



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Presence in Albania**

**REMARKS BY THE HEAD OF PRESENCE, AMBASSADOR ROBERT BOSCH,
AT THE LAUNCHING OF PUBLICATIONS ON POLICING**

28 October 2009

Minister Basha,
General State Director Prenci,
Mr Emmanuel Bourel

It is an honour for me to address the Albanian State Police in presenting three important strategic OSCE publications on policing;

- *OSCE Guidebook on Democratic Policing*
- *OSCE Best Practices in Police – Public Partnership*
- *Manual Police and the Right of Minors* - funded by the Permanent Mission of France to the OSCE.

These publications are a clear example of what we call cross-dimensionality. It brings together Rule of Law, Good Governance, Police assistance, democratisation and human rights, all elements within our present mandate.

In the eyes of the public, the police are the clearest manifestation of Government in terms of maintaining public security and public safety.

While closely following national and international law, you are continuously under pressure with the important and challenging task of combating petty and organized crime, and, in more recent times, the threats to national and international security arising from terrorism.

But also the for the citizen very important task of seeing to it that rules are being respected especially within the traffic, As we experience everyday that the neglect of this causes many unnecessary deaths and injuries.

According to the Albanian State Police's seven-year strategy, the long-term strategic aim is creating a safe environment for the Albanian public.

This is closely linked to the implementation of the philosophy of 'community policing'.

In the OSCE area, the concept of 'community policing' has emerged as the major strategic complement to traditional policing practices.

While I am not sure there is any blanket definition for Community Policing, one definition that appeals to me at least is one from the US Department of Justice that says:

“community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder and fear of crime.”

Either way, how such a philosophy is defined and implemented will always be influenced, to some degree, by the existing legal framework in place, the culture prevalent in society, the current political climate, and the existing infrastructure.

In the two first publications I mentioned, the OSCE has brought together the best practices on democratic policing and police-public partnership from all around the OSCE Participating States.

I trust that these publications will prove useful tools in your ongoing efforts to further cement a climate of trust and understanding between the police and the public.

The third publication concerns the treatment of minors by police, which takes into consideration not only how minors who are in conflict with the law are treated, but also minors who are victims or witnesses.

In these cases, I think that it is important to bear in mind the young age and the level of development of these minors.

To be clear, effective results call for special strategies.

Moreover, there are specific international and national legal requirements to protect the rights of children.

For this reason, the OSCE Presence worked with the French Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna and with the State Police to prepare a manual on these issues.

Mr Minister, in order to do its work effectively, the Police needs the support of central and local authorities, of state institutions – but also of the public.

These books, we hope, will help the State police in developing this support.

Thank you very much for your attention and I wish the Albanian State Police every success in this very important component of its work and hope these publications will be of assistance.

Thank you very much.

E.o.T.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY