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

**Statement of the Delegation of Albania,
on the assumption of the Portuguese FSC chairmanship**

**As delivered by the Head of Mission, Ms. Ravesa Lleshi, at the 828th
Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation, 14 September 2016**

The Albanian delegation wishes to join previous speakers in extending a warm welcome to H.E. Dr. Augusto Santos Silva, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, and thank him for his compelling presentation. Albania fully aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union, but I would like to make few remarks in a national capacity.

I wish to congratulate Portugal on the assumption of the FSC Chairmanship, to thank Poland for its excellent work in the last trimester, and welcome Romania to the Troika.

Our Romanian colleague reminded us at the concluding meeting of the FSC under the Polish Chairmanship, that the opportunity to chair this Forum comes about once in 19 years. Portugal has the privilege and the responsibility of leading the FSC at a time when many issues of great importance to our security demand our attention. We are glad to see them included in your Chairmanship's program of work, which we fully support.

We share many of your Chairmanship's priorities, including the issue of deactivation of small arms and light weapons, where we stand ready to offer our experience. We look forward to the discussion on defense cooperation in the Mediterranean, and welcome the continued attention to the role of women in the armed forces, as a strong inducement for all of us to reflect on the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

The FSC plays a key role in promoting co-operative security in the OSCE area, fostering trust and confidence among the participating States. It is our responsibility to engage in genuine and constructive dialogue on the vital security issues which we face, from the situation in and around Ukraine, to conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures. We share your assessment that the current security environment dictates a substantive update of the Vienna Document, and count on your leadership to guide us in the months ahead, as we prepare for the Ministerial Council meeting in Hamburg.

I would like to wish Ambassador Maria da Graça Mira Gomes and her team every success in the FSC Chairmanship and assure her once again of our full support.

I thank you.