



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË

PC.DEL/14/18  
15 January 2018

ENGLISH only

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 the Address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation of Italy, H.E. Angelino Alfano  
As delivered by the Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Artan Canaj, at the  
1171st meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

The Albanian delegation would like to warmly welcome Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano in the Permanent Council, as the new Chairperson-in-Office.

Albania aligned itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, however I would like to make a few remarks in a national capacity.

Mr. Minister,

At the outset, let me assure you and your excellent team of our full support for the priorities of your Chairmanship. We are grateful that Italy is undertaking the challenging task of guiding this Organization at increasingly difficult times for European security and the OSCE itself.

Mr. Minister,

Albania and Italy entertain excellent bilateral relations, grounded on shared values, mutual interests and a common vision for a stable and prosperous Western Balkans. Our shared determination to further our bilateral relations in all fields was confirmed once again with the visit of our Prime Minister Mr. Edi Rama to Italy three months ago, on 11 October 2017. We are grateful to Italy for supporting the EU integration process of Albania and of our region as a whole.

The Trieste Summit for the Western Balkans on 12 July 2017 was a reconfirmation of the Balkans' European future and enrichment of the Berlin Process with new elements: "Regional Economic Zone" and the Transport Community Treaty. The Summit voiced EU's support for the unwavering progress of the Western Balkans' integration process, as the best response to the common challenges of our continent.

We particularly would welcome the further Chairmanship's attention to the Western Balkans. Both Italy and the OSCE have a longstanding investment to the stability, security and prosperity of the region. The Berlin Process and its connectivity agenda has proven to be a key factor in overcoming barriers, strengthening political confidence-building and security. Two new regional structures, the Regional Youth Cooperation Office and the Western Balkans Fund, which have started their activities in Tirana and are already operational, promise to further enhance cooperation and dialogue, promote understanding and truth, and bolster reconciliation efforts.

In this regard, field operations through a better coordination between the host countries, the Secretariat and the autonomous Institutions will have more impact on the stability, security and prosperity of the region.

We fully share the plans of the Italian Chairmanship to strengthen the OSCE capacities and to ensure stability, transparency and predictability, its pro-active approach to OSCE's three security "dimensions" (politico-military, economic and environmental, human rights) and the new transnational threats (terrorism, cyber security, combating illegal trafficking).

Migration and refugee flows have their impact on the OSCE participating states. We highly appreciate your attention on the challenges and opportunities arising in the Mediterranean, including migration, as stressed at the OSCE Mediterranean Conference held in Palermo on 24 and 25 October 2017. We commend that this issue is among your priorities.

Mr. Minister,

I would like to conclude by paying tribute to the critical contribution of the OSCE for peace and security in the Western Balkans. While the region will continue to benefit from the OSCE's support for the years to come, it has already demonstrated to be perfectly able to provide tangible contribution to European Security. In this context, we look forward to see all countries of the Western Balkans, without exception, be included in the work of our Organization during Italy's Chairmanship.

In conclusion, Mr. Minister, let me thank you once again for being with us today, reassure you of Albania's full support to your priorities and wish you and your able team every success in the future endeavors.

I thank you for the attention.