

Statement by Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn on the Albanian elections

Brussels, 29 June 2009

"I take note of the OSCE/ODIHR preliminary conclusions stating that tangible progress has been made in some areas. However, these improvements were overshadowed by the politicization of technical aspects of the election process as well by violence during the election campaign. The Election Day was overall calm and peaceful. There were also slight improvements concerning the voting process although some procedural violations were observed.

I agree with the OSCE/ODIHR election mission statement that the definite assessment of the elections can not be done before the vote counting and tabulation is completed. However, these elections clearly underline the need for the Albanian political leadership, across the party lines, to work hard in order to conduct elections in the future which fully meet international standards and have high public confidence of the Albanian voters."