



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Presence in Albania

HEAD OF PRESENCE REMARKS - BIOMETRIC PASSPORT READER DONATION

28 June 2012

General Director Burgaj,
Director Nako,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to be back again in the headquarters of the Albanian State Police for today's ceremony.

This event is yet another example of the excellent co-operation between the OSCE Presence in Albania and the State Police.

A fruitful, long-standing and productive partnership which comprises a number of key areas.

One key area clearly is border management, where we have successfully co-operated, through training, expertise and the provision of relevant equipment to the Border and Migration Police.

This is the issue that brought us here today.

Border management aims at enhancing border security.

Thus the crucial role played by the Border and Migration Police in ensuring Albania's security and, I note, that of its neighbours, too. I strongly commend their work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Cross-border co-operation is a natural corollary of border security.

Indeed, the OSCE here represented through the Presence in Albania is founded upon the very principle of co-operative security. For good reasons, we think.

This explains the importance of cross-border police co-operation with neighbouring countries.

It is about building trust, fighting jointly those who are against the law, while helping to make the life of law-abiding citizens safer.

Significant progress has taken place, for instance, in the form of Joint Cross-border meetings between Albanian State Police and their counterparts from Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

We commend and encourage these joint efforts. Their regional significance is high.

Exchange of information and good practices among border professionals make for better security and better service to us all, on both side of the borders.

Border management is *also* about the freedom of citizens to travel in accordance with the law, for exchanging knowledge, ideas, or simply for vacations.

This side of border management is crucial for regional prosperity.

And it is so because it pertains to the flow of goods and people, a foundation of modern security and stability, including in the region of South Eastern Europe.

Here we come to the service aspect: correct and speedy professional service is much needed for the economic development of this region.

The good balance between assuring border security while allowing cross-border traffic, and therefore freedom of movement, needs to be found every day..

Clearly, border security requires, to begin with, committed professionals, with the required operational support and capacities.

With equal clarity, advanced technologies are nowadays essential for modern border management.

They help countering manifold threats such as organised crime, while enabling the human and economic progress, which stems from the free and safe flow of people and goods.

Today's handing over of 10 biometric passport readers, together with the related training, is an important concrete contribution to further improve the well performed operations of the Albanian State Police.

The machines and their operators will help to save many hours of waiting at the border, while bringing better service and increased security.

I am deeply convinced that this contribution comes indeed timely, as the tourist season of summer 2012 is starting to run up to full swing.

General Director Burgaj,
Director Nako,
Ladies and gentlemen,

For the OSCE Presence, it is both a noble duty and a great pleasure to work with the Albanian State Police in such fine partnership.

Together with my team, I can say that we look forward to more of this fruitful co-operation. Let me wish the Albanian State Police success in their work, to the benefit of and in service to the people.

Thank you very much.

Ends