



MISIONI I PËRHERSHËM  
I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE  
NDËRKOMBËTARE  
VJENË

PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS  
VIENNA

Statement of the Delegation of Albania,  
In response to Report by Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Jean-  
Claude Schlumberger,

As delivered by the Permanent Representative, Ambassador Spiro Koçi,  
at the 1066 meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
3 September 2015

**Thank you Mr. Chairperson,**

Albania joins others in warmly welcoming Ambassador Schlumberger, Head of OMIK, to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his detailed report and today's presentation.

My delegations aligned itself with the EU statement. We would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Mission, the Head of Mission personally and its dedicated team for the excellent work they conduct in Kosovo.

Albania welcomes your efforts to support Kosovo's institutions in improving their performance in key areas such as oversight, transparency, inclusive decision-making, as well as community and human rights. Your activities add value to the efforts of the international community in Kosovo and provide for the Mission's relevance in the coming years.

The Mission's initiative to launch and conclude a wide consultative process that led to the formulation of a strategic programmatic vision for the period 2016-2019 and beyond, deserves to be commended.

We hope that the implementation of this vision will provide for more focused and streamlined activities taking into account Kosovo's steady progress and its major priorities. Close cooperation and coordination with Kosovo's officials is crucial for its success. This is the kind of approach that can make a difference in strengthening the effectiveness of our field operations.

**Mr. Chairperson,  
Colleagues,**

This and other reports show 2014 and 2015 have been years of major transitions in Kosovo. Despite the challenges that the country is still facing, there is clear evidence of continuing steady progress. The security situation remains stable, illegal migration is falling and we continue to see good practical cooperation at the local level, notably in northern Kosovo.

Kosovo has now a new coalition government dedicated to push forward an ambitious programme of reforms in key priority areas. These include achieving sustainable economic development, promoting employment and social welfare, advancing the rule of law and pursuing the fulfillment of all EU criteria.

We must applaud the Kosovo's leaders for their vision and ability to drive forward the internal reforms and the progress of Kosovo towards regional and EU integration. This is all the more true when one considers the decision of the Parliament of Kosovo to amend the constitution to pave the way to the establishment of a special court that would follow up on the findings of the EU Special Investigative Task Force for war crimes allegations contained in the 2010-2011 Council of Europe's report. This difficult decision demonstrated once again Kosovo's commitment to meet its obligations under international law.

The Government of Kosovo is equally engaged in pursuing the EU-Facilitated dialogue with Serbia. The four agreements signed few days ago by Prime Minister Mustafa and his homologue Vucic on four outstanding topics – energy, telecommunications, freedom of movement on the main bridge in Mitrovica and the establishment of the Association/Community of Serb Municipalities - will be into the benefit of Kosovo and Serbia and their own peoples. Their full and speedy implementation, together with some former signed agreements, will further normalize relations between the two neighbouring countries and substantially improve the life of the people living in Kosovo.

These agreements preceded the Western Balkans Summit that took place in Vienna on 27 August, as part of the Berlin Process. We note with pleasure that the meeting reemphasized the EU's lasting commitment towards the Western Balkan's region and discussed concrete infrastructure and development projects, including issues related to regional cooperation, civic society and youth exchanges, challenges related to migration, issues calling also for the engagement of our Organization.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

As we speak, Albania is filing an official request to the Executive Board of UNESCO to include in its agenda the request of Kosovo to become a fully-fledged member in this international organization. Our request has received widespread support and has been co-sponsored by several member

countries. We are convinced that membership in UNESCO will further advance the development of the people of Kosovo in the areas of education, science, culture and communication.

We also believe that the positions of the Government of Kosovo should be listened to also in the OSCE fora. Kosovo should have a seat here as well. This is all the more necessary when we discuss the activities of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. Albania stands ready to work with the incoming German OSCE Chairmanship to find ways and means on how to engage Kosovo's representatives next year. Their participation in the debate about the developments in Kosovo and the activities of the Mission will be of paramount importance.

In conclusion, I would like to thank again Ambassador Schlumberger and his team for their dedicated work and wish them every success in the future.

I thank you