



MISIONI I PËRHERSHËM
I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE
NDËRKOMBËTARE
VJENË

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

**Statement of the Delegation of Albania,
in response to the PC Report of Ambassador Jean-Claude Schlumberger,
Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo,
as delivered by Ambassador Roland Bimo at the
1088th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
Vienna, 4th February 2016**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Albania aligned with the statement of the EU and I would limit myself to a few comments in my national capacity.

Warm welcome H.E. Ambassador Schlumberger, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, to the Permanent Council and thank him for his comprehensive, and at the same time balanced and realistic report.

The Albanian delegation appreciates the significant role that OMiK plays in assisting the efforts of the Government of Kosovo to build a peaceful, stable and democratic country, where rule of law and minority rights are duly protected, based on international norms and practices.

As the youngest country in Europe, Kosovo is confronted with problems, the solution of which, requires courage and determination. Albania repeatedly has expressed the view that political process should take place respecting democratic norms and principles and within democratic institutions.

We highly appreciate Kosovo government's work tackling challenges currently facing, including economic development, fight against corruption and organized crime, the EU integration and visa liberalization process. We commend the 'Strategy and action plan on Prevention of Violent Extremism and Radicalization that may Lead to Terrorism' for the period 2015–2020' and the last actions by Kosovo Institutions and Kosovo police in this regard.

As the country moves forward, we invite the Mission to identify areas where Kosovo's institutions can successfully take over responsibilities.

We appreciate the framework of the strategic programmatic work for the 2016-2019 period and its four principles identified in the process of strategic review exercise. However this program should be consulted closely with the Kosovo's authorities and institutions and take into consideration the progress achieved so far.

OMiK is a trusted and reliable partner to institutions, communities, and the international community in Kosovo. The work done in assisting implementation of the agreements resulted from EU facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, is highly appreciated. Results of this dialogue should serve a wider framework of normalization between the two countries. Blocking positive efforts of Kosovo and denial of progress and realities there, don't contribute in this regard. Security situation for the citizens, regardless of their ethnic background is reduced significantly, during the period between reporting.

The signing of SAA between Kosovo and EU is a meaningful indicator of progress and an important milestone towards a European future. Kosovo has proven to be an important factor for security and stability in the region, and deserves further support for integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

We welcome OMIK involvement in assisting youth cooperation on regional level. Joint declaration "On the establishment of the regional youth cooperation office for the Western Balkans", signed in Vienna last August, by the Prime Minister of six countries, provides a useful framework.

Mr. Chairperson

To our great regret the authorities of Kosovo are still unable to express here their views and provide their information, evaluations, and perspectives about the Head of Mission report, the Mission activities, their impact and the level and quality of their cooperation. Having in mind the wellbeing of the Organization, we repeat the call to find ways and means on how to engage Kosovo's representatives in this kind of meetings next time.

Kosovo, like any other country, deserves to be among us and to have its own seat in the Permanent Council of the OSCE. This will serve further strengthening of security in the region, reconciliation process and efficiency of the work of the Organization in Kosovo.

By concluding, I would like to thank again Ambassador Schlumberger and his team for their dedicated work and wish them every success in the future.

I thank you for the attention.