



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic  
and Environmental Activities**

**Vienna, 12 June 2007**

To: All OSCE Delegations  
Partners for Co-operation  
Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Subject: Consolidated Summary of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Economic and  
Environmental Forum, Part 2, Prague, 21-23 May 2007.

Please find attached the Consolidated Summary of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum, Part 2, which was held in Prague, 21-23 May 2007.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Economic and Environmental Forum**

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**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM:  
PART II**

**Prague, 21 - 23 May 2007**

**CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Theme, Format and Organizational Modalities for the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum (Decision No. 735).....2

Annotated Agenda of the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum: Part II.....5

## **OPENING PLENARY SESSION**

Welcoming remarks by **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé**, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain.....14

Welcoming remarks by OSCE Secretary General **Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut**.....19

Introductory remarks by **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.....22

## **CLOSING SESSION**

Closing Remarks by **Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorriñ**, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, OSCE Chairmanship..... 24

Closing Remarks by **Ambassador at Large for Climate Change, Cristina Barrios y Almazor**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, OSCE Chairmanship..... 28

## **RAPORTEURS' REPORTS**

**Introductory Plenary Session**..... 30

**Review Session**      Review of the implementation of OSCE commitments..... 32

**Plenary Session I**      Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in the OSCE area...36

**Plenary Session II**      Water – transboundary co-operation ..... 38

**Plenary Session III**      Good governance in managing natural resources.....40

**Plenary Session IV**      Challenges to the management of water resources and to countering desertification in the Mediterranean region..... 41

**Plenary Session V:**      Land degradation and soil contamination.....43

**Closing Debate**      The role of the OSCE in follow-up to the 15<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum .....45

**Special Event:**      Launching of ENVSEC Assessment Report for Eastern Europe .....47

**Special Event:**      Review of environmental challenges in the Caspian Basin and possible follow-up.....49

**Special Event:**      New international political and financing perspectives: transboundary water management as a regional public good and benefit sharing beyond the river. ....51

**Special Event:**      Review of environmental issues in Central Asia and possible follow-up.... 53

**ANNEX 1:**      Log of Contributions .....55

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**618th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 618, Agenda item 5

**DECISION NO. 735**  
**THEME, FORMAT AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES FOR**  
**THE FIFTEENTH ECONOMIC FORUM**

22 and 23 January 2007 and 21 to 23 May 2007

The Permanent Council,

Pursuant to paragraphs 21 to 32 of Chapter VII of the Helsinki Document 1992, paragraph 20 of Chapter IX of the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension of 2 December 2003 and Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04 of 7 December 2004,

Recalling, among others, previously agreed commitments to make the Economic Forum more dynamic through a change in format and to increase its effectiveness by an improved preparatory process and an effective procedure for ensuring follow-up of its deliberations, while remaining within the existing budgetary practice,

Taking into account the closing statement by the Chairperson of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Economic Forum,

Decides that,

1. The theme of the Fifteenth Economic Forum will be “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management”.
2. The Fifteenth Economic Forum will be held over a period of five days, broken down as follows and without setting a precedent for future Economic Fora:
  - 2.1 On 22 and 23 January 2007 in Vienna;
  - 2.2 From 21 to 23 May 2007 in Prague.

Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic Forum will review the implementation of commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. The review, to be integrated in the Prague segment of the Economic Forum, will address these OSCE-(2 - PC.DEC/735 6 July 2006) commitments and, in particular, environmental commitments with a focus on international conventions, national legislation and international co-operation experiences.

3. Discussions of the Forum should benefit from input provided by other OSCE bodies and relevant meetings, including two conferences outside of Vienna, and deliberations in various international organizations.

4. Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic Forum will discuss ongoing and future activities for the economic and environmental dimension, in particular the work in implementing the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

5. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level, by senior officials responsible for shaping international economic and environmental policy in the OSCE area. Participation of representatives from the business and scientific communities as well as other relevant actors of civil society in their delegations would be welcome.

6. As in previous years, the format of the Economic Forum should provide for the active involvement of relevant international organizations and encourage open discussions.

The following international organizations, international organs, regional groupings and conferences of States are invited to participate in the Fifteenth Economic Forum: Adriatic and Ionic Initiative; Asian Development Bank; Barents Euro-Arctic Council; Black Sea Economic Co-operation; Central European Initiative; Collective Security Treaty Organization; Commonwealth of Independent States; Council of the Baltic Sea States; Council of Europe; Danube Commission; Economic Co-operation Organization; Energy Charter Secretariat; Eurasian Economic Community; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Environment Agency; European Investment Bank; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Atomic Energy Agency; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Labour Organization; International Monetary Fund; International Organization for Migration; Interstate Council of the Central Asian Economic Union (CAEU); North Atlantic Treaty Organisation; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM (GUAM); Organization of the Islamic Conference; Secretariat of the Basel Convention; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity(CBD); Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Shanghai Co-operation Organization; Southeast European Co-operative Initiative; South-East European Co-operation Process; Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); United Nations University (UNU); United Nations Population Fund (UNPF); United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (UN SPECA); World Bank Group; World Customs Organization (WCO); World Health Organization (WHO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); World Tourism Organization (WTO); World Trade Organization(WTO) and other relevant organizations.

7. The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) and the Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand) are invited to participate in the Fifteenth Economic Forum.

8. Upon request by a delegation of an OSCE participating State, regional groupings or expert academics and business representatives may also be invited, as appropriate, to participate in the Fifteenth Economic Forum.

9. Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate in the Fifteenth Economic Forum.

10. In line with the practices established over the past years with regard to meetings of the Economic Forum and their preparatory process, the Chairperson of both meetings of the Economic Forum will present summary conclusions and policy recommendations drawn from the discussions. The Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council will further include the conclusions of the Chairperson and the reports of the Rapporteurs in its discussions so that the Permanent Council can take the decisions required for appropriate policy translation and follow-up activities.



## THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

PART II / PRAGUE, 21 - 23 MAY 2007

### KEY CHALLENGES TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE OSCE AREA: LAND DEGRADATION, SOIL CONTAMINATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT

#### ANNOTATED AGENDA

##### Monday, 21 May 2007

14.30 – 15.00            **Opening Session** (open to the press)

- Welcoming remarks by **H. E. Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, host country
- Introductory remarks by **Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut**, OSCE Secretary General and **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Opening address by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain

15.00 – 17.00            **Introductory Plenary Session** (Keynote speeches open to the press)

**Moderator:** **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé**, OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain

**Rapporteur:** **Mr. Philip Reuchlin**, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

Keynote addresses by:

- **H. E. Ms. Cristina Narbona Ruiz**, Minister of Environment of Spain
- **H. E. Mr. Janez Podobnik**, Minister of Environment of Slovenia
- **H.E. Mr. Masaid Hamidov**, Minister of Water Resources and Land Reclamation of the Republic of Tajikistan
- **Mr. Kaj Barlund**, Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, former Minister of Environment of Finland, speaking on behalf of Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of the UNECE

Discussion

17.00 – 17.30            Coffee break

17.30 – 19.00

*Special Event - Launching of ENVSEC Assessment Report for Eastern Europe (see Annex I)*

19:00           **Reception hosted by the Spanish Chairmanship**  
(Venue: Gardens of the Czernin Palace)

Award of the photo competition

**Tuesday, 22 May 2007**

09.00 – 10.30           **Review Session: Review of the implementation of OSCE commitments**

**Moderator:** **Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado y de la Válgoma**, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE, OSCE Chairmanship

**Rapporteur:** **Mr. Raul Daussa**, Assistant Programme Officer, OCEEA/OSCE

**Speaker:**

- **Mr. Kaj Barlund**, Director, Environment and Human Settlements Division, UNECE: *Presentation of the UNECE Report on the implementation of OSCE commitments in the environmental sector*
  
- Discussion

10.30 – 11.00           Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30           **Plenary Session I: Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in the OSCE area**

**Moderator:** **Mr. Jaime Alejandro**, General Director of Environmental Quality and Evaluation, Ministry of Environment, Spain

