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I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE
NDËRKOMBËTARE

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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

VIENNA

Vienna, 19 June 2008

*Statement
delivered by the Ambassador Gilbert Galanxhi
at the Permanent Council Meeting No. 717*

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Albania welcomes the entry into force of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo on 15 June 2008, and considers it as an event of paramount importance in the history of this new, independent and sovereign state. This Constitution lays down the foundations for building the free - democratic - multi-ethnic Kosovo state, clearly oriented towards the Euro – Atlantic integration, deserving its place into the family of free nations.

While commending the noticeable progress that the Republic of Kosovo has made during its first months as an independent state, as well as the maturity and determination that its leaders are manifesting in the process of consolidation of the democratic institutions, Albania is convinced that Kosovo possesses all the

necessary capacities to successfully accomplish the new challenges and responsibilities emanating from the entry into force of its Constitution.

On this occasion, the Albanian Government extends its deserved gratefulness to the international presence during the last nine years in Kosova for their work and contribution and, at the same time, it encourages Kosova's freely elected and executive authorities to keep on the same spirit of cooperation with them even during the shift of powers from UNMIK to the domestic institutions and to the EU Mission "EULEX".

While re-confirming the full-fledged commitment for the observance of international borders, the Albanian Government reiterates its appeal to UNMIK, the EU Mission and KFOR to take all the necessary steps for the preservation of the Kosova's territorial integrity, to ensure the functioning of its legitimate institutions throughout its territory, including Northern Mitrovica, since this is the only realistic way to ensure the building of a peaceful and democratic Kosova.

Albania welcomes yesterday's Presidential Decrees for establishing Kosova's embassies in the main capitals of the world, Vienna included, as the first phase of its diplomatic representation abroad, in full conformity with *Ahtisaari Plan* and its own new Constitution and, at the same time, urges the Kosovar Government to extend friendly and cooperative relations to all its neighbors, rendering thus a valuable contribution to prosperity and long-term stability in the region.

I thank you Mr. Chairman