



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

**REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA
TO THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL, 16 OCTOBER 2008**

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the last OSCE Presence in Albania (PiA) Annual Report to the Permanent Council in September 2007, the PiA has ensured that its work follows guidance given by the OSCE participating States and the Secretariat and that this work has reflected the priorities of the host country. The PiA looked to ensure that its programmes were fully co-ordinated internally within the PiA, with other OSCE Field Missions in the region, and with donors in order to avoid duplication. Further focus was placed on larger strategic projects, and the number of smaller projects has continued to be reduced in line with the feedback received from both the host country and the OSCE participating States. The visit in May 2008, by a delegation of the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance gave a further impetus to the PiA's work on key projects and contributed to the fostering of stronger relations with the host country.

As this annual report deliberately aims to focus on PiA project activities undertaken since the last Permanent Council report, this first section will detail only some of the major political highlights in Albania, touching upon those issues that most closely relate to the PiA's work. In contrast to previous years, the last year was largely characterized as a period where the main two political parties were able to find broad political agreement over the reform agenda.

2. POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS

For Albania, the invitation to join NATO during the Bucharest-summit in April 2008 was the main political highlight. It was also a major factor to explain why the main political parties started to develop a cross party consensus on major strategic issues, which, in turn, had a positive impact on the reform process - as will be noted later. The economy continued to grow at the healthy rate of around 5.0% of GDP, although rises in fuel and electricity prices contributed to inflationary pressures. Initiatives such as the adoption of a *flat tax* and a *one-stop-shop* business registration system, combined with dynamic action to formalise the black economy has paid dividends in terms of higher levels of tax collection and increased foreign investment. In September 2008, a World Bank report ranked Albania second among countries that undertook reforms in 2007-08 to make doing business easier, seeing reforms that have simplified and eased regulations. Its overall score put Albania on par with other countries in the South Eastern Europe region. However, economic expansion and accompanying migration patterns continue to affect the balance between economic growth and sustainable development. The potential for foreign trade and investment is also constrained by concerns over legal and physical security of property, corruption, and high operating costs.

Electoral reform saw some progress over the last year. Although conducted through a highly protracted process from September 2007 to April 2008, the Assembly finally approved a new

electoral system. June 2008 saw the inauguration of a third Ad Hoc Committee, this time to draft a new Electoral Code. Although the key actors repeatedly declared their political will to agree an Electoral Code by July 2008, to date the process continues slowly with final Assembly approval expected in October. The widest possible consensus should be sought and the package finally agreed should allow enough time for the successful administration of the elections.

Major constitutional amendments were approved by the Assembly in April 2008. The amendments included: changes to the electoral system, the duration of the Assembly's mandate, the convening of the first meeting of the new Assembly, the removal of the Central Election Commission (CEC) from the Constitution, the election and mandate of the President, motions of confidence in the Prime Minister and a term limit for the General Prosecutor. While some of the changes added value and despite the fact that the amendments were legitimately approved by a three-fifths majority, some of the changes raised concerns about the separation of powers. The approval of these changes was followed by a call for a referendum by opposition parties and some public figures, which was however subsequently rejected by the CEC, in a ruling which was challenged again at the Constitutional Court and which is now awaiting a final Court decision.

On judicial reform, the one major piece of legislation passed was on judicial power in February 2008 that was seen as a major improvement in the legal process. In June 2008, a debate ensued concerning six vacancies to the High Court. Heated debates developed over whether the President behaved constitutionally regarding the appointment procedures for the Court. The Government argued that the President should have entered into prior informal discussions with the Assembly. Indeed, many saw the subsequent voting down of the President's candidates by the Assembly as a political vote in light of the President's decision not to enter into any consultation exercise. The matter resolved itself after the President assembled a group of experts to develop a set of criteria to be met by the next set of candidates, who were then subsequently approved. The creation of an expert group calmed the situation down and much credit should be directed towards the President's Office for introducing such an idea. In July 2008, the Ministry of Justice completed the preparation of draft amendments to the Law on the Prosecutors Office and in September 2008, a draft law on judicial administration was sent to the Assembly for review. So far, both draft laws, meant to fight corruption within the judiciary, appear to strengthen executive control over the judiciary, raising questions about the separation of powers, and were not adequately discussed with key stakeholders before being formally presented. Following public criticism from the international community, consultations are now taking place.

