

**REMARKS BY HEAD OF OSCE PRESENCE, AMBASSADOR VINCENZO DEL MONACO,
AT 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT**
20 October 2022

*Your Excellency President of the Republic of Albania,
Madame Speaker,
Madame Chairperson of the Constitutional Court
Colleagues, Your Excellencies
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a special honour for the OSCE and for me to be given this unique privilege of addressing you all in this extraordinary day, when the Constitutional Court celebrates its 30th Jubilee. It is each and every Albanian citizen that today is celebrating the pearl that is their Constitutional Court. And the presence here today of Your Excellencies, H.E. the President of Albania, together with the highest national institutions, testifies to the relevance and meaning of this celebration, the spirit of national unity and cohesion in support of the work of the judges of the Court.

It is indeed remarkable.

Two years ago, Albania had a Constitutional Court paralysed by the lack of quorum. Today, the Court is fully operational and works smoothly and effectively, guided by the highest knowledge of its components, dedication, with the full support of other national institutions, political leaders, all inspired by the Constitution. This is a fact which deserves to be highlighted and celebrated.

For the OSCE, the Constitutional Court plays a fundamental role. An architrave role in the Albanian democracy. For the primacy of Law, for the national “communauté de droit”, to borrow an expression that you will hear quite often in the future, while EU accession process further solidifies. A pivotal role in strengthening the trust of citizens in their institutions, mutual respect amongst institutions, delivering the closing argument to the direct effect of provisions on protection of human rights.

In a nutshell, the Constitutional Court heavily contributes to ground civic trust in the awareness of common values. Of values that are common to all; values tangible to the citizens, even before they were written. And this spirit of belonging, this huddling around the Constitution is applauded by the OSCE, because it contributes to strengthening fundamental trust in Albania, projecting stability and security both inside and outside this country.

For the OSCE this event has another underlying reason. It emanates security abroad by showing what Albania specifically does in the field of rule of law and protection of human rights. It portrays a truthful image of this country, whereby a constellation of Institutions, of independent bodies, as sheathed arrows for the same bow, altogether provide strength in the pursuit of that singular target: strengthening democracy and rule of law.

How sad that in other places of our Planet human rights are alarmingly less fashionable today than they were in the past. Places in which democracy, equality and justice remain blatantly denied values, despite being theatrically exalted. Places where fiction stands in for news, and propaganda replaces truth.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating my respect for the Constitutional Court and its judges, former and incumbent, starting from its Chair, Vitore Tushe, with whom I have had the privilege of co-operating closely and from whom I have learnt more than she may know.

Thank you.

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