

OSCE Ministerial Meeting
Ljubljana December 5-6, 2005

**Statement
of
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Albania**

Mr. FLORENT CELIKU

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to participate in the 13th OSCE Ministerial Meeting here in Ljubljana. At the outset, I take the opportunity to express my highest appreciation for the work done by the Slovenian Chairmanship, to thank them for the hospitality extended to us as well as for the excellent organization of this important event.

Albania strongly appraises the crucial role the OSCE plays in providing a pan European framework where the national and international acting standards are known by all participating countries. Albania, as a sovereign and peace loving country is committed to give its contribution to the common activities of the OSCE for greater peace, stability and security in the whole region.

We are aware that the peaceful and eloquent OSCE diplomacy is the appropriate instrumental tool in conflict prevention, development of human rights and arms control.

In addition, we consider that this is the right moment for the OSCE to develop new features in its efforts to face and accommodate the forthcoming challenges and developments. It should also enhance its standing in the world political scene in order to become more democratic, representative and effective in its important role.

The good neighbourly policy does not constitute a mere geographical obligation but it derives from a mutual willingness and understanding to build and protect democratic institutions and basic human rights. The Albanian government has supported the priorities identified by the Slovenian Chairmanship pertaining to the necessity of strengthening the coordination and cooperation towards the revitalizing, reforming and rebalancing of our organization. Our organization needs to maintain and require the interest of all the parties by including their overall contribution through consultations, negotiations and dialogue.

The Albanian government has reiterated its appreciation for the role of the OSCE Presence in Albania, namely towards its contribution in deepening the democratic processes and the consolidation of the national institutions. In particular, we value its assistance towards reforming the electoral code in compliance with international standards and drafting the Property Restitution and Compensation Law in favour of accelerating the privatization process. In the future, we will encourage closer cooperation between the OSCE Presence and the Albanian institutions in working together towards the fulfilment of its mandate in accordance with our country priorities to tackle the challenges we still face.

In this context, we reaffirm our appreciation for the professional and transparent work of observation mission of OSCE/ODIHR and our commitment to take on board the recommendations for the improvement of the Electoral Code, in the interest of the full integration of Albania into EU.

In addition we back the Slovenian chairmanship's priority to support the OSCE field missions in the interest of speeding up the European integration processes of the West Balkan countries. Therefore, in this context, we regard as highly valuable the position held by the Slovenian chairmanship in dedicating special attention to Kosova, at this crucial moment in determining its final status. There is no return, nor diverting to the irreversible course of events towards a future that will be better, democratic, secure future for Kosova, and its people supreme will, in harmony with international commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

The Albanian government appreciates and supports the steps taken by the OSCE in developing intercultural and inter religious dialogue and holds these instruments as highly important in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that it remains our common obligation the restructuring of the consultative and decision taking process of the OSCE (organization) in order to improve the image of the organization as well as increasing its efficiency in facing future challenges imposed by new geopolitical realities.

Hence, we believe that Ljubljana Ministerial Meeting and the set of documents we will approve, can bring about the expected changes in better restructuring our organization towards strengthening of its capacity and its role in the European Security Architecture.

I would like to conclude by wishing the Belgium Chairmanship a successful leadership in accomplishing this very important task next year.

Thank you.