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I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE  
NDËRKOMBËTARE

PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

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VIENNA

Statement of the Delegation of Albania  
In response to the Address of the Chairperson of the CM of the CoE,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Andorra, H.E. Mr. Gilbert Saboya i Sunye

As delivered by Ambassador Spiro Koçi  
At the 932<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council of the OSCE  
22 of November 2012

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The Albanian Delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered by Cyprus on behalf of the European Union. On a national capacity, I would like to make the following remarks.

We join others in warmly welcoming to the Permanent Council the Foreign Minister of Andorra, H.E. Mr. Gilbert Saboya i Sunye, in his capacity of Chairperson of Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. We thank him for outlining some of the key priorities Andorra intends to pursue during the coming six months.

Mr. Minister, the Albanian authorities have been very pleased to welcome you in Tirana at the beginning of this Month, during the proceedings of the High-level Conference "United in Diversity-strength for Europe". This successful event, whose main goal was to follow up some of the recommendations of the 2011 "Living Together" Report, marked the end of our Presidency and its handover to your country.

We are committed to continue our interaction with a view to consolidate the achievements of the Albanian Presidency, successfully implement your priorities and advance the implementation of the Council of Europe reform.

In this connection, we note with satisfaction that the activities of your Presidency will build upon the work carried out by previous Chairmanships, while taking into due account the priorities set up jointly with the upcoming presidencies of Armenia and

Austria. We welcome this approach, which allows the Council of Europe to pursue its priorities in a synchronized and result-oriented fashion.

We are encouraged by your intention to put the topical issue of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination in the list of your priorities. In particular, we value your plans to promote education in tolerance as a tool to advance our shared values and as a conflict prevention instrument.

Albania also appreciates your intention to continue cooperation between our two Organizations. As the Foreign Minister of Albania pointed out during his address to the Permanent Council last June the continuation of an enduring partnership between the Council of Europe and the OSCE is instrumental to the realization of a Euro-Atlantic Security Community based on the universally recognized values of human rights, democracy and rule of law.

In this respect, we strongly believe that both Organizations should explore also avenues of cooperation to assist the transition processes of our Mediterranean neighbors in a spirit of equal partnership, local ownership and in line with their stated priorities. This is an issue that ties directly into one of the main objectives of Council of Europe reform, that of strengthening the cooperation between the Council and the countries of the Mediterranean shore and Northern Africa.

The Albanian Presidency made concrete efforts to further advance this objective. The productive visit that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, along with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council and the President of the Venice Commission, paid to Tunisia, is a case in point. The visit was aimed to discuss with local authorities and civil society the future areas of cooperation between the Council of Europe and Tunisia. We believe that the incoming Chairs should consider further pursuing this path.

I wish to conclude by wishing Minister Saboya i Sunye and his Council of Europe Chairmanship team every success in his future endeavors.

Thank you.