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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
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VIENNA

S T A T E M E N T

**by Ambassador Gilbert Galanxhi
on the Mandate of the OSCE Mission to Kosova
692th meeting of Permanent Council
Vienna, 13 December 2007**

Thank you Mr. Chairman!

Mr. Chairman, I am taking the floor today with regards to the Mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosova, even though this issue is not one of the items of the today's PC agenda and regretfully it still remains at the Preparatory Committee's level of discussions.

Albania is convinced that the OSCE Mission should continue to play an important role in Kosova. We therefore fully support the draft Permanent Council Decision to extend OMIK's mandate to 31st December 2008. Therefore, this delegation deeply regrets that some delegations do not agree to extend OMIK's Mandate for the year 2008. We believe that the approval of the mandate for the OSCE Mission in Kosova has any connection at all to the final status resolution. An "independent or not" Kosova still is within the OSCE area. This is the direct and straightforward reasoning of this issue. It will not be transplanted, let's say to the Australian continent, after December 19th. This is the direct and straightforward reasoning on this issue.

Let me also reiterate what was stated by our Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Madrid Ministerial, saying that Albania stands to the view that if we are to minimize the implications on security, both in Kosova and in the region and promote the underlying values of a democratic and tolerant state, then the OSCE should remain involved in Kosova. We have commended the OSCE commitment in Kosova through its Mission there, in building up the democratic institutions and capacities, mutual confidence but also lending development opportunities to all communities there. We hold that OSCE should remain involved into Kosova's development, in providing its renowned experience, at the areas of institution building and democracy, respect for human rights and establishing the rule of law.

Mr. Chariman,

Let's call a spade a spade. Kosova already has its legitimate constitutional institutions; last elections, held a few days ago, proved all expectations of the

democratic countries right. Kosova already has its own central and local government, within the frontiers designed not by Albanians, but by international community based on the administrative divisions of Marshall Tito's governance, the historic leader of former Yugoslavia.

The Albanian government has officially expressed its stance on this issue and will respect the decision of the Security Council and international community; whatever this decision might be, it does not have any inclination whether the OSCE should or should not have a Mission in Kosova during 2008.

I believe this reasoning is fair, and consequently, I am kindly asking those delegations that don't agree on extending the mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosova to reconsider their decision and to open the way to the approval of the extension of the mandate for the OSCE Mission in Kosova.

Thank you Mr. Chairman!