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I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE
NDËRKOMBËTARE
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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
VIENNA

**Statement of the Delegation of Albania,
On the assassination of Mr. Oliver Ivanovic
As delivered by the Minister Plenipotentiary of Mission Mr. Adhurim
Resuli, at the 1172d meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Albania aligned itself with the statement delivered by the European Union; however I would like to make a few remarks in a national capacity.

We strongly condemn the assassination as a result of the loss of life of Mr. Oliver Ivanovic, a member of the Serb community, a well-known politician and head of a political formation in Kosovo. He was considered as one of the most moderate Kosovo Serb leaders. We express our sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family and relatives.

Although the authors and motives have not been disclosed so far, we consider this event to be a deliberate and malicious act that aims to destabilize the situation in Kosovo, inciting ethnic hatred and tensions in Kosovo society and to curb the process of normalization between Kosovo and Serbia. It is well known that Ivanovic was a sound voice in the Serb community in Kosovo and really interested in a better future between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo.

Albania strongly condemned this criminal act which is a serious threat to the dialogue process between Kosovo and Serbia, under the mediation of the EU, to the reconciliation and stability in Kosovo.

We also firmly encourage the authorities of the Republic of Kosovo to do everything possible to seize and to bring the perpetrators to justice as soon as possible. Violence is unacceptable no matter where it comes from and whom it is addressed and it must be convicted unequivocally.

Kosovo needs calm, prudence, peace and security, and we are joining all voices calling on all actors in Kosovo to wait patiently for the result of the law enforcement agencies and justice.

Now more than ever, Kosovo and Serbia need to embrace the EU-facilitated Dialogue, viewing progress in the normalization of relations between the two countries as critical for them and the Western Balkans as a whole.

I thank you for the attention.