



ENGLISH only

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretary General

Vienna, 10 December 2004

To: All Heads of Delegation
Subject: Memorandum of Understanding with UN ECE

Attached I circulate a Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE), which was signed by the UN ECE Executive Secretary, Ms. B. Schmögnerova, and myself on the margins of the 12th OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia, December 2004.



Memorandum of Understanding

between the Secretariat of the

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

and the Secretariat of the

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),

Noting common areas of interest and recalling past successful co-operation, including in the review of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension of security and in the framework of the Tripartite and Target Oriented meetings of the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe,

Recalling the provisions of the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the 11th OSCE Ministerial Council in Maastricht in December 2003, which inter alia requested the Secretary General of the OSCE to conclude an arrangement with the UNECE to provide a basis for future monitoring and review of the economic and environmental situation in the OSCE area, as well as the relevant decisions of the 2004 Annual Session of the UNECE,

Recognising the role of the OSCE as a regional security organisation under chapter VIII of the UN Charter and the substantial role of OSCE's economic and environmental dimension in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Recognising the leading role of the UN Regional Commissions within the United Nations, in their areas of competence, in interactions with regional organizations,

Mindful of the particularities of their respective mandates,

Wishing to achieve maximum synergy and complementarity in the pursuit of their objectives,

Desirous to promote a spirit of practical, pragmatic and result-oriented close co-operation,

Have reached understanding on the following:

1. *Hold periodic meetings between the Secretary General of OSCE and the Executive Secretary of UNECE.*
2. *Hold other consultations on matters of common interest as appropriate.*
3. *Establish a joint working group on mutual co-operation and to designate focal points for maintaining regular contacts as appropriate.*
4. *Seek to ensure reciprocal participation in meetings and conferences on subjects of mutual relevance, in accordance with their respective rules, in particular, including the provision of speakers, moderators and experts.*
5. *Continue to provide mutual access to documents, statistical data and reports relevant for their co-operation and the activities of the other party.*
6. *Regularly inform the OSCE participating States and the UNECE member States about the ongoing co-operation through their plenary sessions and other fora.*
7. *Concerning the review of OSCE commitments: the UNECE will continue to play a supportive role in the review of implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension.*
8. *The commitments will be reviewed at the annual OSCE Economic Forum in accordance with the following clusters:*
 - *Environment, energy, sustainable development,*
 - *Integration, trade and transport,*
 - *Investment climate,*
 - *Poverty, social exclusion and education,*
 - *Public and corporate governance.*
9. *The UNECE will take the lead in preparing the review of the cluster on “Environment, energy, sustainable development”, “Integration, trade and transport” and the cluster on “Investment climate”. The UNECE will contribute to the review of the clusters on “Poverty, social exclusion and education” and “Public and corporate governance” as well as to the comprehensive review commensurate to its expertise and resource availability.*
10. *The review session should focus yearly on one or two specific clusters or should entail a comprehensive review of all clusters. The OSCE and UNECE intend to work together to improve the review sessions and their follow-up.*
11. *The OSCE and UNECE should accomplish the work on the review on the basis of their respective existing resources.*
12. *The OSCE will notify the UNECE of its decision on the subject of the forthcoming review session with maximal possible notice in order to provide the UNECE with sufficient time to ensure the satisfactory preparation of its contribution.*

13. *As foreseen by the Strategy Document (paragraph 3.2.4), the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities intends to continue the co-operation with the UNECE and other partner organizations on developing early-warning mechanisms and indicators for the assessment of the implementation of commitments subject to further decisions of the OSCE Permanent Council.*
14. *The UNECE is expected to be invited to the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee, which plans to follow up the review of implementation of commitments at the Economic Forum as well as to the discussions of other topics relevant for OSCE - UNECE co-operation. UNECE may also take the initiative to propose to deliver other reports for consideration to the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee.*
15. *Both Secretariats intend to further strengthen their co-ordination and co-operation in undertaking joint projects in member States including joint fund-raising for projects they plan to implement together.*
16. *This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) takes effect upon its signature by both Parties. The present MoU does not entail any financial commitments for either Party. It may be modified by mutual agreement expressed in writing. Either Party may terminate this MoU at any time by giving a two-month written notice to the other Party.*

Ján Kubiš
Secretary General
Organisation for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

Brigita Schmögnerová
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe

Sofia, December 2004