

**HEAD OF PRESENCE'S REMARKS ON ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL
SITUATION WHEN DOORSTEPPED BY JOURNALISTS AFTER A PUBLIC EVENT**

5 April 2013

Q: The OSCE/ODIHR report talked about a polarization of the political situation, which could directly affect the conduct of democratic elections. Do you share the same concern?

Ambassador Wollfarth: “The ODIHR has published the report from the Needs Assessment Mission yesterday afternoon. It reflects what they have heard from interlocutors during their mission here. I would look at the most important part of the report, which is the recommendation to have a large number of observers here on the ground to facilitate the correct procedure during these elections. It will most likely then bring more than four hundred observers from ODIHR only during Election Day to Albania and this is a big support for a good election process here in Albania. Let me also add that the Central Election Commission is doing a very good work in not the easiest circumstances. This is also crucial for a good election process. So far, we are on safe grounds. I would like to add to that it is also noted with appreciation that from the government side there is support to due and correct process. This is another very important commitment, which we fully support.”

Q: Do you have any comment on the departure of Mr. Meta from the ruling coalition?

Ambassador Wollfarth: “These are legitimate decisions done by the political parties. I do not have any comment to offer at this stage.”

Q: In fact, this will affect election administration, because the opposition, together with the SMI, will administer 100% of the CEAZs and counting places. What is your comment?

Ambassador Wollfarth: “I do not share this view. The commissioners should do a neutral and correct work. They have a confidence from their parties' side. They should operate according to the duty and the laws in place. This is a duty in the service of the citizens, all Albanians.”

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