



PC.DEL/1041/17  
20 July 2017

ENGLISH only

MISIONI I PËRHERSHËM  
I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË  
PRANË ORGANIZATAVE  
NDËRKOMBËTARE  
VJENË

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

**Statement of the Delegation of Albania,  
In response to H.E. Angelino Alfano, Foreign Minister of Italy**

**As delivered by the Head of Mission, Ms. Ravesa Lleshi, at the  
1155<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, 20 July 2017**

Mr. Chairperson,

Albania joins other delegations in extending a warm welcome to the Permanent Council to His Excellency, the Foreign Minister of Italy, Mr. Angelino Alfano. We fully align with the statement delivered by the European Union, but would like to make some additional remarks in a national capacity.

Mr. Minister,

We are sincerely grateful that Italy is taking the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2018 and thank you for outlining its priorities today. You can count on Albania's full support.

We would welcome the attention of the Italian Chairmanship to the Western Balkans. Both Italy and the OSCE have a longstanding investment in the stability, security and prosperity of the region. At the 2017 Western Balkans Summit in Trieste last week, Mr. Minister, you expressed Italy's wish to be the hub of the Balkans to Europe, and stressed the imperative of saying a great "no" to nationalistic and ethnic divides, to all the walls and boundaries that have tried to separate us. A very encouraging message for our joint

efforts to overcome barriers, strengthen political confidence-building and our security.

The Berlin Process's core agenda of connecting infrastructures, economies and people, augmented by the commitment to strengthen respect for the rule of law and fundamental rights, are contributing to changing the mindset and increasing the trust between the countries of the region. The Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), which aims to foster cooperation among the youth of the region, could also play a role in preventing radicalization.

Connectivity, good governance and the fight against radicalization remain priorities in the OSCE. We believe that the Berlin Process offers an opportunity for a meaningful and sustainable engagement of the OSCE with all countries of the Western Balkans, without exception. At the same time, it could serve as a source of best practices for other regions in the OSCE area.

Migration management remains on the OSCE agenda as well, and we wish to express our support to addressing migration issues in their entirety, guided by our commitment to humanitarian principles. We share the view that fostering cooperation with our Mediterranean Partners is important in facing the challenges posed by large movements of migrants and look forward to the Mediterranean Conference in Palermo later this year.

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Minister,

With the appointment of the senior officials now completed, the OSCE is today in a better shape than it was a week ago. Yet, guiding the OSCE in these difficult times for European security remains a challenging task. We would like to reiterate Albania's full support to the priorities of the current Austrian Chairmanship, and those of the incoming Italian Chairmanship, as presented today by the Minister.

Thank you.