



**STATEMENT BY MS. MIROSLAVA BEHAM,  
AMBASSADOR OF SERBIA,  
IN RESPONSE TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF ALBANIA, H.E. BESNIK MUSTAJ,  
AT THE 656<sup>th</sup> (SPECIAL) MEETING  
OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 March 2007

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of Serbia I would like to join others in warmly welcoming the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, H.E. Mr. Besnik Mustafaj, and thank him for his address.

Allow me to point out first that Serbia highly appreciates the friendly bilateral relations with Albania – as much as we personally value the excellent cooperation with the delegation of Albania here in the OSCE.

For some time now, the Serbian-Albanian relations have entered into a historical new phase, in which the two countries have chosen to shape their future on common political and social principles, values and commitments, thus striving to enhance stability in the region and prosperity of our peoples and pave the way to further integrations – those in the region and those into the European Union. These common democratic principles, values and commitments stipulate that through the rule of law and by strengthening democratic institutions and procedures we lay the foundations to be reliable partners, first of all for our neighbours and friends in the region, and then, of course, for other European and non-European countries. Undoubtedly, it is our common goal to create an atmosphere of trust and confidence, of mutual respect for the sovereign rights of our respective countries and their territorial integrity, and thus contribute essentially to peace and stability in the region and elsewhere. This is what makes a great difference between our present day relations and some parts of the past that we all strive to overcome in the best possible and most constructive way.

Mr. Chairman,

Among the most important values, principles and commitments shared by all participating states of the OSCE are those of cooperation, conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building. The magic formula, which underlies all these efforts, is – dialogue. If we don't talk to each other in good faith, we will never really understand, what the others think, and we will not be able to make ourselves understandable. In talking to each other we can identify common grounds, which would bring us forward on our way, and find out where the differences are and in which way they could be overcome.

Mr. Chairman,

As is well known also to this distinguished assembly, Serbia is firmly committed to find solutions to existing problems through dialogue and compromise, most notably on the issue of the Kosovo status. It encourages us to a great extent that this approach - or vision - is shared by almost all countries in the region, as was confirmed just last Friday by the “Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the South East European Cooperation Process of March 2<sup>nd</sup>”. It is unity and consensus on the grounds of commonly shared and accepted principles, values and commitments which, in the long run, will bring sustainable peace and stability to the region of South East Europe. We firmly believe that Albania will, as Serbia, remain part of these common efforts of strengthening good neighbourly relations and mutual understanding, and thus transforming the region into an area of peace and stability.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, let me wish all the best to H.E. Minister Mustafaj, to his country and its people.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman