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**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 943  
Vienna, 7 March 2013**

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**EU statement in response to the report by the Coordinator  
of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Dr. Halil  
Yurdakul Yigitgüden**

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The European Union warmly welcomes the Coordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his report. We would like to use this opportunity to congratulate Mr Yigitgüden on assuming his new function.

We have studied carefully the work plan of the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities presented at the last Committee meeting and are broadly supportive of it.

Good governance is a priority for the European Union in the OSCE. We therefore welcome the emphasis the work plan puts on efforts aimed at strengthening good governance, transparency and the fight against corruption. The EU fully supported the approach taken by the OCEEA in recent years to make good governance an overarching theme in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. We hope this approach will continue.

We believe the OSCE can and should do more to promote good governance. The work OCEEA is undertaking in support of efforts to fight corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing are economic security activities where the added value and relevance to the work of our Organisation is particularly clear. In our view, the Declaration on Good Governance, agreed at the Dublin Ministerial Council, demonstrates the strong support amongst the participating States for the work already undertaken by your Office in this area. We also believe it provides our Organisation with a mandate for further activity. We must seize the momentum generated by this decision and we look to you and your Office for leadership in this regard.

The EU also attaches high importance to involving civil society, the private sector and the media in OSCE activities, not only on good governance, but across the work of the Economic and Environmental Dimension. We welcome the continued efforts that the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities is making to engage these stakeholders.

We appreciate that cooperation with partner organizations is amongst the priorities of your Office. In this regard we welcome OCEEA's intention to initiate cooperation with the Open Government Partnership.

The EU also attaches particular importance to strengthening coordination and cooperation of the OCEEA with other OSCE executive structures, including the field presences, institutions and the Secretariat. Many of the issues addressed in the second dimension are cross-cutting and we firmly believe our efforts are enhanced when we take a cross-dimensional approach to addressing them.

We underline the potential of the Second Dimension as a confidence building measure. We believe this is an underdeveloped resource. By building closer cooperation and dialogue among participating States on economic and environmental issues, the OSCE can promote mutual trust and build confidence. This can be enhanced through analytical work by the Office of the Coordinator in close cooperation with other executive structures of the OSCE.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Mr Yigitgüden and his team for their dedicated work and wish them all the best in their future activities.

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 countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, 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.