



**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA  
UNDER CURRENT ISSUES  
AT THE 735<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 October 2008

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Serbia would like to draw the attention of the distinguished Permanent Council to the OSCE press release on the joint press conference of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, and, according to the press release, the “Interior Ministry of Kosovo”, as well as the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, which was distributed last week. The press conference was held on 7 October, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Investigation Department in the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, and, according to the press release, was organized to present the results of the Kosovo Police Inspectorate investigations.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the independence of Kosovo is not endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, which means that UNSCR 1244 continues to be the only legal basis for any international presence in the province, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, which is a “distinct component” of the only legal international presence in Kosovo – UNMIK, has to abide by the valid and binding principles of resolution 1244. The organization of any joint press conferences of OMiK with representatives of the illegitimate and illegal institutions of the self-proclaimed Republic of Kosovo *without the participation of UNMIK* is unacceptable. It leaves the framework of resolution 1244 and is thus in contravention to OMiK’s position of status neutrality. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo cannot and must not be in the service of the self-proclaimed independent institutions of Kosovo and in this way support and legitimize the illegal independence.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, we would like to ask the Secretariat and the Chairmanship to provide us and other interested delegations with a record of the mentioned press conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman