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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, Ms.
Dunja Mijatovic**

**As delivered by the Head of Mission, Ms. Ravesa Lleshi, at the
1092nd Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, 10 March 2016**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

As this is the first time that I address this honorable Council, allow me to thank you and colleagues for the warm welcome. It is also a pleasure for me that this intervention is in response to the report presented today by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, whom we have long considered a friend and partner of Albania.

The report presented today, like the 14 others that have preceded it, is characterized by objectivity, balance and impartiality in addressing the wide-ranging issues of freedom of the media in the entire OSCE area, East and West of Vienna.

Albania and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media have enjoyed a close and productive cooperation. The recent advice that the Representative's office provided with regard to the digital switchover in Albania, included in the last report, is comprehensive and clear, and for that we thank you. It is also but one of the many instances of cooperation, which have ranged from the legal framework of the public service broadcaster and the broadcast regulator, to the decriminalization of defamation, the preparation and updating of the code of ethics of Albanian media, the safety of journalists, the promotion of pluralism in new media, and many more.

Representative Mijatović, your activism and outspokenness in defending free media and journalists have been exemplary, just as the expertise, assistance and support you have continuously extended to civil society and governments has been invaluable.

The Albanian delegation would like to thank you and your staff for the dedication, courage and professionalism that have marked your work, and we wish you every success in future endeavors. We remain committed to working intensively with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and will strongly support its mandate to monitor the implementation of commitments by OSCE participating States.

As a final remark, the Albanian delegation fully supports the proposal of the Chairmanship-in-Office to extend, as an exceptional measure, the mandate of Ms. Mijatović as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, for a meaningful time.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.