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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 September 2010

**Regarding the report by the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are delighted to welcome Ambassador Robert Bosch again to the meeting of the Permanent Council. We thank him for his interesting and comprehensive report on the internal political situation in the country and the work of the OSCE field presence that he heads.

We should like to support the mission's intention to carry out its assigned tasks in strict conformity with the mandate approved by the Permanent Council. In drawing up programme guidelines, it is important to align this principle with the priorities of the host country.

We note the clarity and the quality of the monthly reports, which are focused mainly on the activities of the Presence itself and not on intensive monitoring of internal processes in the host State, as other OSCE missions often prefer to do.

We attach great significance to support for measures taken by the Albanian Government to ensure the rule of law and to combat organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings. The mission's efforts to enhance the capacity of the police forces and improve the judicial system are also impressive.

We consider it especially worthwhile, in the current circumstances, to continue the activities in the area of developing parliamentarianism and strengthening civil society. Promoting property reform – a precondition for creating a favourable investment climate in the country – also remains important.

We take the position that, in the run-up to the municipal elections scheduled for May 2011, the subject of electoral reform will also remain a focus of attention for the field presence, primarily in the context of implementing the recommendations of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on the results of last year's parliamentary elections.

We trust that the continuing imbroglio surrounding the work of the Albanian Parliament, which gave rise to a boycott of its activities by the country's largest opposition party, will be overcome, and that the implementation of the key reform programmes will continue.

We understand that Albania's goal of integration into Europe is the main driving force behind the transformations that are taking place in the country. We ask, however, that it be fully borne in mind that the mandate of the OSCE Presence does not envisage such an area of work.

We are of the view that the mission must create the preconditions for the gradual transfer of its powers to the Tirana authorities, as envisaged by the relevant provision of the Charter for European Security. We trust that, in the reports by the future Head of the Presence, substantially greater attention will be paid to this task.

We take this opportunity to thank the distinguished Mr. Robert Bosch for his work and to wish him success in his further endeavours.

Thank you for your attention.