



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1137
Vienna, 16 March 2017**

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

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

Mr. Coordinator, we have listened with interest to your report. We attach particular importance to your work on good economic and environmental governance and the fight against corruption and appreciate that these topics will remain among the priorities of your office's work.

These topics will also be reflected in the 25th Economic and Environmental Forum which we hope will be a further step in the implementation of our commitments in this area – including the Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity. This work 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 also appreciate that the gender perspective will be given attention in your activities.

We welcome your support to the dialogue on good migration governance, including labour migration and are looking forward to your periodic briefings on the ongoing negotiations on the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

We commend your work in the area of environment and security, especially through the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC). We appreciate that in chairing the

Initiative in 2016, you worked towards strengthening the initiative from a security perspective and on ensuring synergies with 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 transboundary water management and disaster risk reduction in support of participating States' endeavours in these areas. Also the focus on energy security and sustainable energy is, in our view, of vital importance. In the area of good environmental governance we particularly value your support for 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 strongly support their participation in our discussions here in Vienna. We also encourage the involvement of the private sector and of beneficiaries of OSCE activities in participating States in order to hear their direct assessment on 2nd dimension activities and to help identify best practices and possible improvements.

We would be interested in hearing more about how the impact of OSCE economic and environmental activities is assessed in order to ensure their sustainable effect in the long run. Furthermore, we believe it is important to seek continuity in OSCE activities and to avoid spreading resources too thinly. Emphasis should be on security related topics and activities with confidence building potential where the OSCE can clearly add value.

We welcome that both economic and environmental activities of your office 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 the Environment and Security Initiative (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 2nd 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 and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, 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.