

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1001/22
7 July 2022

ENGLISH
Original: ITALIAN

Delegation of Italy

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR STEFANO BALDI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1381st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 July 2022

On the report by the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to add some observations in its national capacity.

First of all, I should like to renew my welcome to Ambassador Del Monaco and thank him for his effective presentation of the report on the numerous activities carried out by the OSCE Presence in Albania over the past year and on the important results achieved.

Against the background of robust and close bilateral co-operation, fostered by Italy's strong backing for Albania's European integration process, Italy firmly supports the work of the OSCE in Albania and recognizes its essential contribution to strengthening the implementation of our common commitments. For this reason, we are among the staunch contributors to the extrabudgetary activities of the Presence and we have been committed in recent years to enhancing its activities, also thanks to constant political support and an increasingly close and fruitful partnership between Italian and Albanian institutions. In this regard, I should like to mention a few examples of project activities and initiatives of the OSCE Presence in Albania strongly supported by Italy, which clearly illustrate the Presence's added value.

The structured partnership launched between the Presence, Italy's National Anti-Corruption Authority and the analogous Albanian institution (the State Supreme Audit) and the project on strengthening transparency and anti-corruption measures in legislation on public procurement have achieved important results in terms of strengthening measures to combat corruption and crime in Albania.

The fight against corruption is a shared priority between Italy and Albania at the national and international level – as evidenced by the strong continuity of action of our two OSCE Chairmanships and by the role and activities of the former Special Representative Professor Paola Severino. Her participation last December in the International Conference on Raising Awareness on Gender Inequalities and Corruption, organized by the Presence, is further confirmation of the priority placed by Italy on this issue.

Italy is also a strong supporter of the projects promoted by the Presence in the field of higher education, such as the multidisciplinary Master's degree in criminology (which also benefits from extensive

co-operation with LUISS Guido Carli University) and the programme of studies on transitional justice at the University of Tirana.

The training of specialized legal and law enforcement professionals with a sound knowledge of the fundamentals of the rule of law and human rights makes an invaluable contribution to the implementation of the OSCE's shared commitments. Furthermore, the Youth in Focus II project on youth, peace and security, supported by Italy, is devoted to the younger generation.

In addition, in the light of Italy's long-standing commitment to the training of national practitioners engaged in the fight against trafficking in human beings and the long and fruitful collaboration between the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units in Vicenza, Italy recently funded a new project by the Presence to support the capacity of the Albanian criminal justice system in countering trafficking in human beings and to enhance the training courses of the Albanian School of Magistrates and the Security Academy.

We also funded a project aimed at increasing the transparency and efficiency of the activities of the Albanian Constitutional Court in order to facilitate the sharing of best practices at the international level and to contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law and the protection of human rights in the country.

Finally, I should like to mention – as an example of Italy's strong support for all OSCE activities in the country, including those activities with a regional scope promoted by the Secretariat – the Young Developers and Entrepreneurs to Advance Start-ups in the Western Balkans project on sustainable entrepreneurship, which is being implemented by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities across the entire Western Balkans region. It is no coincidence that the launch event for the second phase of this project took place in Tirana last February.

In closing, I should again like to thank Ambassador Del Monaco and the entire OSCE Presence in Albania for the comprehensive report and the important work done. Thank you.