



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

NEWSLETTER

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Second volume of Constitutional Court Guide presented

On 14 July, at a high-level event, organized with the OSCE Presence, the Constitutional Court presented the second volume of the "Guide on the Constitutional Court's case-law", produced with the Presence's support. The publication summarizes the standards and positions taken in the Court's decision-making since 1992 on the principles of law, separation of powers and substantive constitutional rights. It follows the first guide, which focused on individual constitutional complaints. The Presence supported the drafting of both volumes as part of its project funded by the USA, Italy and Greece.

Visit of Irish Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence

On 22 July, the Presence welcomed a delegation led by Irish Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence Thomas Byrne. The visit included a meeting with key Albanian stakeholders engaged in the Presence's project "Strengthening Albania's law-enforcement and prosecution capacities and multi-agency co-operation in combatting trafficking in human beings", funded by the governments of Ireland, the United Kingdom, Norway and Italy. The Minister also had a separate meeting with the Head of Presence, Ambassador Michel Tarran.



Exchange with Portuguese, Scottish Parliaments

From 21 to 23 July, the Presence supported a visit of an Albanian Assembly delegation, led by Secretary General Gjonçaj, to the Portuguese parliament, to exchange best practices on committee support, autonomy, management and parliamentary diplomacy. Earlier, on 11 July, it supported a hybrid meeting between the Albanian and Scottish parliaments on inclusiveness and public engagement, following an exchange visit in December. Ambassador Tarran also discussed parliamentary support with Minister for Relations with Parliament Balla, on 9 July.



Kukës and Dragash together against domestic, gender-based violence

Around 50 representatives from Kukës (Albania) and Dragash/Dragaš (Kosovo) municipalities met in Kukës, on 16 July, to improve co-operation against domestic and gender-based violence. The meeting, organized by the Presence and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, built on a session in Prizren in December 2024. Participants agreed to formalize co-operation and develop a joint protocol. With the support of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, the initiative aims to evolve into a broader regional platform for joint action against domestic and gender-based violence.

Ambassador Tarran visits Vlora and Kukës



In July, Ambassador Tarran visited Vlora and Kukës, where he met with the Prefects, civil society and participated in Presence-organized events. In Kukës, discussions focused on domestic violence, youth migration and the need for support for CSOs. In Vlora, the meetings highlighted co-operation on security, anti-trafficking and environmental protection, especially amid growing tourism. Both Prefects emphasized the importance of inter-institutional collaboration and requested further training support. Ambassador Tarran stressed the OSCE's commitment to strengthening local institutions and civil society partnerships. The visits aimed to boost regional development and enhance cross-sector dialogue.

Boosting media prosecutors' communication

On 7 and 8 July, in Vlora, the Presence organized a training session on strengthening the capacities of media prosecutors on public communication and media engagement. Prosecutors from General Jurisdiction Prosecution Offices enhanced their skills in crafting clear messages, preparing for media interviews and managing communication on sensitive cases. Media expert Valbona Sulçe led sessions on audience, messaging and media channels, while journalist Anila Hoxha discussed news values and source verification. Participants practiced public speaking, TV interviews and crisis communication through real-case simulations and peer reviews. The training aimed to strengthen transparency and public trust in justice institutions.



Promoting free legal aid in northern municipalities



Every citizen has the right to equal access to justice, regardless of their economic situation — because justice is a right, not a privilege. As part of the initiative to strengthen co-operation between the Free Legal Aid Directorate and local government, in July, the Presence held informative and collaborative meetings in the municipalities of Fushë-Arrëz, Malësi e Madhe and Vau i Dejës. These meetings served to build bridges of co-operation with local representatives and civil society organizations to support citizens' access to justice. Activities included discussions with citizens and engagement with local media, in order to broaden awareness about the right to free legal aid for those most in need.

Meeting of International Election Working Group

On 17 July, the Presence held a special meeting of the International Election Working Group with Heads of Missions of OSCE participating States and international organizations. State Election Commissioner Ilirjan Celibashi presented reflections on the 11 May parliamentary elections, including participation, complaints and budget, and outlined priorities for electoral reform. Ambassador Tarran emphasized the need for an inclusive, transparent and timely reform to address the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. He said that the international community is committed to supporting Albania through strategic co-ordination and technical assistance. Participants commended the CEC's work and discussed next steps for strengthening electoral processes.

