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

**Statement of the Delegation of Albania,  
In response to the Representative on Freedom of the Media**

**As delivered by the Permanent Representative, Ambassador Spiro Koçi,  
at the 1028th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, 27 November 2014**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Albania joins others in warmly welcoming Representative Mijatovic back to the OSCE Permanent Council and thanks her today's presentation and her thorough report.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our sincere appreciation for the professional fashion in which the RFoM implements its mandate and conducts business here at the OSCE.

We aligned ourselves with the statement delivered by the EU representative. On a national capacity, I wish to make few remarks.

Albania is fully committed to the mandate of the RFoM and its autonomy. We support to budgeting the Office in a way that corresponds to the growing workload and demand for assistance.

On the other side, unequivocal political support by all OSCE participating States for the work of the RFoM, would signal clearly our commitment to the Office and its distinguished activity.

As the report rightly highlights, the protections of journalist still remains a serious problem across the OSCE area. Regrettably no significant progress has been made during the reporting period, and participating States are called to redouble efforts to live up to their agreed commitments in this field. In this framework, we lend our full support to the Draft Decision proposed by the EU on the right of freedom of expression, whose adoption in Basel is timely and necessary.

We share the assessments that hate speech in the OSCE area is on the rise. This is a matter of particular concern also in the Western Balkans. We would encourage and support every initiatives of the Office to tackle this phenomenon, in line with its mandate and expertise.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, let me underline that Albania and the RFoM entertain a very productive cooperation. And I take this opportunity to thank Representative Mijatovic for her activities in support of media freedom in Albania.

I thank you.