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

Statement of the Delegation of Albania
In response to the report of the OSCE's Representative
on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic

As delivered by Counsellor Xhodi Sakiqi
at the 919th meeting of the Permanent Council
21 June 2012

Thank you very much indeed Mr. Chairperson

The Delegation of Albania wishes to join previous speakers in warmly welcoming the OSCE's Representative on Freedom of Media Dunja Mijatovic to the Permanent Council and thanks her for the comprehensive report and excellent work.

We would like to reiterate Albania's appreciation for the professional and balanced fashion in which Representative Mijatovic has implemented the mandate of the Office since her appointment a couple of years ago. Today's report on the state of freedom of the media in the OSCE area is yet another example of this approach.

The Government of Albania considers freedom of expression and its corollary freedom of the media as crucial components of pluralistic democracies. Ensuring that these fundamental freedoms are preserved and expanded is a commitment of every participating State, and a task that Albania takes most seriously.

It is equally important for the Government of Albania to ensure freedom on the internet, so that internet remains an open and public forum for discussions and exchanges. In this context, our Government is implementing the "digital Albania" initiative, aimed at providing to the whole population of the country unhindered access to the internet, as a means of further development and progress.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me also touch upon the recent visit of Representative Mijatovic in Albania, which she highlighted in today's presentation. This visit was organized upon invitation of the Government of Albania with a view to discuss media freedom in the country and

avenues for cooperation between Albania and the Office of Representative Mijatovic. We fully share her assessment that the visit was fruitful and constructive for both sides.

Despite the significant progress of Albania in ensuring media freedom, the highest political interlocutors who met with Representative Mijatovic did not shy away from acknowledging existing shortcomings and the need for further improvements.

They expressed the sincere readiness of the Albanian authorities to closely cooperate with the Office to improving our media legislation and addressing the concerns expressed by Representative Mijatovic during her visit.

In this context, we look forward to continue our constructive dialogue based on concrete programmes and projects that serve to achieve these objectives.

In conclusion, we would like to thank again Representative Mijatovic and her team for their dedicated work and wish them the best of success in their future activities.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson