

**Head of Presence remarks in the wake of meeting with Prosecutor General, Ms. Ina Rama, 20 May 2011**

Part of the mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania is to maintain regular contacts with the institutions of this country and this was the aim of this visit.

The rule of law is extremely important in all processes especially in those of high interest for the citizens. Important events have developed here in this country since January 2011, some of them need legal revision and judicial analyses, and this independent analysis is a very important thing. It is a very important process; the General Prosecutor's Office is working on that.

The very important thing is that the rule of law in this country, in Albania, also means that no persons are above the law; the law should be exactly the same for everybody and should be applied in an equal manner. But the key thing is that all the main state institutions that are foreseen in the Albanian Constitution can work in an independent and proper manner without pressure from outside. I see a high level of professional work going on and I repeat independent work is extremely important, as is respect for the Constitution, the laws of Albania and respect for the work of the individuals working within these institutions. What is important now is to have a continued transparency that is provided through the media and now I am referring to the post electoral process in the Central Election Commission. Also there, independent professional work is necessary and that work should be based on the rule of law only. I repeat nobody should be above the law and I invite for mutual respect, starting with the law, but also respecting the good work of the Police.

Thank you.