In October 2008, the Council of Ministers approved a series of draft laws on the Lawyer's Profession, Notaries, Administrative Courts, and the Bailiff's Office in order, it is claimed, to bring national legislation into line with EU standards. While it is too early to comment on the detail of these laws, it can be noted that they were approved either without a full public consultation process or while disregarding comments made by the international community.

The Assembly continued to consider legislation on collaborators with the Communist regime concentrating mainly on those dealing with the security services. Discussions began in the summer and continue into the autumn. It is hoped that enough time will now be allowed for the law to be discussed by the Assembly and the whole of civil society given the sensitivity of the issue. However, given that Albania has entered an election year, it remains to be seen whether a satisfactory and sustainable solution to this issue will be found in the near future.

In March 2008, a series of explosions at a military ammunition depot near Tirana (Gerdec) killed 26 persons and injured a further 300 while thousands of houses were destroyed as well. A full scale investigation by the General Prosecutor was started, which continues to date. The General Prosecutor's Office should continue its enquiries without political interference. In July 2008, the parliamentary immunity of the former Minister of Defence was lifted in order that his role could be investigated. In terms of the reconstruction effort, the Government made major strides in developing a coherent post reconstruction strategy. In terms of the safety of the area, the International community has repeatedly declared that the 800 metre safety perimeter around the explosion site should be respected as an exclusion zone, until such time as it is certified as safe by international independent experts.

On general law and order issues, including the state police, the main achievement of the Government has been the passing of the new Law on the State Police. The main aim of the new Law is to separate political and operational responsibilities. However, there have been many cases, especially in the area of appointments and dismissals where decisions are taken at a senior political level. On the trafficking in human beings, June 2008 saw the publication of a critical report from the US State Department that said that scant progress had been made in the identification of victims of trafficking and that there was a lack of or decline in the prosecution of traffickers. In fighting corruption, although the last year saw a number of mid-level officials being prosecuted, high ranking public officials and major organised crime groups remain 'at large'. However, in September 2008, the latest Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index saw a major improvement on its 2007 score.

On public administration, the last year again saw a significant turnover of staff, with the level of partisanship used in the recruitment process continuing to be a problem. While many of those dismissed have successfully complained to the Civil Service Commission and subsequently won their cases in the Court of Appeals, only a small number of cases are known where individuals have been reinstated into their previous posts. Within the police, although many of the dismissals may have been justified, some of the procedures used to remove them were seen not to be transparent in nature. Moreover, the international community has observed significant levels of donor money being spent training large numbers of public officials, only to see them later dismissed and replaced by new persons, who then need to be trained once more.

On property reform itself, unresolved property issues have undermined efforts to develop a functional land market and deterred foreign investors. Gaps in the legal scheme governing the process of first registration have prevented a strategic approach to fixing the status of properties in the civil law so that the Immovable Property Registration System (IPRS) can issue guaranteed ownership titles. In regards to the restitution and compensation process, more could be done to increase transparency and further speed up the process. An assessment of the Property Restitution and Compensation Agency's (PRCA) pending claims should be carried out to determine the status of pending claims and implementing procedures should be improved in order to increase efficiency. An assessment of the State's ability to provide cash remedy to former owners should be undertaken as both former owners and the Government understand that the State does not have sufficient funds to compensate 100% of today's *Fair Market Value* as compensation for expropriated property.

On media reform, in July 2008 the Assembly initiated a draft law on Radio and Television broadcasting law that looks to merge the existing Laws on Public and Private Television and Radio and on Digital Broadcasting. However, the guarantees offered by the draft law for the

independence of the National Council on Radio and Television (NCRT) and the Albanian Radio and Television (ART) appear insufficient and there is still a lack of progress in drafting a broadly consulted digital strategy. This contrasts with the Action Plan adopted in 2007 with the European Commission and Council of Europe (CoE) that foresaw the approval of a new broadcasting law through a transparent process. The NCRT continues to receive criticism over its apparent non transparent licensing decisions and over its perceived lack of independence from the Government - a criticism that is also targeted towards the ART. On 1 October 2008, the Representative of the Freedom of the Media expressed concern to Assembly actors about these developments.

