



488th Plenary Meeting

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**DECISION No. 588
MANDATE OF THE OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA**

The Permanent Council,

Taking into account the relevant PC decisions on the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania,

Reaffirming the goal of the OSCE in Albania to promote democratization, the rule of law, and human rights as well as to consolidate democratic institutions in conformity with OSCE principles, standards and commitments,

Bearing in mind the positive role that Albania has played in developing and improving relations, and the overall positive changes that have taken place, in South-Eastern Europe,

Recognizing the overall progress achieved in Albania in the recent years, as well as the increased central position that the country's institutions have taken,

Decides:

1. To update the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania to reflect the developments which have taken place in the country;
2. That the OSCE Presence will provide assistance and expertise, in close consultation and co-operation with the Government of Albania and other State institutions and organizations, to the Albanian authorities as well as to representatives of civil society groups;
3. That in carrying out its overall goal, the Presence will focus in particular on:
 - Legislative and judicial reform, including property reform;
 - Regional administrative reform;
 - Electoral reform;
 - Parliamentary capacity-building;

- Anti-trafficking and anti-corruption, including supporting the implementation of relevant national strategies;
- Development of effective laws and regulations on the independent media and its Code of Conduct;
- Promotion of good governance and targeted projects for strengthening of civil society;
- Police assistance, in particular training for border police, within a co-ordinated framework with other international actors in the field;

4. That assistance and support in the above areas will be provided in order to achieve full conformity with relevant international standards and OSCE principles, norms and commitments. The Presence will follow and report on progress in the country, as well as report on the implementation of its mandate. In carrying out its tasks the Presence will co-operate with and use the expertise of the OSCE institutions. The Presence will also co-operate and act in synergy, while avoiding duplication, with other international organizations and institutions active in Albania to ensure maximum effectiveness;

5. That the strength of the Presence will be in accordance with the tasks to be fulfilled under this mandate in the headquarters in Tirana, and in its field stations, to be adjusted as appropriate;

6. That there will be an annual review and assessment of the implementation of this mandate. The duration of the mandate will be until 31 December 2004. Prolongation and changes of the mandate will be subject to a new decision by the Permanent Council.