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

Statement of the Delegation of Albania,
On the situation in northern Kosovo

As delivered by the Permanent Representative, Ambassador Spiro Koçi
At the 880th meeting of the Permanent Council
15 September 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I avail myself of this occasion to put on record the position of my Government on the legitimate efforts of the Government of Kosovo to bring to an end the intolerable situation of lawlessness, wide-spread smuggling and illegal traffickings in northern Kosovo. We are of the opinion that such a status quo was utterly unsustainable and very dangerous.

We therefore support unconditionally the recent measures being put in place by the Government of Kosovo with the stated purpose to establish the rule of law and functioning democratic institutions in the north. We are convinced that these measures respond to the needs of Kosovo's citizens, including the Serb community, for a secure and dignified life, and will certainly contribute to further the overall stability of Kosovo.

They also aim to implement the recent agreement on customs stamps, reached recently in the EU-facilitated dialogue, which lays the conditions for the establishment of free and reciprocal flow of goods between Kosovo and Serbia.

In this connection, we are very pleased to note that these measures are coordinated and will be fully implemented with the support of EULEX and KFOR.

Mr. Chairman,

The process of extending the authority of the Government of Kosovo throughout its territory is inevitable and irreversible. We therefore continue to urge the Government of Serbia to support this process by taking appropriate measures to stop its political and financial support to the parallel structures operating in the north. These illegal structures pose a threat to Kosovo's security and hamper the participation of the Serb community in Kosovo's institutions.

As sovereign and independent states Kosovo and Serbia should found their relations on the principles of equality, reciprocity and good-neighborliness and solve their problems by means of dialogue and mutual understanding. In this framework

Albania supports the continuation of the EU-facilitated dialogue and the full and timely implementation of the agreements reached heretofore through meaningful international guarantees.

By way of conclusion Mr. Chairperson, let me stress our firm conviction that Serbia's constructiveness and flexibility in this matter will greatly help the ongoing dialogue with Kosovo and to accelerate the process of reconciliation: a cause, Serbia has been strongly advocating, not least in this distinguished forum.

I thank you for the attention.