On gender reform, when one looks at some international reports and indexes, it is fair to say that much more work needs to be done. Only 7% of parliamentary seats are held by women, and only 2% of mayors are women. Even though a quota has been introduced in terms of women's representation in some political party structures, no such quota yet exists regarding elected women's representation. However, there appears to be some optimism that the Electoral Code will promote more equal representation (In the latest draft proposals a 30% gender quota is proposed. It remains to be seen whether the proposal, in its present form, will be concretely translated into more parliamentary seats for women). It is also expected that the recently passed Gender Equality Law (July 2008) will now be fully implemented, with the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Against Domestic Violence acting as a strong instrument in this respect.

3. PRESENCE ACTIVITIES

The PiA continued to provide assistance to the Albanian authorities and civil society on promoting democratization, rule of law, human rights and on consolidating democratic institutions in conformity with OSCE principles, commitments and its mandate. The PiA further streamlined its donor and project co-ordination structure and strengthened the emphasis on the strategic planning of its activities. The Project Offices (PO) continued to provide support to all mandated PiA activities by facilitating contacts between and providing advice and liaison to local, regional and governmental actors and in developing local components of larger projects.

3.1. HEAD OF MISSION

The Presence continued to maintain regular contacts with political actors and international representatives to improve the quality of the work of the Presence and to adjust when needed. A major element of work has focused on donor co-ordination related issues, where the PiA continued to play an active role in the Donor Technical Secretariat structures (DTS) alongside the European Commission Delegation (ECD) in Tirana, the World Bank- and the UN-representations - including a six month period as the Chair. In May 2008, as part of the DTS structures, the Government was supported by the PiA in the holding of a senior-level meeting on the 'post Gerdec' strategy, in which the Government provided information to donors on the reconstruction process. The PiA also funded the production of the monthly donor co-ordination newsletter that provided information to all donors on what project activities are being conducted in order to avoid duplication.

3.2. SECURITY CO-OPERATION

The PiA continued to provide assistance to the Albanian State Police (ASP) and Border and Migration Police (BMP) as well as to the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

3.2.1. State Police - Over the last year, training was held on interview and investigation techniques for mid-level police investigators. In July 2008, the state police were assisted in hosting an international conference, with participation from Montenegro, Kosovo/UNMiK and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to discuss police training methodologies, and to identify training resources so as to create networks for trainers. Support was also given in conducting the State Police Entrance Examination.

3.2.2. Border and Migration Police (BMP) - Training was provided on the use of modern border surveillance equipment and the BMP were subsequently the recipients of this equipment. Equipment donations to date have included infrared night vision equipment, thermal imagery equipment, numerous binoculars, global position systems, video cameras and radio sets. In June 2008, Second Language training was launched for BMP Officers at the Border Crossing Points that will be completed by March 2009. In 2008, training was held on vehicle search and techniques for fighting trafficking and smuggling at these crossing points. Joint Border Crossing Meetings were facilitated between the Albanian and Montenegrin Border Police and between the BMP and the police service of Kosovo/UNMIK. The PiA, the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, and the police services of both countries met to improve cross-border co-operation. Meetings were also facilitated between the BMP and the Italian Guardia di Finanza, Greek Border Police and UNMiK authorities to co-ordinate border related issues. Support was also provided to the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) in a project to enhance co-operation among police, prosecutors and judges in the fight against organized crime.

3.2.3. Mélange Disposal - Following an Albanian Government request to the Forum for Security Co-operation for support, the Albanian Minister of Defence and the Head of Presence signed on 25 July 2008 an agreement for the disposal of a toxic rocket fuel component known as *Mélange* (a combination of two toxic substances: oxidizer and samin). A Swedish company will shortly implement a project that will see some 30,000 litres of the toxic fuel stock exported to Sweden for destruction.

3.3. GOVERNANCE IN ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

This programme focused on governance in economic and environmental issues, including municipal governance and regional reform, property reform, and non-police aspects of anti-trafficking.

