force on civil servant, the present law and by-laws for its implementation.

4. In order to obtain the personal rank, career diplomats who have not acquired their personal ranks in due time, shall be credited with the period of time from the date of having obtained the “Attaché” rank or the expiry of deadline for obtaining that rank. This provision shall be applied only once at the first meeting of the DCDC after the entry into force of the present law, in accordance with the provisions of Article 22, point 1, letter “a” and Article 55, point 4 of this law.

Article 69

Repeals

Law No. 23/2015 “On the Foreign Service of the Republic of Albania” and Law No. 8372, dated 9.7.1998 “On the exercise of consular functions by diplomatic or consular representations” are repealed.

Article 70

Entry into force

This law enters into force 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal.

CHAIRMAN

Niko PELESHI

Approved on 20.2.2026