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

Statement of the Delegation of Albania,  
On the Municipal Elections in Kosovo

As delivered by the Deputy Permanent Representative, Counsellor Xhodi Sakiqi,  
At the 977<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
12 December 2013

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Albania commends the Government and people of Kosovo for the successful conduct of the municipal elections of November 3 and the subsequent run-off of December 1. They complied with European democratic standards. It was the first time after Kosovo's independence that these elections were held across the whole territory of the country in line with the national legislation in place. This is a remarkable development which was made possible also thanks to the April 19 EU-facilitated Brussels Agreement between Kosovo and Serbia and the ballot facilitation in the northern municipalities by the OSCE.

We wish to use this opportunity to praise Kosovo's institutions, in particular the Central Election Commission, for the orderly and professional organization of the electoral process. We are pleased to note that voters' turnout was higher compared to previous elections. This clearly indicates that the people of Kosovo, including the Serbian community, trust their institutions and their ability to deliver a fair and credible electoral process. Overall, these elections marked a significant step forward in the consolidation of Kosovo's democracy, sovereignty and its irreversible EU integration path.

On this occasion, we would like to convey once again our heartfelt thanks to the Secretariat, the OSCE Mission to Kosovo and its dedicated staff for their diligent work in facilitating the electoral process in the four northern municipalities. Conducted in a challenging environment and in close cooperation with Kosovo's CEC, such operation testifies to the OSCE's unique capabilities as a security provider and the added value of its field operations. The work of Kosovo's law enforcement agencies, EULEX and KFOR for ensuring a safe and secure environment in the northern municipalities also deserves our recognition and praise.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson