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**EU STATEMENT AT THE REVIEW SESSION OF THE 13TH ECONOMIC FORUM,
PRAGUE, 23-27 MAY 2005**

The European Union attaches great importance to the review of commitments in the Economic and Environmental dimension and therefore appreciates the dedication of a full day to this task. In this context we welcome the good cooperation between the OSCE and the UNECE which has recently been formalized in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Sofia last December.

The European Union would like to thank the UNECE for the preparation and presentation of the very comprehensive report on "Integration, Trade and Transport". We understand that the principal purpose of this report is to review the commitments in the areas of integration (i.e. international trade and capital flows) as well as transport. Following the Bonn Conference Document (1990), the Charter for European Security (Istanbul 1999) and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Maastricht 2003), we believe that this report is a benchmark in the implementation of the Maastricht Strategy and will contribute to further strengthening of the Economic and Environmental dimension.

It is our hope that today's review session will give further guidance to the activities of the Economic and Environmental Dimension. This review of commitments of participating States could usefully complement the more specific economic monitoring and general reviews by other international organisations (i.a. IMF, EBRD, WB, UNEP) by concentrating specifically on security-related economic and environmental issues.

We are convinced that this new review format and its conclusions can raise the profile of OSCE both in the participating States and among other international organisations. Since this year is the first time that we are carrying out a formal review of one of the clusters of the Strategy, we are also confident that the outcome of today's discussions will contribute to the further improvement of the review sessions for the years to come.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania and the Candidate Countries Turkey and Croatia¹ align themselves with this statement.

¹Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process