



MISIONI I PËRHERSHËM
I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE
NDËRKOMBËTARE

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

VJENË

VIENNA

**OSCE High Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination
(Astana, 29-30 June 2010)
Plenary Session II: Combating Anti-Semitism**

**Intervention of the Albanian Delegation
Delivered by Ambassador Gilbert Galanxhi,
Permanent Representative of Albania to the OSCE**

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

Distinguished participants,

I would like to thank the key-note speakers for their concise and clear-cut presentations, which outlined very eloquently the challenges and threats to the security and stability in our OSCE area, stemming from new forms and expressions of anti-Semitic hatred or intolerance.

We believe that the long-term and systematic response to these challenges and threats lies on the quality of education we provide for young generations, in order to fight prejudice and negative stereotyping, and promote mutual respect and understanding. We have to believe in what we want to achieve; it's not enough to state it only.

In this respect, historical examples are always more telling and useful than a host of nice lectures. I noticed today that every government and civil society organizations are committed to tolerance and non-discrimination. But what's going wrong then? Is it the political will to fully implement our common commitments?

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the *DVD* distributed by the Albanian delegation in the opening session of this conference. It contains a short documentary film named "Rescue in Albania" which reveals real values of tolerance, solidarity and non-discrimination of the Albanian people, be it Muslim, Catholic or Orthodox, who sheltered, protected and saved from annihilation hundreds of Jewish families during the Second World War. In 1939 Albania counted some two hundred Jewish families, but in 1945 it counted around two thousand Jews because Albania served as a safe-heaven for them. I guess that only a few of you present in this hall know the fact that the famous Albert Einstein arrived in the United States of America

as an Albanian citizen because he was granted the Albanian citizenship and an Albanian passport by the Albanian authorities of the time.

Distinguished participants,

I want to close my brief intervention on a positive note: where is a will there is a way. We only have to sincerely join our efforts.

I thank you for your attention.