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

Statement of the Delegation of Albania
“In response to the address of the MFA of Serbia”

As delivered by Ambassador Spiro Koçi at the
872nd meeting of the Permanent Council
04 July 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and let me start by joining other delegations in warmly welcoming Foreign Minister of Serbia, H.E. Vuk Jeremic, also in his capacity as Chairperson of the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative and the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, to the Permanent Council today.

On behalf of my Delegation, allow me Mr. Minister, to thank you for the comprehensive address and clear outline of Serbia's priorities at the helm of these important fora for regional cooperation.

We wish to take this opportunity to respond to your address and also put on record our national position on some points touched upon during today's presentation. May I also add at this point that Albania fully subscribes to the statement made by Poland on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Minister, Albania fully supports the wide-ranging and diverse priorities set by your country in the framework of the three Presidencies. We strongly endorse your focus on energy, investments, protection of the environment, education and science as well as protection of human rights. In this regard, we would like to register our readiness to closely cooperate with you in the pursuit of the substantial agenda you described so eloquently before this distinguished forum.

As the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Albania remarked in his statement at the last Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the SEECP, in our view, regional cooperation has to be concrete and extended to all areas that consolidate economic development and regional ownership of the Western Balkans. Some of these areas are:

- a. trade exchanges through the genuine implementation of free trade agreements;
- b. regional infrastructural network, including all major corridors and routes;
- c. the security dimension, through the further democratization of our societies, the common fight against organized crime and illicit trafficking and cooperation on integrated border management.

We look forward to cooperate with you in these and other areas of great impact for the economic development and regional integration of the Western Balkans.

Mr. Chairman,

Albania shares the view that the promotion of regional cooperation and good-neighbourly relations, through regional initiatives, is a key precondition to advance and accelerate the European Integration process of the region. It is therefore essential that countries entrusted with the responsibility to chair these initiatives give real meaning to these principles by assuming an all-inclusive approach. In this respect, Albania expects Serbia to ensure that Kosovo and its legitimate institutions participate in the regional initiatives. Albania encourages Serbia to show spirit of compromise on such an issue of primary interest for the Western Balkans and regional cooperation.

Albania strongly supports the EU mediated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia aimed at resolving technical issues in the interest of the people of both countries. We warmly welcome the recent agreements on freedom of movement, mutual recognition of diplomas and civil registry, reached in the framework of the ongoing talks. It is our expectation that the two countries start the implementation of these agreements in due time.

By way of conclusion Mr. Chairman, I wish Serbia and Minister Jeremic personally every success during the Chairmanship of these initiatives.

Mr. Minister,

I would like to express the appreciation and gratitude of my delegation for the excellent cooperation we entertain with your talented team here in Vienna, lead by Ambassador Beham.

I wish also to extend my congratulations for the great performance and victory of Novak Djokovic, yesterday at Wimbledon.

As for the intervention of the Russian Federation and its comments on the so called "Greater Albania", I reserve the right to respond to it at a later stage.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.