



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Presence in Albania

**HEAD OF PRESENCE REMARKS TO THE MEDIA
FOLLOWING MEETING WITH GENERAL PROSECUTOR**

12 September 2012

Q: What was the aim of this meeting with Mrs. Ina Rama?

Ambassador Wollfarth: “You certainly remember that from time to time I meet with the General Prosecutor. It is a pivotal position in the justice system of Albania. The current political discussions about immunities are very important. They will also lead to reform of the justice system, but what remains a constant and important issue in a justice system is the work of an independent general prosecutor. And I have just visited the independent general prosecutor. So, in this respect, an independent work, preparing cases for the court then to be decided, is and remains important for justice in any country and also for justice in Albania.”

Q: Mr. Ambassador, there has been recently a debate about the expiration of the mandate of General Prosecutor Ina Rama, because of the amendments made to the Constitution following the political agreement between parties. In your opinion, when should her mandate expire?

Ambassador Wollfarth: “There are indeed different readings of the mandate in the constitution. The important fact is that now, with the amendments in place, the mandate is limited and not unlimited. So, sooner or later, or should I say later or sooner, the window of opportunity to have a succession in the position of general prosecutor will open. It will be very important to use this time, which can be counted rather in months than in weeks, to use this time of several months in looking for a qualified personality being able to perform that demanding and, also hopefully in the future, independent position. At this stage I would like, in form of a comment, to extend the invitation to make good use of the rich resources of good personalities here in this country to identify good persons that would be qualified for that position and keep that out of more intense political times, like campaigning times. 2013 will be certainly very lively with the general elections coming up, but according to when the amendments entered into force, which was in May 2008, May would also be a possible date of switchover. But that is left for the discussion. The more important thing, let me come back to that, is to find and identify and select a qualified personality to really perform this very demanding job. At this stage I would also like to add that I continue to be positively impressed by the performance of Mrs. Ina Rama as General Prosecutor of Albania. She is leading the office and she has led it through challenging times, and she attached always high importance to the fact of working independently for the benefit of justice in Albania.”

Q: Mr. Ambassador, the Prosecutor General has often complained about political interference and threats in regards to certain cases, such as the latest one concerning the 21 January events in particular. Did this issue come up in your discussions with the Prosecutor General? And do you think that you as an institution and other international institutions have not responded enough to her complaints, that you have not assisted her enough in her independence?

Ambassador Wollfarth: “The independent prosecution is working on the events of 21 January. We indeed briefly touched on this. I would like to convey a wish, also on behalf of

the OSCE Presence in Albania: there are possibilities to even more support the important investigation work of the general prosecutor regarding this issue with all the elements that the State of Albania can provide. So far, a larger part of investigations is run by the staff of the general prosecutor herself. That could be joined with additional efforts from other sources, including from the ministries, and that could speed up what I consider a very, very important investigation.”

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