

## **HEAD OF PRESENCE REMARKS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> EDITION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL ALBANIA**

*25 September 2011*

“I am very pleased to be with you here today at the opening of the 6th International Human Rights Film Festival in Albania. The OSCE Presence in Albania carries the central issues of human rights and rule of law in its mandate. One year ago I said some words at the opening ceremony of the Festival’s previous edition. One year later, I think that there are still many more things to be said on human rights

The Europeans continue to pay particular attention to the human rights’ issue since the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the first campaigns for their observance started. Since the time when the philosophers Immanuel Kant and Jean Jacques Rousseau started to send out clear messages to the kings pressing for more rights for persons, starting from freedom, including then equality, respect and tolerance. Since then, there has never been a time, when the efforts to enforce the observance of human rights ceased or stopped.

Even though most societies nowadays are democratic, there is still a need for the human rights to be monitored constantly and carefully. And this should start within the families, the neighbourhoods, and the respect for each other’s rights, not to be delegated to governments only. And I believe that the movies that are being featured as part of this event send out a very clear message in this sense, a message that needs to be heard.”

*Background: The OSCE Presence in Albania sponsored the Human Rights Film Festival in 2011.*