

**HEAD OF PRESENCE'S REMARKS AT A DONATION CEREMONY
STATE POLICE GENERAL DIRECTORATE**

1 December 2011

General Director Burgaj,
Deputy General Directors,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning,

Today, as the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania, I have great pleasure in donating some important technical equipment to the Albanian State Police.

I believe this equipment will help to further enhance the fight against serious and organised crime, while also strengthening capacity in the area of crime investigation, detection and prevention.

Since arriving in Albania, I have had the pleasure to witness many positive developments in the State Police. The current professionalism of the State Police has greatly enhanced based on the relentless engagement of its officers at all levels.

As we know through public statements, fighting organized crime is a key national priority.

It is key to success that both the Government and State Police take this challenge seriously, and as we all know they are doing exactly this.

Organized crime is a threat to Albanian society. There is also a wider aspect: it has serious consequences for other countries in Europe and further a field. Action in this field is therefore an important service of partnership in the steadily growing Europe.

Organized crime has negative impact on people's security. Organised crime impedes the social, economic, political and cultural development of a modern society.

Organized crime is a dark force, often technically sophisticated, usually well-connected, highly profitable, resorting to corruption, violence, and trans-national activity to further its aims. All that, a law abiding and peace loving citizen does need just as much as pest and cholera.

However, if the State Police is to successfully meet these constant challenges, specialised training and equipment are required.

Last July, the Presence provided Test Purchase training to 20 police officers in the Criminal Investigation Department.

To support this, the OSCE Presence in Albania now wishes to donate some technical equipment for use during the development and management of covert police operations.

This equipment will aim to assist police officers in producing professional evidence packages for use in the courts.

However, for this to successfully happen, it is vital that strong lines of co-operation are developed and maintained between the State Police and Prosecutors Office.

General Director,
Deputy General Directors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

To sum up, I would like to highlight that it is always a pleasure and noble duty for the OSCE Presence in Albania to be supporting the Albanian State Police as it continues to further strengthen its capacities.

My team and I look forward to providing further support in the future.

I wish to all of you great success in your professional endeavors.

Thank you very much.

Ends