

## **Head of Presence remarks following meeting with Tirana Mayor Lulzim Basha**

*20 September 2011*

“We had a very good working meeting today, Mayor Basha and I. As the Mayor already stated, we have important issues in common. Let me focus on one of them that has to do with waste management, which has ecological and also economic implications. This is part of an overall scheme, which is aimed at making life in Tirana better, and a better life in Tirana is, of course, a leading example in Albania. A very important aspect is that civil society will be included and that the works are being done for all citizens, those of the city and those in the neighbourhood. Like waste management, traffic, parks and other aspects contribute to a better life of the citizens through better air, shorter time to work or to school bring many other advantages, not in the least also, in saving money for other aspects of life. Another very important aspect which we touched upon is also to get certain permits in a one-stop and very transparent manner so that full compliance with the law in place is guaranteed. And this is certainly also an area among others where the city of Tirana and the OSCE Presence can truly work together. We are looking forward to continue that good co-operation.”

Consultation processes are of course always important and I have the impression that the Mayor of Tirana is willing to have that consultation process, but it is not only limited to politicians, it is also opened to civil society. For important projects, of course, high degree of consensus is needed. That is true on national level, but also on the city level. And, I am quite confident that the ones that are willing to contribute can contribute, their voices will be heard and their ideas, I am sure, I am pretty convinced, will be part of the future good projects of the city.”