



**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 in Albania,  
Ambassador Robert Bosch, to the media**

*Tirana, 27 January 2010*

**What is your opinion of the current political situation in Albania?**

I think that the draft resolution of the Council of Europe, which will hopefully be accepted this week in Strasbourg, will create a situation where parties can come together. I was very happy to see positive reactions to the suggestions from both sides, which, again, is a very good thing. It just has to be taken up now by both sides. And again, if you have two parties, two groups, or two sides who have a different opinion, you always have to come to some sort of a compromise, because it is not a football match, where there might be only one winner. Here, in the interest of the country, there should be two winners. Actually, there should not be two winners: there should be ... how many people are living in this country? Three and a half million. There should be three and a half million winners. It is for the good of the country that a compromise is sought along the lines suggested by the Council of Europe.

**Which political party do you think will take the first step, the opposition or the Government?**

Again, as I finished my note about the freedom of the press – we can reach the freedom of the press together – and here it is also together. I think the steps should be taken together, and that is why the suggestion of the Council of Europe to give a role to the President was a very good suggestion. Then, you come together at the same time, so that nobody has to take the first step – it's together.

**Several political steps have already been taken. How do you think we will overcome the impasse with the Constitution? Do you think they will be able to reach a compromise that will overcome this problem?**

I think this is high politics and high politics is not open for everybody. Although openness in politics is, of course, very important. Sometimes, though, it is also good to go a little bit behind closed doors to come to a compromise.

**Will the OSCE play its role?**

If we are asked, of course, we will always stand ready to assist, but I still think that with the country having progressed quite a lot on the European integration path, this is now on the first place for you yourselves, I mean for the Albanian politics themselves. The OSCE, the Council of Europe and everybody else is of course willing to help, as you saw also in the suggestion of the CoE, the two rapporteurs want to come here. They are most welcome, but I still think it is in the first place for you to act.

**Do you think the President should be a negotiator in this issue?**

Well, if his role would be a positive role, and he can play a positive role, it would be good. Because, after all, he is the President, and the President is supposed to stand above parties. So, he should be able to play a more independent mediating role.

**But the President is at the same time supposed to ensure the implementation of the Constitution. Would he agree to a consensus which violates the Constitution?**

Of course he will not. Why would you say that a consensus has to violate the Constitution? There is no reason. A possible consensus solution should never violate the Constitution. This would certainly not be supported by neither the Council of Europe nor the OSCE, because we are here to protect the rule of law. It has to be a compromise that will be accepted by all, and will certainly not violate the constitution.