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STATEMENT ON SERBIA FOR OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

19 APRIL 2012

Mr Chairperson

The United Kingdom has been following closely the discussions with Serbia to agree modalities to enable the OSCE to facilitate voting by dual Serbian citizens resident in Kosovo in Serbia's 6 May parliamentary and presidential elections.

We commend the OSCE's efforts to reach an agreement that is acceptable to both Belgrade and Pristina, including through the visit you made with the Secretary-General to Serbia and Kosovo this week. We believe that the OSCE has done all it can to address Serbia's concerns in its latest set of modalities.

In the absence of such an agreement, Serbian dual nationals in Kosovo would not be able to exercise their legitimate right to vote in Serbian elections. Failure to reach agreement would also be a real missed opportunity.

We therefore urge Serbia to use what little time remains to reach an agreement with the OSCE.

Thank you.