

**THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF ALBANIA,
H.E.MR. BAMIR TOPI AT THE OSCE SUMMIT OF HEADS OF
STATES AND/OR GOVERNMENTS**

Astana, December 2nd 2010

**Distinguished President Nazarbayev,
Distinguished Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Please allow me to express my gratitude for the warm welcome in your beautiful capital, as well as the best wishes for organizing this OSCE Summit – a very important enterprise at that also because of its holding after 11 years since last time. I also would like to congratulate you for the successful Chairmanship of the Organization in the interest of the OSCE, as well as for the tireless work, continuing engagement and mature diplomacy during the process of finding consensus for organizing this Summit.

This activity carries the significance of trust that has been achieved in the transatlantic space and the great potential to revive the role of the OSCE, by determining priorities and clear engagements, aiming at increasing the level of our common security.

The individuals that mostly look to this Organization hopefully and with great expectations are those that have had their free vote denied, those that suffer the burden of frozen conflicts and smuggling of human beings, unprotected groups that are facing intolerance or discrimination, ethnic or religious, citizens whose rights and fundamental freedoms are being denied, in complete violation of OSCE engagements. This Summit and the OSCE cannot stay indifferent towards these challenges of security. Intensification of the processes of globalization is accompanied by new challenges to the OSCE space. The inter-border and international crime, cybernetic crime, terrorism, lack of energy security and the critical situation in Afghanistan carry dangers that threaten the joint security and prosperity of our countries. The careful consideration of these threats and in cooperation with other organization constitutes an actual challenge of the OSCE in the 21st century.

This is the reason why it is important that the Document of Astana carries a clear vision of orientation of the OSCE activity in the future, also to explain its role in the terrain and in strategic level, under the framework of the security architecture in Europe. Albania supports the continuation of the dialogue for European Security – the Corfu Process, as a valid instrument for increasing the trust in the OSCE space, which should serve the promotion of security, human rights and democratic institutions. In our vision, the revival of the OSCE and the increase of its effectiveness must be done by preserving the fundamental features of the Organization: the rule of consensus, flexibility, cooperating attitude and all-inclusive mandate.

Thanks to the developments of these last few years, the Western Balkans is going through a peaceful period, of stability and progress in all areas. The gradual lowering of borders has brought the free movement of citizens of our countries and the increase of exchanges, commercial and cultural. The joint objective of European integration has served as a stimulating objective for the realization of many internal reforms, strengthening of democratic institutions and rule of law, as well as reforms in the foreign policy of our countries, towards the consolidation of security and long term stability, in the region and beyond.

Independence of Kosova, declared in full compliance with the international law, has given a precious contribution in the stabilization of our region. This new state constitutes now a reality that has taken the right direction and is being consolidated every day near the European and transatlantic future. The peaceful atmosphere and the positive influence in the inter-ethnic relations that has been established by its independence, by transferring direct impact in the peace and stability of our region, constitute a real and concrete fact.

Albania supports the direct dialogue between Serbia and Kosova, as two independent and sovereign states for technical matters with common interests, a dialogue that must be led by the principles of the Decalogue of the Helsinki Final Act, especially of the respect for territorial integrity of sovereignty and good neighborly relations.

I would like to point out gladly that OSCE, in all of these processes of stabilization of Western Balkans, through its missions on the ground, has played an undeniable historic role. These missions have served as instruments for the management of crisis situations and the strengthening of dialogue between the parties. The wide presence of the OSCE in the Western

Balkans, actually with seven missions, must be considered an asset in the way of the region towards the consolidation of security and stability in the long run.

We believe that the Organization contains the potential, the expertise and resources to secure and provide a special contribution in support of the international efforts in some priority fields such as in the fight against corruption, against human trafficking, strengthening civil society, assisting the judicial reforms and above all improving inter-ethnic relations.

Albania has earned a new role and status in the international relations, as a result of growing partnership with all of the structures of regional and global security, especially after membership in NATO in April of 2009. Albania is today a strategic country for security, peace and prosperity of the Balkans, Mediterranean, and of Europe and it will continue to play its cooperating, integrating and moderating role, as a factor of regional weight for the increase in security, to guarantee political and economic regional stability, The Albanian factor in all the countries of the region is one of domestic stability, cooperation and cohesion.

As an important contributory of security in Western Balkans, Albania desires to promote in a wider international level, its foreign policy, which is led by the principles of moderation, cooperation, good friendship and regional integration. Such principles are solidified as a result of the centuries of values of the Albanian culture and history as: tolerance, harmony, religious co-existence, as well as inter-ethnic and cultural co-existence.

Proud of this precious inheritance, my country aims to separate and promote these Albanian values with all of the Euro-Atlantic community and especially with OSCE.

The connection between Albania and OSCE dates back to the very first steps of Albanian democracy, the OSCE symbolizes in Albania the exit from international isolation and closeness with the Euro-Atlantic community and its values of freedom, democracy and the Rule of Law by motivating us to be more active in the framework of this Organization and more committed to fulfill its long-term aims and objectives.

Thank you!