



## EUROPEAN UNION

### 21<sup>st</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Meeting

**Kyiv, 16 – 17 April 2013**

### **EU Closing Statement**

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The European Union would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship and the OCEEA for organizing the 2nd PM of the 21st EEF, as well as those who contributed to our discussions over the last two days.

A key objective of the OSCE is to serve as a forum for political dialogue. The 2<sup>nd</sup> preparatory meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> EEF fulfilled this purpose and gave us an opportunity to exchange ideas, best practices and experiences on environmental-related energy issues. We have learned more about activities of several organisations and institutions as well as pS in tackling challenges in energy security, the efficient use of energy resources, the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy and strategies of green growth. It gave us also insights on areas where the OSCE cooperates with these stakeholders. We thank in particular those speakers who suggested concrete areas of possible engagement by the OSCE.

We believe that some of the ideas raised over the last 2 days should be explored in greater detail as we prepare for the MC.

We agree with those speakers who highlighted the need for regional cooperation. Environmental and energy issues are cross boundary in nature and the OSCE, as a regional security Organisation, is well placed to play an important role in facilitating and enhancing dialogue and cooperation. It was underlined by several panellists that joint efforts by partners and neighbours often complement national strategies for green growth and thus contribute to confidence building. Sustainability in the energy sector contributes to comprehensive security and enhances stability in the OSCE region.

We welcome proposals highlighting that cooperation and coordination with other international and regional organizations remain essential to ensure that the OSCE can add real value, without spreading its efforts too thinly. We heard, for example, that the OSCE can help raise awareness and build political will for implementation of the norms and standards set by more specialized technical organizations such as UNECE. In this regard, the OSCE's field operations were mentioned as particularly important assets. The ENVSEC Initiative was mentioned as a positive example of such cooperation by a number of organisations that allows a comprehensive and coordinated approach. We believe that this type of cooperation should be enhanced.

Several speakers underlined the important role of public-private partnerships in improving the environmental footprint of energy related activities. The need for private initiative and investment was highlighted as well as the important role of governments to create favourable conditions towards sustainable energy development. We agree that the OSCE can provide a valuable platform that allows such partnerships to develop, including through the work of OSCE field operations.

Building on the recommendations made at the First Preparatory Meeting and over the last two days, we support proposals aimed at promoting transparency and good governance in the energy and environment field. These efforts contribute to sustainable economic growth. Activities aimed at improving transparency, accountability and integrity in the energy sector including through capacity building to promote these standards should be further promoted. We can rely on existing OSCE expertise in the area of good governance and transparency as well as taking advantage of the strengthened mandate set out in the Good Governance Declaration last year. The importance of increasing transparency and accountability in specific sectors including extractive industries is a key element of this document which includes a specific reference to the EITI. We believe that OSCE pS should explore further the possibility of endorsing EITI principles and their promotion in the OSCE area.

We underline too our view that the Aarhus Convention is an important international commitment, and we welcome the OSCE's efforts to support it. Such multi-stakeholder initiatives based on dialogue between civil society, the private sector and governments contribute to awareness raising, capacity building and facilitating political dialogue and thus, importantly help build confidence. We hope that these

issues will be further elaborated at our meeting in Prague and we stand ready to play a constructive and forward-looking part in these discussions.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.