

**HEAD OF PRESENCE'S REMARKS TO ORA NEWS FOLLOWING THE RELEASE  
OF THE OSCE/ODIHR FINAL REPORT ON 2011 LOCAL ELECTIONS**

*15 August 2011*

*Q: Mr. Ambassador, the OSCE/ODIHR released today the final report on the 2011 local elections. What is your message for the heads of politics in Albania?*

*Ambassador Wollfarth:* The most important thing is that the report on the 2011 local elections is read completely, from the first word to the last word. It contains also clear and prioritized recommendations. I will name just two of them. One is on political will. Political will is clearly needed and that is the key to the other steps, and these steps need to be taken very soon. The time for the next elections, the next general elections in 2013, is running. This time should be used, should be used early, right after the parliamentary recess ends in September. So, the parties must make use of that time and show the clear political will.

*Q: The most important recommendations regard electoral reform. Do you think that the reform of the Electoral Code is very important?*

It would help to increase the confidence of the voters in the system. We have seen a good Election Day. We have seen a complicated counting process. ODIHR has reported on it and has come up this time with 27 recommendations and now, of course, it is very important to work on the 31 recommendations from 2009, the 27 from this year, also listen carefully to the national observers. I would like to stress this fact. These elections were also largely observed by Albanians serving their country and they could be part of the reform talks of that process to come to a really good solution.

*Q: Do you think that the politicians, Mr. Berisha, Mr. Rama and the others, are ready to start this collaboration?*

*Ambassador Wollfarth:* They should be ready. They should be ready serving their country.

**Ends**