3.3.1. Regional reform - In promoting local government leadership, a leadership programme was held for five municipalities with the CoE and the Association of Albanian Municipalities. All five local government associations were supported in order to enhance the delivery of their services to members and to increase their advocacy skills. To promote locally elected women mayors, forums were held for women leaders and technical support was provided in order to build their capacities. The Government was also assisted in drafting the regional development strategy through support with consultative discussions and a study visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

3.3.2. Good governance - In fighting corruption, in October 2007, support was given to the Government to draft the *National Anti-Corruption Strategy* through hosting a donor roundtable. In February 2008, the Government was assisted in holding a conference on local government efforts to fight corruption. In May 2008, the High Inspectorate for Declaration of Assets and

Audit was assisted in training tax administration and custom officials on the conflict of interest and asset declaration legal framework. In November 2007, the Assembly National Security Committee was supported in holding an anti corruption conference with MPs from the region. In October 2007, with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy and a local NGO partner, an OCEEA booklet was produced and seminars held on investment best practice. By November 2007, public support for the World Tourism Organisation Code of Conduct for Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism was secured from 21 tourism operators. Training was held on the implementation of the Code for participating operators and a study visit was held to Montenegro. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Interior also produced TV Spots to raise public awareness of the risks posed to children through exploitation in the tourism industry. Major progress was seen in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Management: including the opening of two Aarhus Information Centres. These facilities, along with the launch of a national Aarhus website and regular meetings of an Aarhus Advisory Board, facilitated a number of issues to be raised with the Government. In May 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Ministry to strengthen public participation in environmental impact assessments. In April 2008, with OCEEA support, a study visit to Austria was held to examine systems for integrated waste management systems for Ministry officials, while a visit to Helsinki in September 2008 was on public participation mechanisms adopted for Environmental Impact Assessment under the Espoo Convention.

3.3.3. Property reform - In 2007, the second phase of a project with the Immovable Property Registration System (IPRS) to support the process of first registration concluded. The phase saw the registration of two zones in the two largest informal settlements and some 34,000 properties were registered. The second phase of the project started with the Property Restitution and Compensation Agency (PRCA). In the first phase, 350,000 documents were digitalised and data from them entered into a database. The second phase added Geographic Information System technology to the digital data in order to enable the PRCA to plot the location of claimed properties on a support base layer map. Some 1,900 maps were sent from the military, the state geodetic agency and the IPRS and subsequently geo-referenced to create a co-ordinated support base layer map. In September 2008, the Presence signed an agreement with the EC Delegation to execute a property registration project in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice, in which more donors will participate.

3.3.4. Anti-trafficking – Technical assistance was provided in the drafting of manuals for law enforcement agencies and social services providers regarding trafficking victims. Anti-trafficking, border and state police received training on the National Referral Mechanism, interviewing techniques, and on the identification, referral and protection of trafficking victims. Such victims were trained on micro-enterprise development and micro-credits were supplied to four persons. An Agreement was signed with a local micro-finance partner for the implementation of the OCEEA project on promoting women's economic empowerment. To improve data analysis, support was given to the establishment of a trafficking cases database that will create reliable records on measures taken in the process of protection and support to trafficking victims. The National Co-ordinator on Anti trafficking was supported in hosting cross-border meetings between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo/UNMiK and Albania. Assistance was also provided to the National Co-ordinator's Office in the drafting of the new trafficking strategy and in May 2008, a National Conference was held to launch the strategy. In November 2007, written comments were sent to the Ministry of Interior on the implementation of the strategy.

3.4. DEMOCRATISATION

The PiA focused on electoral reform, civil registry reform, Assembly capacity-building, gender equality, civil society and the media.

3.4.1. Electoral reform - In September 2007, a workshop on electoral systems was supported that focused on models for a future electoral system, with a second event in December 2007 that produced recommendations for the Assembly. In February 2008, together with the CoE, UNIFEM and two local NGOs, a workshop was held to promote women's representation, the findings of which were sent to the Assembly. In July, a workshop was held on voters with disabilities, where the two main NGOs in this area discussed their proposals. The final document reflecting the views of both NGOs was sent to the Assembly. In August, upon their request, the OSCE PiA supported the work of the Ad hoc committee by hiring local legal expertise.

