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

Statement
as delivered by Ms. Albana Dautllari, Deputy Head of Mission,
during the 675th meeting of Permanent Council of OSCE
in response to the address of
H.E. Mr Luis Amado,
Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal
and President of the Council of the European Union,
12 July 2007

Mr. Chairman,

I asked for the floor to say a few words on Kosova status in my national capacity. I would like to start firstly by thanking the Foreign Minister of Portugal for his statement. Secondly, I would like to echo what His Excellency, the distinguished Foreign Minister, said about Kosova: the Kosovo process constitutes one of the major causes of concern for the Portuguese Presidency and indeed for the whole of Europe. We fully agree with that.

My country believes that the settlement of the issue of Kosova as soon as possible has already become a necessity dictated by the developments and the reality on the ground, as well as the interests of stability and security not only in Kosova, but also in Serbia and the Balkans, and more largely in Europe, too. We maintain that Kosova cannot remain hostage to an undefined status any longer. This could have only negative consequences with higher cost later.

We too believe Kosova is a unique case. As most of the international community members and almost all members of the Contact Group have indicated, including the firm conviction of President Ahtisaari, Kosova is and should be treated as a *sui generis* case for a number of reasons. Albania sees the Ahtisaari package proposal as the best package. We have endorsed it and see no alternative to that. It is the only practical proposal on the table and the only one that has the chance to be implemented with success. We also believe that further negotiations on the matter cannot bring any good any more. We just wish to pay tribute to all those that firmly believe, have worked and are working on that basis, that Kosova, being a specific case, has to be treated as such, and its solution would also have to be specific and without a precedent.

When, for the solution of a certain issue under international administration and supervision, there is no consensus, a decision has to be made to provide that solution. This decision should not be delayed. Delaying it would mean to erode the path traversed so far and the confidence in the process and its future. The only decision - endorsing Ahtisaari's proposal - would truly bring about a solution that would serve not only Kosova, but also Serbia, it would serve the Balkans and it would serve the whole of Europe.

It is our conviction that all the members of the Security Council, including the permanent members, should give the chance to the Ahtisaari proposal to be implemented. Therefore, it would be a misfortune for all if members of the Security Council of the United Nations would prevent what is largely believed is the only possible solution - the Ahtisaari proposal. Failing to understand this reality would mean either to be politically naive or to have interest in trouble.

It is only natural and normal that we all, in particular and including the European Union and other non-EU states, have an interest in a lasting peace in Kosova, in the Balkans and in Europe. My country highly appreciates and salutes very warmly the readiness of the European Union, the United States, and other states to assist in the implementation of the status settlement. Albania looks forward to the unimpeded beginning of this process.

With that, Chairman, I would like to conclude by thanking the Foreign Minister of Portugal for his statement and wish him all the success.

Thank you Mr. Chairman