



OSCE / ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Albania 1998

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Upon an invitation from the Albanian Government, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) has established an Election Observation Mission in Albania for the 22 November Constitutional Referendum.

The Head of the ODIHR Election Observation Mission is Mr. Kåre Vollan of Norway. Observers are expected to come from a number of OSCE participating States, members of Embassies to Albania, and international organisations present in the country. The Election Observation Mission will co-ordinate with parliamentary bodies that may send observers for the referendum.

During its temporary presence in Albania, the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission will get support from and work in close co-operation with the OSCE Presence in Albania, headed by Ambassador Daan Everts.

The OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission will have a core staff of eight people and a number of Long-term Observers deployed throughout the country. Part of the role of the long-term international observation is to observe the pre-electoral processes, such as the campaign, the referendum administration and to assess the laws governing the referendum.

The OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission will have regular meetings with the authorities such as the Central Voting Commission and District Election Commissions, with political parties, members of the media, representatives of the international diplomatic community and organisations active in civic education and democratisation.

The purpose of election observation is to assess the referendum process in accordance with OSCE commitments and international standards.

The OSCE/ODIHR will issue a preliminary statement on the referendum process shortly after the elections, based on its long-term findings as well as reports from observers on election day, and a more comprehensive final report a few weeks later.

*For further information please contact Ms. Siri Skåre, Deputy Head of the ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Albania 1998
Tirana, 3 November 1998*