



“The Presence continues to have a concrete and relevant role to play in Albania, which is acknowledged by all our local partners, stakeholders and the wider population of Albania.

Ambassador Michel Tarran
Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania

The OSCE Presence, a reliable and trusted partner of Albania

On 19 September, Ambassador Michel Tarran addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, highlighting some of the Presence’s key achievements to security and stability in the country and underscoring the need for continued collaboration. “The Presence remains a reliable and trusted partner for Albania’s institutions and society, as the country presses ahead on its remarkable progress and reform”, Albanian Ambassador to OSCE Eglantina Gjermani said in response.

Meeting with OSCE participating States’ ambassadors accredited to Albania

In a follow-up to the Presence’s Annual Report to the OSCE Permanent Council, we were honoured to receive the representatives of OSCE participating States in a meeting in Tirana, on 26 September. Ambassador Tarran and the Heads of Departments briefed them about the ongoing work of the Presence and our future plans. The meeting also served to exchange on strengthening co-ordination of international assistance to Albania.



#DemocracyWeek - a celebration of democracy

To celebrate the International Democracy Day, the Presence organized #DemocracyWeek - a series of events to promote democratic values, raise awareness about electoral processes and highlight the importance of civic engagement across Albania. During the first event, together with the Central Election Commission (CEC), we launched a youth competition for the best slogan, short video and graphic design to be used by the CEC during 2025 parliamentary elections’ campaign.



Supporting environmental governance and security in Albania

Environmental enforcement and investigation techniques were the focus of our two-day training for the State Police, on 25 and 26 September. The event brought together 17 police officers from all 12 regional police directorates across Albania. The training - which benefited from the participation of two Slovak experts - builds upon the Presence’s support to environmental governance and security in Albania and its active involvement in developing national capacities to address such challenges.



Building trust between media and police



Journalists and police spokespersons came together for an impactful workshop titled "Practical application of media skills: building trust and restoring ethics". Hosted by the OSCE Presence in Albania as part of our #DemocracyWeek2024, this event focused on strengthening collaboration and enhancing communication between media and law enforcement. Together, we explored ways to foster transparency and uphold ethical standards.

Promoting data protection in healthcare

Data protection in healthcare is essential for preserving patient confidentiality, securing sensitive medical data, and maintaining trust in the healthcare system. On 17 September, we supported the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection with an awareness-raising event for over 70 participants from the public healthcare sector institutions across Albania. The Presence fully supports a prompt approval of necessary legislation and stands ready to support Albanian institutions in its implementation.



Parliament discuss comms strategy with media



A working meeting with parliament staff and journalists to discuss the Assembly's draft communication strategy, prepared with OSCE Presence's support, took place on 20 September. The aim of the communication strategy is to create greater access and allow all citizens to learn about the work of parliament. For over a decade, the OSCE Presence has been working together with the Assembly of Albania to increase parliament's professionalism, accountability, and transparency.

Manual for Individual Constitutional Complaints

The OSCE Presence in Albania launched the Manual for Individual Constitutional Complaints through a training event with law students and young lawyers on 20 September. The manual - prepared following consultations with law students and the School of Advocates - provides practical explanations and instructions on the individual constitutional complaints mechanism. It is published under our Constitutional Court support project funded by USA, Italy and Greece.



"Choose the courage to be gun free"



Tirana high school students embraced the awareness campaign against risks and misuse of small arms and light weapons in an event organized with the Ministry of Interior and the Gender Alliance for Development center on 20 September. Joining the event was famous singer Big Basta, who wrote the campaign song. The campaign is part of our project to decrease the risk of weapon proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons funded by the European Union, Germany and France.

Ambassador Tarran meets Minister of Interior



On 26 September, Ambassador Tarran met with Minister of Interior Ervin Hoxha to discuss ongoing and new projects in the field of security, tourist safety, youth education activities to keep them away from criminal activities and aspects of electoral process, including the out-of-country vote. In a social media [post](#), Minister Hoxha praised the OSCE Presence for its continuous co-operation and assistance with electoral process training.

