



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
SERBIA AMBASSADOR VUK ŽUGIĆ AT THE 916th MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 June 2012

Mr Chairman,

While we fully subscribe to the statement of the EU, we would like to make a few brief comments in our national capacity.

We join others in welcoming the distinguished Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Albania Mr Haxhinasto to the Permanent Council and thank him for a comprehensive statement made in his capacity as the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE. We also express our congratulations to Albania on the assumption of Chairmanship. We have listened very carefully to his statement, since as a member state we attach great importance to the activities of the CoE and its cooperation with the OSCE.

Having in mind the long standing practice in such cases and in particular with reference to some issues which were raised, it was expected that today's statement of the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe would reflect positions which enjoy broader support within the Committee of Ministers, although not always in line with some national positions. In that context, we fully support activities of the Council of Europe in Kosovo and Metohija, which are based on its agreed policy of status neutrality, and in full accordance with the UN SCR 1244.

We reiterate once again that the Agreement on regional representation of Kosovo, which has been agreed within the EU led dialogue between Belgrade and Priština, clearly does not apply to international organizations such as CoE or OSCE.

In conclusion, we wish Minister Haxhinasto and his colleagues success in their future endeavors.