



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Special Expert Meeting on “Assessing OSCE’s future contribution to international energy security co-operation” Vilnius, 13-14 September 2010

EU Opening Statement

FINAL Version

1. The European Union would like to thank the Lithuanian authorities for hosting this event and for their warm welcome here in Vilnius. We would also like to thank all of those who have contributed to the good preparation of this Conference.
2. The European Union welcomes this event as one of the steps towards the implementation of the MC Decision 06/09 on “Strengthening Dialogue and Cooperation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area” adopted in Athens last December. The outcomes and the recommendations of this event should indeed contribute, together with the consultations with participating States and relevant international and regional organizations and agencies, to the ongoing elaboration of the SG report concerning the complementary role of the OSCE in the field of energy security.
3. The European Union is ready to take an active and positive approach in each of the sessions of this Special Expert Event. We will constructively contribute in assessing the scope of the OSCE’s future involvement in the field of international energy security co-operation, as a platform for dialogue aimed at promoting security and stability, at enhancing transparency and good public and corporate governance, as well as at strengthening co-operation

among the participating States, including at regional and subregional level, also through the involvement of the field operations.

4. Energy security falls within the mandate of the OSCE. The question that needs to be examined is what role the OSCE could play in the field of energy security. The EU continues to support the existing bilateral and multilateral energy co-operation fora. We believe that any role of the OSCE should not duplicate what is already carried out by other actors and should strongly focus on matters where the Organization can bring a real added value, particularly to issues that threaten peace and security within or of the OSCE region.
5. The EU stands ready to share its own experience in enhancing internal preparedness for energy supply disruptions through internal and external measures.
6. The EU has set out ambitious targets in terms of promoting energy savings, the use of renewable energy and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The EU calls on participating States to support dialogue and cooperation in order to promote the use of renewable energy sources and innovative energy technologies.
7. The EU, therefore, sees this event as a contribution to identifying areas in which OSCE executive structures could add value in promoting, establishing and maintaining security and stability in the OSCE area, bearing in mind the efforts of other international and regional actors and the complementary role of the OSCE in the field of energy security.
8. The EU looks forward to an intensive and fruitful debate in the upcoming days.