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*PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE OSCE*

OSCE Special Expert Meeting
on Assessing the OSCE' Future Contribution
to International Energy Security Co-operation
Vilnius, 13-14.9.2010

STATEMENT

Your Excellency, Mr Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the former OSCE Greek Chairmanship 2009, I wish to express our appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Kazakh Chairmanship and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to hold this Special Expert Meeting in line with the requirements of the Athens Ministerial Decision 6/09 on "Strengthening Dialogue and Co-operation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area".

In Athens, we, the OSCE participating States, unanimously decided to build on previous efforts and to set a benchmark on the road towards enhancing our dialogue and cooperation in the energy field. The cooperative advantages of the OSCE as a significant platform for broad political dialogue, involving producing, transit and consuming countries, but also the private sector and the academic community, has without doubt been reconfirmed here in Vilnius.

In this respect and without any illusions of the strengths and weaknesses of our Organization, allow me to underline the importance of Energy Security as an integral part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security and recall the main focus of the Greek Chairmanship last year. Our dialogue in the field of energy can be better understood as an integral part of our broader dialogue on Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security within the "Corfu Process" that aims at reconfirming our commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and rebuilding trust and confidence, thus reinvigorating our common vision for a comprehensive Security Community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. There should be no doubt for the benefits of such a process of dialogue and cooperation for all stakeholders in the energy field.

In this spirit, this Special Expert Meeting should be perceived only as a first step towards addressing specific security challenges in the energy field and promoting awareness of common principles and objectives on strengthening global energy security, including at regional and subregional level. Following the useful and constructive debate we have had the last two days, here in Vilnius, we are convinced that its continuation and enhancement shall not only aim at enriching our understanding of the Energy Security challenges laying ahead for all of us, but also being even more consolidated and result-oriented. In this respect and in our capacity as Members of the OSCE Troika, we would suggest to continue our relevant efforts, focusing on concrete, thematic issues of possible OSCE contribution in the energy field, in order to achieve the goals set up by the Athens Ministerial Decision.

It goes without saying that we are looking with eagerness to the OSCE Secretary General's relevant report, based on the outcomes and recommendations of today's event, as well as on his consultations with participating States and relevant international and regional organizations. Greece remains committed in supporting our common endeavors and contributing in advancing OSCE objectives in the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

In conclusion, allow me to congratulate the incoming OSCE Lithuanian Chairmanship for the excellent organization of this Special Expert Meeting, wishing you strength and success in all your future undertakings.

Thank you.