

PRELIMINARY TURKISH VIEWS ON THE “INTRODUCTORY NOTE” (EF.GAL/2/07)
FOR THE FIFTEENTH OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

We thank the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for its “Introductory Note” (EF.GAL/2/07) prepared as a contribution to the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum – Part 1.

We equally thank the Co-ordinator’s Office for the “Consolidated Summary of the First Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 16-17 November 2006” (SEC.GAL/221/06) and take particular note of the section on “Suggestions” compiled by the Co-ordinator’s Office from the recommendations made by the participants in that conference.

We have also listened with attention to the presentation by the Co-ordinator Mr. Bernard Snoy, to the 70th meeting of the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee of 15 December 2006, during which he summarized the resulting recommendations from the above-mentioned First Preparatory Conference (SEC.GAL/4/07).

We are fully cognizant of the fact that the ideas, proposals, recommendations and suggestions as contained in the above documents are of a preliminary nature and are meant to stimulate the discussions. We look forward to receiving the OCEEA’s “comprehensive plan of action” at a later stage as promised in the “Introductory Note”.

In light of the above documents, we would like to bring the following considerations to the attention of the Co-ordinator’s Office, as well as of the Participating States:

- As exemplified in the Introductory Note, “the environmental challenges that provide the theme of the EEF are already addressed by a number of international institutions” with the requisite expertise and institutional memory. We must not assume that the necessary political dialogue is not ongoing in those institutions between concerned States. Consultations with other relevant organizations and institutions where such problems are being addressed is necessary in order to define those areas where the OSCE can provide value added.
- The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) has often been defined as the “Flagship of OSCE activities in Central Asia”. We welcome the input of ENVSEC to enhancing environmental security in Central Asia and the implementation of projects through ENVSEC which have a positive impact on the well being and security of people. However, it is important to remember that ENVSEC is neither an institution nor a structure of the OSCE under the political guidance of its Participating States. Its utility and success as a coordinating framework for project implementation can only be measured by its ability in effectively addressing the concerns and needs of participating States upon their express request. The OSCE is not mandated to carry out activities through ENVSEC.
- The suggestion of developing an “OSCE Environmental Security Strategy” further elaborating and concretizing the Maastricht Strategy Document is one which first

necessitates a thorough discussion in the relevant bodies of the OSCE. This issue has not been subject to any discussion to date. Questions regarding the necessity for such a strategy within the framework of the OSCE, its value added in complementing other existing international instruments, its intended aims and its possible content will need to be subject to in depth debate before any draft document for negotiation purposes can be tabled. We recommend that the Co-ordinator's Office produce a "Food for Thought" paper as soon as possible to explain the grounds for the utility and desirability of such an initiative.

- Consideration of the role of the Aarhus Convention within the framework of environmental activities carried out under the aegis of the OSCE, or as a basis for future OSCE instruments in the environmental domain must take into account that not all Participating States are parties to the said Convention.
- Involving local communities and strengthening local capacities to address environmental governance issues must be done in close consultation and co-operation with the Participating States concerned and upon their express request. Furthermore, in the absence of an internationally accepted definition for "environmental governance", the OSCE's role in promoting such concepts will have to be carefully elaborated.
- The OSCE's role in providing advice and capacity building to the extractive industries sector does not seem realistic in the absence of any such OSCE expertise. Nor does the OSCE have expertise in the areas of sustainable agriculture.
- The correlation between environmental degradation and environmentally induced migration, particularly in numbers likely to lead to social tensions and conflict in the OSCE area need to be substantiated through targeted research.
- The resource implications of promoting targeted environmental protection/rehabilitation projects for at-risk populations must be duly considered before the OSCE engages itself to carrying out such activities.
- Addressing military and industrial legacies is an area where the OSCE has gained expertise, in particular through the "melange project". The OSCE should continue to do what it does best. We see further scope for the OSCE's involvement in this area.
- We note that the issue of the "international illegal transport of hazardous waste and strengthening the capacities of border control agencies" has been omitted in the "Introductory Note", despite the fact that it figures prominently in the "Consolidated Summary". This is an issue which involves countries both to the East as well as West of Vienna and should be a key item on our agenda.