

PC.DEL/1095/18
27 September 2018

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1195th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 September 2018

In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished Ambassador Bernd Borchardt for his detailed report on the activities of the OSCE Presence in Albania.

We attach great importance to the harmonious development of the Western Balkans as a whole and each of the countries of the region in particular. In that context, we consider it useful for the OSCE to continue to provide all-round assistance to the authorities in Albania in dealing with the day-to-day problems of national and region-wide importance. We expect this assistance to be provided within the framework of the existing mandate, in close collaboration with the host country and in co-ordination with the efforts of other international presences in the country.

We support the work of the Presence to strengthen the national capacities of the Albanian law enforcement bodies, including the border police, in combating transnational threats, with emphasis on the fight against organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption and cybercrime. More attention should be paid to critical problems such as trafficking in human beings, including trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and also trafficking in human organs. We firmly believe that there is a need for concerted efforts to combat these threats at both the regional and the international level.

We welcome the anti-terrorism efforts by the Presence, in particular with regard to foreign terrorist fighters and “returnees”. In that context, we consider the organization by the OSCE’s “point” in Albania of a round table on this subject in November to be a useful initiative.

We believe it necessary to continue providing assistance in the development of parliamentarianism and in strengthening civil society, in particular by helping the Albanian authorities to carry out a comprehensive reform of the judiciary system and to improve electoral legislation and administration.

In conclusion, we should like to wish the distinguished Ambassador Borchardt and the members of the OSCE field presence in Albania every success in their work. We hope that it will help to establish the necessary conditions in the foreseeable future for the continued independent development of the country and its prosperity.

Thank you for your attention.