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**STATEMENT BY MR. MICHAEL SCHMUNK,  
MINISTER AND DEPUTY HEAD OF THE GERMAN MISSION TO  
THE OSCE, AT THE 908th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 April 2012

**Regarding the holding of Serbian presidential and  
parliamentary elections in Kosovo**

Mr. Chairperson,

Germany too thanks the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) for their enormous engagement and for the preparatory work that has already been performed.

Although, as it would appear, no final decision has yet been taken, it can at least be said today that the results of the OSCE high-level consultations with Belgrade have so far failed to meet our hopes and expectations.

Accordingly, Germany would once again like to encourage Serbia, in view of the great political significance and scope of the subject and also with a view to Serbia's chairmanship role in 2015, to once again give serious consideration to the, as we see it, constructive and helpful offer of the OSCE, namely the provision of technical assistance by OMIK in holding Serbian presidential and parliamentary elections in Kosovo as well, in order to enable Belgrade to meet its constitutional obligations vis-à-vis persons with dual citizenship living in Kosovo with Serbian passports as well. The OSCE and, in particular, OMIK have, as already demonstrated, excellent knowledge, experience and the necessary sensitivity in these matters.

Mr. Chairperson,

Although not much more time for preparations remain until 6 May and, at least in principle, a decision by the OSCE ought actually to be taken within the next 24 hours, Germany continues to hope that there is still enough time to find a solution that in the end will after all meet the interests of all the parties concerned.