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

Statement of the Delegation of Albania
“On the recent events in the north of Kosovo”

As delivered by Ambassador Spiro Koçi
at the 876th meeting of the Permanent Council of the OSCE
28 July 2011

Thank you Chairman,

And let me also inform this forum on the position of my Government on this issue.

The Albanian authorities are closely following the developments of recent days in the north of Kosovo. We deeply deplore the fact that violence has claimed the life of one police officer and injured many others. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the burning down of border crossing points and attacks to police officers by violent mobs of ethnic Serbs.

In our view the current situation stems from long toleration of the state of lawlessness prevailing in the north of Kosovo and support that certain political segments provide to the parallel structures and hooligan and criminal groups operating in that part of the country, as well as from the lack of political will to respect the free movement of people, goods, services and capitals in a reciprocal manner and in respect of the multilateral networks and agreements the two countries, Kosovo and Serbia, are part of.

The Republic of Albania supports Kosovo's independence and the extension of its sovereignty throughout the whole territory of the Republic of Kosovo, internationally recognized by 77 UN member States. The Republic of Albania considers these two elements as crucial factors for peace and stability in the Balkans.

We deem it indispensable that solutions to common problems are reached by means of dialogue, through the implementation of the agreements concluded by the two countries, as well as by implementing the "Strategy for the North" adopted by Government of Kosovo and the International Civilian Office. These solutions should enable the Government of Kosovo and local authorities to exercise their legitimate power in the north of Kosovo.

It is also essential that agreements reached between the two countries, in the EU-facilitated dialogue, are fully implemented through international guarantees.

I thank you Chair.