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PRANË ORGANIZATAVE
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VJENË

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

Statement

by Ambassador Zef Mazi

Permanent Representative of Albania

540th Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Council

Mr Chairman,

The Albanian delegation is most happy and honoured to welcome the Foreign Minister of Slovenia and OSCE's Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Dimitri Rupel, at the first meeting of the Permanent Council for 2005. His address to the Council today laid out a complex and ambitious programme of tasks and priorities for the organisation. They constitute at the same time a major challenge for all of us, not only for the chairmanship, as they have been laid out for us to address. The Albanian delegation wishes to express its full support and to assure the chairmanship of its unreserved cooperation in addressing these challenges and steering the organisation during 2005.

A number of important decisions have been taken at the Sofia Ministerial, while for the second year in a row we were not able to agree on several other decisions. There is a lot we can do building on the decisions taken. The OSCE should rise to its responsibilities and deliver in concrete terms on those decisions. They are equally and fully applicable for all. What is at stake if we fail to do so, or if we do so only selectively, is our credibility, image and integrity.

My delegation agrees with the 2005 triple R agenda of the Chair: Revitalise, Reform and Rebalance and with what has been elaborated in that context. The previous frequent talks on these issues are now a Chair's priority. This opportunity should be grasped to ensure we work truly cooperatively and constructively. Every country's concerns should respectfully be taken account of and be a concerns of others and of the organisation. A number of views were expressed in this regard by previous speakers.

In the OSCE we should argue the best case. Let us try hard to search for common ground, for the good of the OSCE, this very valuable organisation, and its 55 participating states. Let us argue cases around the table instead of deferring them. What is more and highly important is the political commitment, understanding and common perceptions, interests and goals. Their concrete display would surely lead us to addressing the concern of the Chair, and of participating states – bridge the divide and address discontent.

No other organisation has ever squandered so much respect in what it has been able to achieve, within its mandate, hence so much political capital, in less than 30 years. The OSCE ought to remain relevant, valid and important in the history books of international organisations. It should remain in the grandest tradition of a unique and leading organisation within its niche, in the human dimension and human rights fields, elections, rule of law,

promotion of democracy and democratic institutions and the politico-military field. Its proper maxim would not be to confront, instead argue and persuade, render work truly effective and efficient. Few if any of our goals can be achieved without true common vision, purpose, interests and goals, without true allied partnership. A number of steps and decisions we are going to take in the months to come could be either proof of this necessity or would demonstrate something different.

Mr. Chairman, this is a year of anniversaries for the OSCE. A great deal has been achieved by this organisation in the course of these 30 years. It is only natural that these anniversaries should be commemorated as they deserve. This year should therefore serve us to entertain and share ideas on how to revitalise and reunite OSCE's strength with trust and respect.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, reiterating our support for your priorities, let me congratulate you on the assumption of the chairmanship and assure you and your staff in Vienna of our full co-operation for a successful year.

Thank you.