



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

## **HEAD OF PRESENCE'S REMARKS TO THE MEDIA DURING VISIT TO BERAT**

*12 April 2013*

**Ambassador Wollfarth:** “It is a good process what I see. Now, during the visit in Berat, we are focusing on the preparations here and what I have heard so far and what I have seen so far is very positive. The CEAZs are nominated, the selections for the voting centres and the other places are being done. I was not made aware of any disputes. The voter’s list was also worked on – it is much more precise than in the past. So, I see very good work underway, very good work.

What I would like to invite for the citizens is also to contribute and, most importantly, to go and vote on Election Day. It still seems far ahead, it is on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, but time flies. Voting, that is the essence for the democracy to decide. I see the process really on a good way.

It should be an open dialogue in both directions. The politicians, the parties presenting what programme they have in mind, also how they consider bringing it to real life, which includes financing, and the citizens also - what they need, what they expect – and then find realistic solutions on it. The most important is to be in a constructive, in a peaceful, in a really civilized dialogue, and cool the tempers.

The development here in Albania is going ahead and has gone ahead over the past years. Tremendous efforts have been made successfully. All the money that is needed to finance these projects is to be earned, so economy and education are very important. These are very often things that take time and contribution from the officials, but also from the citizens. This is a process where people have to be constructive, but also in a certain way to be patient and realistic, hopefully.

*[on the CEC member issue]* What has happened so far is that the Laws Committee made a decision proposing that one of the members is withdrawn. So, it is not a decision as such valid for the members. That member, in most interpretations, could continue to assist to the CEC meetings, so far. Now I understand clarification is going on, on which legal basis any further decision could and would be taken, so more time apparently is passing by and this subject might be taken up on Monday by the Assembly again. So, we have to observe developments. Of course, it would be very important to make maximal use between the parties of political dialogue on this, but not forgetting that in the end the CEC work is an apolitical, it is a technical work in the service of the citizens – not partisan.”

**Ends**