3.4.2. Civil registry - With major funding from the EC, the civil status data of 4.2 million citizens was computerised through a data entry process, a process that was completed in July 2008. The PiA now focuses on providing a uniform methodology for creating and administrating addresses; this is done under the auspices of the World Bank Land Management Project. Together with the CoE, the Albanian Ministry of Justice was assisted in the development of a new Law on Protection of Personal Data which was approved in March 2008. In August 2008, the Ministry of Interior began to issue printed civil status certificates at the Civil Status Offices in Tirana, and in two other local government units. The certificates were generated from the aforementioned civil registration database that was created by computerizing all civil status data contained in the fundamental register books. By October 2008, all 320 Civil Registry Offices are supposed to be able to issue printed birth certificates and maintain data quality.

3.4.3. Assembly support - Over the last year, the Assembly Committee on European Integration was assisted in hosting policy forums in the country, where civil society and local officials discussed EU integration related issues. In July 2008, the first sponsored student completed her studies at the College of Europe (Brugge) and has now been hired by the Assembly to assist the Assembly Committee system. Two further Albanian students are now attending the same College of Europe course. Assembly staff capacities have increased as a result of a regional EU training module and a study visit to Brussels. Seminars for Assembly staff related to EU Integration were held in Albania, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), in cooperation with their respective parliamentary projects. In January 2008, a study visit was held for MPs to the Portuguese Assembly to learn about the Assembly's role in the reform process. Co-operation began with the Netherlands Assembly in order to transfer expertise to the Assembly's Research and Library Service and the Archives Unit. In April 2008, a women's caucus was created to increase female participation in the Assembly. In July 2008, seminars on training strategies were held for Assembly staff. In September 2008, the Assembly was assisted in finalising promotional brochures regarding the work of the Assembly.

3.4.4. Gender – During the drafting of the Gender Equality law, the PiA worked closely with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in supporting Assembly discussions. After the adoption of the law, the PiA began working with the Ministry on drafting the sub-legal acts in cooperation with UNIFEM. The PiA Co-chairs the co-ordination of donor support on gender equality and in January 2008, a donor co-ordination meeting was held on the draft strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence that was funded with Presence support.

Written comments were provided to the Ministry on the draft sector Strategy and supported the publication of the Strategy and Action Plan.

3.4.5. Civil society - In July 2008, the National Network of Civil Society Development Centres met to discuss a draft law on the management of the State fund for civil society. However, over the last year, some of the centres have failed to attract enough non PiA funds to remain viable: the centres in Elbasan and Shkodra closed in July and September 2008 respectively, the centre in Kukës merged with the Kukës Women Counselling Centre, whilst the centres in Vlora and Durres will continue utilising funds raised from within the local community. The CSDC in Korça will remain open based on a new format in co-operation with Korça Municipality. Donor funding was also channelled to the Kukës Women's Counselling and Social Service Centre.

3.4.6. Media - In October 2007, the PiA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Council of Radio and Television (NCRT) whereby the PiA would provide an international expert to assist in the drafting of a strategy in regard to the transition to digital broadcasting, assistance which was given by a French expert during the first half of the year. The NCRT subsequently held regional conferences on this issue supported by and with the participation of the PiA. The PiA facilitated the participation of Albanian Radio & Television (ART) in a joint fund raising initiative of regional public service broadcasters in Skopje. However, in September 2008 it is not yet clear whether NCRT wants to continue the co-operation. In September 2008, a media capacity building project was signed with the EC Delegation and will be implemented by both the Presence and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The aim is to support the independence of the media through the promotion of public debate on media policy through the creation of a self-regulatory body.

3.5. RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The PiA assisted with legislative and judicial reform, supporting the development of an effective and transparent legal system in order that citizens seek and receive effective remedies.

