



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

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### **Political and Public Affairs Unit**

#### **REMARKS BY HEAD OF OSCE PRESENCE, AMBASSADOR EUGEN WOLLFARTH, AT A ROUNDTABLE OF PARLIAMENTARY POLITICAL PARTIES ON ELECTIONS, TIRANA, 29 MARCH 2011**

First of all, I would like to thank you for the invitation at this roundtable discussion in regards to this extremely important initiative. I thank the party representatives in contributing to a high-level discussion on the issue of the good will, which is a starting point also of the OSCE and ODIHR recommendations. Constitution, law and an electoral code only come to life through good will, and especially good will from political parties.

I thank you at this stage also for the kind welcome of the ODIHR observation mission. The presence of the ODIHR observation mission will not change the character of the elections, which are a truly Albanian event; like this event today, it is an Albanian event, and all of you and your parties need to be commended for it, for the high level of discussion.

Being present here following, if you wish, the invitation to sign the expression of good will, would be fully in the spirit also of the OSCE and ODIHR recommendations. But the good will alone is not the end of the development. Fair play, of course, and commitment to fair play is a starting point, but also shortcomings are being addressed, shortcomings concerning the past, and these need to be tackled in due time. It is up to you to identify what can be done before election day, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. The bigger part, however, I expect - and I hope for that it will start soon - is in Electoral Code reform talks right after election day or soon after election day.

The rule of law is extremely important; it will build the trust not only between parties, but also between parties and citizens, and among citizens. So I am very grateful that Mr. Ruçi, Mr. Patozi, and others used this word - it is very important in this context; but I will also pick up one word, which should be minimized in the future: impunity. With rule of law, and the best possible application of the rule of law, impunity should be minimized, and of course also the sources that would lead to imperfections in the electoral process should be addressed.

So let me perhaps conclude at this stage that it is in the spirit of the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations and when you can make them manifest in a signed agreement that would be would be even better, and a even better document for the citizens out there in the country, and it is also, I understand, an important open invitation to parties that are not present at that table.

The respect towards each other, big parties towards smaller parties, and between parties and institutions and citizens is the key and it is part of the good will, and I want to congratulate you again for the initiative and that good discussion. Thank you!