



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1120  
Vienna, 24 November 2016**

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**EU Statement in Response to the Report by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. H. Yurdakul Yigitguden**

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The European Union warmly welcomes the coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Dr. Yigitgüden, to the Permanent Council.

Mr. Coordinator, we have listened with interest to your report. We attach particular importance to your work on good governance and the fight against corruption.

These topics were also reflected in this year's Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting which focussed on good governance with attention to both economic and environmental topics. We are convinced that progress achieved in the implementation of the commitments in these areas will help ensure that our governments are more transparent, accountable, effective and efficient and that they promote sustainable economic development that is at the same time conducive for business and attracting investments. We believe that the discussions and the exchanges among different actors during the Implementation Meeting has helped us take a further step in the right direction.

In the same vein, we welcome the focus of the Economic and Environmental Forum on strengthening stability and security through co-operation on good governance.

We appreciate your work on combatting corruption and therefore welcome the publication of the OSCE Handbook on Combatting Corruption and encourage its wide use throughout the participating states.

We also appreciate your work on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism as well as the activities on trade facilitation and transport development in line with the chairmanship's focus on connectivity. We hope that

the extensive work on good governance and connectivity throughout the year will be reflected in a decision of the Ministerial Council on these topics.

We welcome your support to the dialogue on good migration governance, including labour migration.

We commend your work in the area of environment and security. As the OSCE chairs the Environment and Security Initiative in 2016, we welcome your work on strengthening the initiative from a security perspective and to ensure synergies with the implementation of the global processes related to sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

We appreciate your work on the security implications of climate change, as well as the attention you continue to pay to water management and disaster risk reduction in support of participating States' endeavours in these areas.

We fully support your efforts to apply a good governance approach to your activities in the environmental field. We value the work done so far in the area of environmental good governance, for example through the support of Aarhus centres.

We support regional activities and consider close cooperation and coordination between the Office of the Coordinator and the OSCE field presences a priority. We attach great importance to their active involvement and feedback concerning second dimension activities and encourage the OCEEA to continue liaising with Economic and Environmental Officers. We also strongly support their participation in our discussions here in Vienna.

We believe that the work of the Office of the Coordinator could benefit from increased attention to the impact of the office's activities. We would also encourage a focus on topics where the OSCE can add value. Continuity should be sought as to avoid spreading activities too thinly.

We welcome that both economic and environmental activities of the Office of the Coordinator are conducted in close cooperation and collaboration with other relevant specialised international actors such as the OECD, the UN Economic Commission for Europe and through ENVSEC to ensure added value of OSCE activities and avoid duplication of efforts.

In conclusion, we would like to take the opportunity of our last meeting with you in this setting to thank you, Mr Coordinator, for your hard work and dedication over the past years. You and your able staff have played a central part in advancing the OSCE's work in the 2<sup>nd</sup> dimension.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.