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I REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË PRANË  
ORGANIZATAVE  
NDËRKOMBËTARE  
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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 EU Statement on the parliamentary elections in Albania

As delivered by Ambassador Spiro Koçi  
at the 957<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
27 June 2012

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

And let me start by thanking the delegations of the European Union and of the United States for bringing to the attention of the OSCE Permanent Council the parliamentary elections held in Albania on 23 June 2013. The messages contained in their statements will be duly conveyed to our authorities in Tirana.

Mr. Chairperson,

Following an invitation of the Government of Albania these elections were observed by a large International Election Observation Mission consisting of representative the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. More than 350 international observers and several thousands of local ones joined efforts to assess the electoral process against the OSCE commitments and Council of Europe standards for democratic elections.

We avail ourselves of this occasion to thank the Election Observation Mission for its professional and dedicated work as well as for the release of a Joint Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions. Special thanks go also to the OSCE participating States for the attention devoted to the electoral process, as testified by the secondment of a significant number of long- and short-term observers.

As the Statement of preliminary Findings and Conclusions rightly points out these parliamentary elections were competitive with active citizen participation throughout the campaign and genuine respect for fundamental freedoms. We note with pleasure that the campaign environment was overall peaceful, allowing candidates to engage actively in a vibrant campaign centred on programmes and issues with substantial interest for the future of the country. Compared to previous elections in Albania, the ballot counting, which in the past had proved to be controversial and tense, was conducted faster and in a transparent and orderly manner. The counting has already been concluded and the final stages of the electoral process are expected to be conducted in the same transparent and orderly manner.

Let me emphasize that the shortcomings highlighted in the preliminary report, especially those pertaining to lack of trust between the main political parties and

technical irregularities, did not undermine the confidence of the public opinion in the electoral process. This was a credible and transparent process, as confirmed by the outcome of the elections, which saw the opposition block win by a clear majority, and the turnout to the polls, the highest in recent years.

After giving the centre-right coalition two consecutive mandates, the Albanian people this time voted for change. In this connection, the winning coalition lead by the Socialist Party of Albania is expected to form the new government soon after the completion of the electoral process and the opening of the new legislature in early September.

We look forward to the final report of the Election Observation Mission and to its possible recommendations, which should be aimed at further improving our electoral legislation and practice.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.