



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

**Political and Public Affairs Unit
Zyra e Çështjeve Politike dhe Marrëdhënieve me Publikun**

**REMARKS BY HEAD OF PRESENCE, AMBASSADOR EUGEN WOLLFARTH, AT
ELECTORAL REFORM ROUNDTABLE**

22 October 2010

You should be commended for your presence here today and for your commitment to strengthening democracy in this country.

Through your deliberations, through your preparations, starting today, you are making the heart of democracy work better.

Be aware of that, act accordingly, and act responsibly.

I want to be clear straightaway that the details of what an electoral reform might include are for you as politicians, as parliamentarians to decide. The presence of civil society is of great importance.

I would encourage you to consult widely and to aim to seek the widest possible political consensus so that any final reform is long lasting and based on the rule of law and the Albanian Constitution.

While I would certainly not wish to enter here into any detailed discussion about the different possible components that might make up an electoral reform package, including implementation,

I consider it worthwhile to draw your attention to the very first recommendation from the 2009 ODIHR final report that relates to the role of political parties in the electoral process.

It states: “Parties should demonstrate the political will for the conduct of democratic elections commensurate with the broad privileges they enjoy under the law in regard to the conduct of elections. They should discharge their electoral duties in a responsible manner for the general interest of Albania.”

Be aware of that, act accordingly, and act responsibly.