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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 Report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to  
Skopje, H.E. Ambassador Nina Suomalainen**

**As delivered by the Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Artan Canaj, at the  
1108<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, 14 July 2016**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

On Behalf of the Albanian delegation, I wish to express our welcome to Ambassador Suomalainen, Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, and thank her for the clear presentation and the detailed and comprehensive report.

Albania has aligned itself with the key messages delivered by the Ambassador of Slovakia on behalf of the European Union, but we would like to make some additional remarks in our national capacity.

Albania is interested in a peaceful, multi-ethnic, stable, democratic Macedonia, which can go forward in the Euro-Atlantic integration processes. We fully support the efforts of the EU, US and Germany to facilitate the open dialogue of the country's political leadership, which is needed to get out of the crisis and restore normality.

The full implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> June Przino Agreement and its 15<sup>th</sup> July Protocol by all signing parties is an important step to overcome the recent political crisis and to address key challenges facing the country.

We commend the work done by the OSCE Mission to Skopje in facilitating the dialogue with all political leaders of the country. Albania believes that the OSCE has an important role to play in helping local political leaders to overcome the current impasse and preserve the long term stability of Macedonia. We appreciate the Mission's engagement on the three priorities of its mandate.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Ohrid Framework Agreement remains the main political and legal framework for ensuring good inter-ethnic relations. Its full implementation is the basis for a fully-functioning multi-ethnic society. We welcome the conclusion of the OFA review process on social cohesion, and highly appreciate the role that the Mission, in cooperation with the Secretariat for the Implementation of OFA and the European Institute of Peace, played in preparing it. We urge the Macedonian authorities to adopt and implement the recommendations from this review.

The Mission to Skopje should work with other international organizations in order to avoid the risk of further stalemate of the OFA Review on Social Cohesion, due to the effects of ongoing political developments.

Implementation of the recommendations from the OFA review will help in stopping the trend of separation of Macedonian society along ethnic lines and will encourage the integration and improving of social cohesion between communities.

The continuing political crisis and instability threaten the progress of inter-ethnic relations. In this context, we encourage the Macedonian authorities to carry out a fast, impartial, thorough and credible investigation, to shed light on the events in Kumanovo on 18 May 2015, the tragic death of a four year old child in Kumanovo on 4 July 2016, and the incident at the private Albanian "TV Station 21" on 17 June 2016.

With regard to the postponed parliamentary elections, the recommendations provided in the final report of the Election Observation Mission should be taken into consideration and special attention should be paid to the Electoral roll, in order to guarantee the right of all citizens to vote.

We reiterate that cohesive inter-ethnic relations remain a most crucial area, that requires continued and close attention by the Mission.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, let me thank again Ambassador Suomalainen and wish her and her team every success in their future endeavors.

Thank you for your attention.