Fostering gender equality in elections

Recent gender quota amendments to the Electoral Code, their potential impact in 2025 parliamentary elections, and ways to further promote gender equality throughout the electoral process were at the focus of a meeting of the Gender and Women in Decision-Making Working Group on 17 September. Since 2017, this group – a gathering of international and civil society organizations – has been dedicated to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Albania.



Ambassador Tarran meets with students



On 10 September, the Head of Presence, Ambassador Michel Tarran, joined the students and lecturers of Tirana European University's Faculty of Law, Politics and International Relations in a discussion held as part of the university's forums for the academic year 2024-2025. A lively conversation and exchange focused on the importance of elections for the democratization of Albania and the role of the OSCE Presence in this regard.

Committed to combat human trafficking

Shkodra was the starting point of a series of meetings bringing together police and prosecutors to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases. The second meeting took place in Tirana on 30 September, to be followed by Elbasan, Vlora, Kukës and Durrës in October. This initiative is part of the Presence's support to Albanian stakeholders to combat human trafficking, and is organized under our extra-budgetary project funded by Norway, UK, Italy and Ireland.



Focus on judicial integrity and transparency



Judicial integrity and transparency were in focus of a regional conference on strengthening judicial responses to organized crime and corruption in the Western Balkans, organized in Budva, on 26 and 27 September, as part of the EU-funded OSCE's Western Balkans Trial Monitoring Project. The conference brought together judicial representatives and legal experts from across the region. Participating from Albania were six judicial officials, including the Head of the Prosecutorial Council.

Head of Presence meets Constitutional Court Chair



In a meeting with Ambassador Tarran, on 30 September, Constitutional Court Chair Holta Zaçaj thanked the Presence for the ongoing partnership, especially on the first-ever Guide on Constitutional Court Case Law, strategic planning, and training materials on individual constitutional complaints. Ambassador Tarran said the Presence will continue to be a proud partner and support a well-functioning Constitutional Court to uphold rule of law and human rights in the country.

Training law enforcement on financial analysis

Albanian State Police officers and investigators of the National Bureau of Investigation participated in a week-long training on financial analysis organized by the OSCE Presence. The training – facilitated by the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program of the United States Department of Justice (ICITAP) – offered a mix of theoretical knowledge, practical examples and fictitious case scenarios of financial investigations.



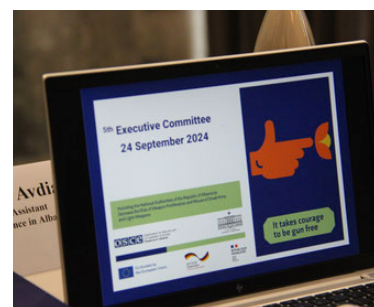
With civil society against environmental crime



The Presence-initiated Civil Society Consultative Group against Environmental Crime met on 17 September to address environmental issues, including fires and the new draft law on waste management. At the meeting, the Presence also presented an awareness and engagement campaign on environmental governance and security. We are happy to see new members joining the Group, bringing new expertise and expanding the network of co-operation.

5th executive committee meeting of SALW project

On 24 September, the Presence organized the 5th executive committee meeting of the project “Assisting the national authorities of the Republic of Albania to decrease the risk of weapon proliferation and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)”. Together with the Ministry of Interior, the Albanian State Police, other relevant partner institutions and donors we discussed the project achievements, challenges, activities, future plans and opportunities until the end of the project.



Presence hosts young journalists from Kosovo



Young journalists from both Albanian and Serb communities in Kosovo, participating in the OSCE Mission in Kosovo Media Fellowship Programme, visited the Presence, on 26 September, as part of a series of meetings in Tirana and in the region. Engaging discussion on our work supporting media development, current projects on enhancing journalists’ safety, public institutions’ media relations and media integrity and opportunities for young journalists. The programme nurtures local journalistic talent while advancing gender equality.