

PC.DEL/1236/15
18 September 2015

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE
1068th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 September 2015

In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Florian Raunig to the Permanent Council meeting. We thank him for his comprehensive report on the work of the OSCE Presence in Albania under his lead.

Tirana still requires the OSCE's support in a wide range of issues. We commend the Presence's close co-operation with the host authorities and the confidence of all Albanian political forces in it.

We support the Presence's assistance in strengthening the national capacity of Albanian law enforcement bodies to counter transnational threats, with an emphasis on combating organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings.

We are interested in the effectiveness of the joint anti-terrorist efforts that are being undertaken in the Balkans and in increasing co-operation in border control. Overall, we believe it is important to enhance co-ordination at the regional level in a wide range of areas in order to solve the Balkan States' shared problems. The OSCE missions must continue to provide full support to relevant initiatives.

We believe it is important to continue assisting the Albanian authorities in reforming the judicial system and improving electoral legislation and administration upon Tirana's request. Attention should remain on discrimination and ensuring the rights of ethnic minorities.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, we should like to wish Mr. Florian Raunig and all personnel of the OSCE Presence in Albania every success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.