

**HEAD OF PRESENCE REMARKS TO THE MEDIA ON ELECTORAL
REFORM, PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATIVE COURT**

3 April 2012

Q: What is your opinion about the electoral reform, about what the parties are doing and the steps that need to be taken? Are you satisfied with what has been done so far?

Ambassador Wollfarth: Important steps have been taken, but more of the road lies ahead. The time until the end of the month is not very long. End of April is just a couple of days away. It is very important to make good use of that time and to build on that climate inside the ad hoc committee, a constructive climate, to preserve that climate and make good use of it for a good draft proposal for a new Electoral Code.

Q: What is your opinion about the administrative court [law] and the fact that no consensus has been reached yet? There is a proposal for the establishment of a civil college at the High Court, but no agreement has been reached so far. What do you think is impeding the parties to reach that consensus on such an important issue?

Ambassador Wollfarth: Before adopting such an important piece of legislation proper discussion needs to take place. I would welcome very much if consensus could be reached in the near future, because it is very important also for investments in Albania and for the economic development. Jobs are very important for the development of the society.

Q: The political parties have always amended the electoral law before elections. Do you think this is appropriate and how can it be solved?

Ambassador Wollfarth: The discussion about the Electoral Code takes place in the ad hoc committee, where the parties represented in parliament are present. And I have nothing to add, this is where it should take place. In addition, there was also a need for communication with civil society [like in last week's working group], a really very important decision, but the most important element is the discussion and the preparations inside the ad hoc committee.

Q: How efficient is the electronic counting?

Ambassador Wollfarth: That depends. It can be very efficient, but that depends on which system is selected. The most important thing is that trust is there between the human beings, between the human operators, and that cannot be replaced. The trust between humans is a key element when building democracy and also when holding elections.

Q: Do you think that there will be consensus over the election of the President or you think that there is no problem if the majority decides on its own, as allowed by the current legislation?

Ambassador Wollfarth: The current constitution indeed allows that, but it is very important to make good use of the time now to look for an appropriate candidate or a number of appropriate candidates.