



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Presence in Albania

**HEAD OF PRESENCE'S REMARKS FOLLOWING
MEETING WITH SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIR**

9 July 2012

Q: What was the purpose of this meeting with Mr. Rama today?

Ambassador Wollfarth: The purpose of the meeting with Mr. Edi Rama today was talking our regular talks on the reform agenda. We focused on the Electoral Code reform and there are important efforts being made. The Electoral Code reform needs to see the finalization. Important questions are still open and need to be solved in the coming days. This is especially the case with respect to transparency, in order to provide throughout the process a maximum of transparency so that the voters can be confident that their votes are correctly counted and that their votes count. It is also very important to have full confidence in the body called Central Election Commission. This is an extremely important issue and that needs solution. If you allow me, I would like to invite for a forward-looking solution that provides a maximum degree of confidence, of trust from the citizens of this country into the system. It is very important to go to move to a forward-looking solution, providing this correct technical work in the future. It is also extremely important that this solution is being found between the parties represented in parliament. The Ad Hoc Committee on Electoral Code reform has done, I have said that in the past, a very good fundamental work. Now it is about the final points, including the CEC, and visiting that item called transparency.

Q: Do you support the suggestion of the Socialist Party for the re-composition of the Central Election Commission?

Ambassador Wollfarth: What I said was a forward-looking solution that might include that element. That is up to the parties to come to a common solution. The mandate of the current Central Election Commission will end before next general elections. Now is the moment to go for a forward-looking solution that might include that element.

Q: What is the suggestion of the OSCE on the CEC structure, given the fact that you have met with both DP and SP officials? Have you offered any suggestion to the parties?

Ambassador Wollfarth: This is, first of all, a solution to be found between the parties. We would wish for a sustainable solution being valid and impartial throughout the times.

Q: Is there enough time or the deadline of the ad hoc electoral reform committee should be postponed again?

Ambassador Wollfarth: 12 July is very near. As I said, the ad hoc committee has done a very good fundamental work so far. The rest, the remaining questions, are

considered by the key actors as highly political. That solution must be found at the political level.

Q: Have you met with representatives of the other parties? The public perception is that they are resisting the suggestion on re-composition, while they have made no suggestion of their own.

Ambassador Wollfarth: We have a lot of meetings, high level and not so high level. Our dialogue continues, this is for sure. If I may come back to the question about the time, more than the time, the quality matters. Transparency is very important, fairness is very important and the participation in this process is also extremely important. So, I would invite, also to support publicly, coming to an early solution.

Q: Do you think the parties are close to finding a solution on electoral reform?

Ambassador Wollfarth: There is a possibility of finding that solution. I sure hope that the solution is near. It is the political concluding stones that are needed to build that arch to bridge the gap.

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