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VJENË

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

Statement of the Delegation of Albania  
In response to the address to the Permanent Council of the  
President of the PA of the OSCE Riccardo Migliori

As delivered by Ambassador Spiro Koçi  
at the 925<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council  
11 October 2012

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

While Albania aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cyprus on behalf of the EU, I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to warmly thank President Migliori for the very kind words he addressed today to the Albanian authorities, in particular the Parliament, who were in charge with the organization of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly fall session, in Tirana last week. We are gratified that all participants enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Albanian hosts and that the deliberations of this session were successful.

As a sign of Albania's commitment to the OSCE and the importance we attach to the parliamentary dimension of its work, the event was addressed by the high state dignitaries of Albania - Speaker of Parliament, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister also in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. They acknowledged the unique contribution of the OSCE in furthering democracy, security and stability in Albania, the Western Balkans and the wider Europe.

They also expressed the readiness of Albania to step up its engagement within the OSCE and deepen cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly in the field of election monitoring, where it has a crucial role. Prime Minister Berisha availed itself of this occasion to extend an invitation to the parliamentarians present at the meeting to participate actively in the monitoring of next year's parliamentary elections in Albania.

I would like to note that this session coincided with Albania's ongoing Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, where we are seeking to reinforce and spread the message of tolerance and openness to each other's cultures and beliefs. These issues, which lie at the heart of the OSCE's comprehensive security concept, were widely discussed during this event, thus providing a significant input to the overall work of our Organization in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination.

In conclusione Sgn. Presidente, vorrei ringraziare di nuovo il Presidente Migliori per il suo intervento odierno ed augurarLi successo nelle sue attività future a capo della Presidenza dell'Assemblea Parlamentare dell'OSCE.

Grazie Sgn. Presidente.