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**UPR INTERVENTION FOR ALBANIA**  
**International Lesbian and Gay Association – European Region**

Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2010

Mr President,

We welcome Albania's support for the General Assembly joint statement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity in December 2008. In furtherance of that commitment, we commend the government for accepting the UPR recommendations to include sexual orientation and gender identity specifically in anti discrimination legislation, and we call for effective implementation of the anti-discrimination law which passed in Parliament in early February. This important equality law provides an opportunity for the Government of Albania to guarantee the respect of human rights of LGBT people and promote positive public policies related to the respect of sexual orientation and gender identity. Whilst doing this, we encourage Albania to appoint an appropriate equality commissioner and to establish the necessary governmental support for the office of the commissioner.

We further commend Albania for accepting recommendations that public education and awareness raising programmes, including on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, be implemented, and that sensitivity training on these grounds be provided to law enforcement, judicial and other authorities. This is important to ensure that government agencies, civil society, businesses, and the general public are aware of their rights and obligations under the law. In particular it is important that such awareness raising activities are included in the educational system in general, so as to counter the existing gap of information on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. We note that Albania has indicated that this recommendation is in the process of being implemented. Can the delegation indicate what steps are being taken to fulfil this commitment?

Finally, we urge the government to accept the recommendation to consider applying the *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* as a guide to assist in policy development.

Thank you Mr President.

European Region of the International Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex Association  
(ILGA-Europe)  
Björn van Roozendaal