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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 report of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

As delivered by Ambassador Spiro Koçi at the
907th meeting of the Permanent Council
29 March 2012

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

My delegation warmly welcomes the OSCE RFoM at today's PC and thanks her for a very comprehensive report distributed a few days ago and a very insightful and interesting statement delivered at this meeting.

The Albanian Delegation highly appreciates the professionalism and the balanced approach Ms. Mijatovic has adopted in exercising her duties as the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. We fully support the Representative's priorities and the way she and her Office are pursuing them.

We are also grateful, for the active engagement of Ms. Mijatovic with the last developments in the field of media in Albania, namely the new amendments of the Penal Code, which have been adopted recently by a qualified majority of the Albanian Parliament. We share your assessment, Ms. Mijatovic, that these amendments, removing prison sentences as a punishment for defamation, mark a significant move in Albania's reform of its criminal and civil defamation law. We have taken duly note of the request to decriminalize speech offences completely and your concerns related to those paragraphs in the code that regulate acts of defamation of deceased persons.

I am confident that your forthcoming visit in Tirana will provide a good opportunity to engage into a more in-depth discussion on these and other issues of mutual interest. Your assistance and advice would be most welcome. We are looking forward to your visit.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.