

## **Joint statement of OSCE, US and EU ambassadors in Albania (06/06/2011)**

TIRANA, 5 June 2011 - The Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania Ambassador Eugen Wollfarth, the Ambassador of the United States of America Alexander Arvizu, and the Head of the European Union Delegation Ambassador Ettore Sequi jointly stated today: "We noted the decision by the Albanian Electoral College as the highest legal body adjudicating election appeals. It is essential that all sides act after this decision in a calm, mature and restrained manner, putting the national interest ahead of any partisan self interest. It is equally important that all sides, political parties and citizens, wait until the final results of these elections are certified by the Central Election Commission as required under Albanian law. We believe that on May 8, the people of Albania voted for their choice of candidates. It is this voice that must now be heard and respected by all political parties. We will be closely following the completion of the electoral process and the publication of the final results as well as the assessment of the process by the OSCE/ODIHR elections' observation mission taking into account the concerns raised in our previous statements.

## **Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton regarding certain aspects of the municipal elections in Albania (19/05/2011)**

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement today: "Following the vote on 8 May, we have been observing the vote count and waiting for the publication of official results, before making a final assessment.

The narrow result in the mayoral elections in Tirana means that both sides need to reach out, overcome differences and find solutions. Developments today have shown the fragility of the political situation.

I urge all political leaders in Albania and in the city of Tirana to support the finalisation of the election process calmly, constructively and with a focus on the future. This must be done within the existing institutions and within existing legal framework, rules and practices.

All political leaders carry a particular responsibility not to put lives of citizens at risk."