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**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
SERBIA AMBASSADOR VUK ŽUGIĆ AT THE 910th MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 May 2012

Mr Chairman,

The Republic of Serbia welcomes an agreement made with the OSCE on facilitation of Serbian parliamentary and presidential elections in Kosovo and Metohija.

We are pleased that after series of long and extensive consultations between our representatives and the representatives of Irish Chairmanship, OSCE Secretariat and OMIK, both in Vienna and Belgrade, we have been able to reach this agreement. We would like to commend the OSCE for its facilitating role and underline that this agreement is based on Serbian electoral legislation, thus guaranteeing the full integrity of the election process.

During the course of negotiations we have shown a considerable degree of flexibility with a view to make every possible effort in order to enable Serbs in Kosovo to cast their votes on 6 May. We will implement this agreement in good faith and with the same degree of commitment. In that context, we are looking forward to the cooperation and coordination of the OSCE/OMIK with the respective Serbian authorities and expect it to be within the established terms of the agreement.

We hope that our parliamentary and presidential elections will be conducted in free, fair and orderly manner, thus enabling Serbs in Kosovo to exercise one of their fundamental rights. Bearing in mind the complexity of the situation on the ground, especially the security challenges and need for maintaining stability and security, we call upon the international presence to act in a status neutral manner which will ensure an atmosphere conducive to stabilization and prevent any potential acts which may cause tensions.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.