

**HEAD OF PRESENCE'S REMARKS AT AN EVENT ON
WOMEN'S FORUM OF STATE POLICE EMPLOYEES**

23 November 2011

Deputy Minister Zajmi,
General State Director Burgaj,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning.

I am delighted to be able to be with you today in an event jointly co-organized with the General Directorate of the State Police to promote women in the police and, in particular, the Women's Forum of State Police Employees.

The Forum was established in June this year, bringing together more than 600 women police officers.

Its aim is to represent the interests of women police officers as well as to improve women's position in the police force.

In the framework of the OSCE politico-military dimension, the OSCE 2004 Gender Action Plan and commitments under the UN 1325 Resolution, the OSCE Presence supports across the region the discussion on the role of women in the police.

Over the last years, the OSCE Presence in Albania has supported the implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Against Domestic Violence and the Law On Gender Equality in the Society.

We have also assisted in the strengthening of the National Council on Gender Equality, the reinforcement of central governmental mechanisms and the capacity building of gender equality staff in all line ministries.

The Ministry of Interior under the leadership of Deputy Minister Iva Zajmi has successfully established the Task Force, which then mainstreamed the gender issue in the work of the police.

We can truthfully say that the gender focal point based in the police is one of the most active ones and has served as a model to many others.

I would like to recall that the OSCE Presence has also provided support with the recruitment process to encourage more women and minority applicants to join the police training.

I join those who hope that today's event will help to see from now on an active Women's Forum, one that will primarily promote women's rights in police force and contribute to creating better working conditions for police women.

All this may at first glance look to be for women only. No. Clearly not. It is for balance, for a further improved police service to the benefit of all Albanian citizens, men and women alike.

Finally, I would like to thank all the gathered for their participation and wish you a fruitful discussion.

Ends