3.5.1. Judicial reform - In December 2007, an analysis of Criminal Appellate Proceedings was published providing recommendations for increasing fairness and efficiency. To increase judicial professionalism, training was provided on judicial ethics, which included a study visit for the National Judicial Conference Ethics Committee and an official from the High Council of Justice to Barcelona. Support to the Ethics Committee continued with initiating the drafting of a commentary on the Code of Judicial Ethics. To assist in increasing access to justice for women victims of domestic violence as well as to raise awareness about the new Domestic Violence Law, training was held for legal professionals, law enforcement and civil society, with support from the CoE, the Albanian School of Magistrates and the Ministry of Justice. A Handbook to raise awareness on domestic violence was published and distributed to legal professionals, police and civil society. In July 2008, the Albanian Judicial Bench Book on Protection Orders was published by the Presence and USAID to provide judges with guidance in interpreting and implementing the new domestic violence law.

3.5.2. Legislative reform - To promote alternatives to imprisonment, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was assisted in creating a National Probation Service and in October 2007, a draft strategy for the development of a probation system was sent to the MoJ, with written comments on the initial draft legal framework sent in November 2007. From February 2008, the PiA began chairing the Probation Advisory Group to assist the MoJ in developing a probation service. In

December 2007, to increase transparency in legislative drafting, seminars were held on techniques for commenting on legislative drafts. In January 2008, support was given to the MoJ to host a roundtable to discuss draft amendments to the Criminal Code and to the Law on the Execution of Criminal Decisions. April 2008 saw the participation in a working group led by the MoJ to draft amendments to the Notary Law, after which written comments were sent to the MoJ. Working groups on police-related legislation were also supported in the drafting of new disciplinary regulations and of new personnel regulations under the State Police Law; and in drafting a new Law on Internal Control Services for the police and for the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The last year also saw assistance to the MoI's Witness Protection Directorate through the drafting of the new Witness Protection Law. In July 2008, upon request, written comments were sent to the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications on the draft law On Territorial Planning. In August 2008, written comments were sent to the MoJ on the latest draft amendments to the Law on the execution of criminal decisions and on the Law on the Criminal Code and to the MoI on the Strategy on Public Administration.

3.5.3. Human rights - The last year saw the co-ordination of the work of the international community on prison reform and Roma rights. With the Peoples Advocate Office, mailboxes were put inside detention centres that will be accessible to the People's Advocate in order to ensure free correspondence. In October 2007, training was provided to judicial experts on international law on child protection in family cases. Continued participation was seen in the International Consortium (with the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme, the EC Delegation, the Italian Interforza and the State Police). Technical support was provided to the Witness Protection Directorate in drafting a new law on Witness Protection and the PiA helped co-ordinate activities to build the capacity of the Witness Protection Unit. The PiA chaired the Prison Reform Sub-Group and participated in the Juvenile Justice Sub-Group that assisted the Government with plans for new detention facilities for minors.

4. WAY AHEAD

2009 will be an important year in the light of Albania's Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations. Parliamentary elections will be held under a new electoral system, which should result in democratic elections being held. The Presence will assist Albania in its quest for its further Euro-Atlantic integration in the area's mentioned in the mandate and will assist in the drafting of relevant laws and promote an inclusive consultation process at all stages of the legislative cycle. A precondition for ultimate success will be the continuance of the prevailing political near consensus amongst the national actors.

The PiA will further streamline its donor and project co-ordination structure and place further emphasis on the strategic planning and management of its activities. The Security Co-operation Department will provide support to further strengthen the capacities of the Albanian State Police and Border and Migration Police in achieving its integrated border management strategy and for both to reach their crime fighting objectives. The Governance in Economic and Environmental Issues Department will offer assistance in order to strengthen accountability in local government; to support decentralisation strategies and in providing capacity building support to local government in delivering public services; to assist in the property reform processes and to support efforts in combating trafficking in human beings. Within the Democratization Department, progress will also be seen by the completion of the PiA's project on the modernisation of the civil registry and the ongoing work on the street address system. The

Presence will also support electoral reform; will assist the Assembly in exercising its scrutiny role over the Executive and other independent institutions; will strengthen civil society involvement where gender equality is pursued in Government policies; will assist the media legislative framework, will help to increase media independence, and to help develop the institutional capacities of the public service broadcaster. The Rule of Law and Human Rights Department will provide support to the judicial system in order that fair trial standards reach EU standards, that legislation is drafted to meet the public good, that the reform of public administration is on merit based principles, and in assisting to elevate the respect for the human rights of its citizens.

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