**Rapporteur:** **Mr. Andrew Price**, United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE

**Speakers:**

- **Dr. Jacqueline McGlade**, Executive Director, European Environment Agency (EEA)
- **Mr. Justin Mundy**, Senior Adviser to the UK Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change
- **Mr. Tom Spencer**, Vice Chairman, the Institute for Environmental Security, The Hague, former President of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights and Defence Policy
- **Dr. Corrado Clini**, Director General, Department for Environmental Research and Development, Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, Italy

Discussion

Selected topics: Discussion on various concepts of environmental security, including climate security; environmental management in the OSCE area; possible discussion of components of the potential OSCE Environmental Security Strategy.



**12.30 – 13.30**      ***Special Event – Review of environmental challenges in the Caspian Basin and possible follow-up (see Annex 2)***

**13.30 – 14.30**      ***Special Event - New international political and financing perspectives: Transboundary water management as a regional public good and Benefit Sharing beyond the river (see Annex 3)***

12.30 – 14.30      Lunch break

14.30 – 15.30      **Plenary Session II: Water – transboundary co-operation**

**Moderator:** **Mr. Miguel Antolin**, Head of International Affairs, Directorate General for Water, Ministry of Environment, Spain

**Rapporteur:** **Ms. Jeannette Kloetzer**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Yerevan

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Jean-Paul Rivaud**, Head of International and European Unit, Water Directorate, Ecology and Sustainable Development Department, France
- **Mr. Victor A. Dukhovny**, Professor, Director, Scientific Information Center of the Central Asian Interstate Co-ordination Water Commission (SIC ICWC)
- **Mr. José Rocha Afonso**, Vice-President of the Portuguese Water Institute
- Discussion

Selected topics: lessons from existing co-operation mechanisms; possible new initiatives for enhanced co-operation in Central Asia;

15.30 – 16.30      **Plenary Session III: Good governance in managing natural resources**

**Moderator:** **Ambassador Arsim Zekoli**, Permanent Representative of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE, Chairman of the Economic and Environmental Committee of the Permanent Council

**Rapporteur:** **Mr. Philip Reuchlin**, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Jan Heino**, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO
- **Mr. Jürg Gerber**, Vice-President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- Discussion

Selected topics: possible drafting of handbook on good practices in water/forest/land management; design of capacity building technical assistance projects.

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 – 18.00 **Plenary Session IV: Challenges to the management of water resources and to countering desertification in the Mediterranean region**

**Moderator: Ambassador Antti Turunen**, Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE, Chairman of the Mediterranean Contact Group

**Rapporteur: Mr. Curtis Peters**, Delegation of Canada to the OSCE

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. José Luis Herranz Saez**, General Director for Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Spain
- **Mr. Shimon Tal**, founder and CEO of "Tal Content – Consulting & Enterprise Ltd", former Water Commissioner of Israel
- **Ms. Rania Abdel Khaleq**, Director, Water Demand Management Unit, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan
- **Dr. Abdelkader Touzi**, Director, Research on Renewable Energy Unit, Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research, Algeria
- Discussion

18.00 – 19.00	<b><i>Special Event – Review of environmental issues in Central Asia and possible follow-up (see Annex 4)</i></b>
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19.30 **Reception hosted by the CoEEA on the Boat Vyšehrad**,  
Landing place: Rašínovo quay (between Palackeho and Jirashkiw  
bridges)  
19:10: Departure of busses in front of the Czernin Palace

**Wednesday, 23 May 2007**

09.00 – 10.00 **Plenary Session V: Land degradation and soil contamination**

**Moderator: Dr. Deniz Yüksel-Beten**, Head of Threats and Challenges Section,  
Public Diplomacy Division, NATO.

**Rapporteur: Ms. Anne Suotula**, Senior Economic and Environmental Officer,  
Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator Office in Uzbekistan.

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Grégoire de Kalbermatten**, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- **Mr. Robert Raschman**, Managing Director, Dekonta Company, Czech Republic.
- Discussion

Selected topics: Short overviews of results of existing land and soil related projects (e.g. melange, CACILM etc); discuss prospects for a regional workshop and centre for monitoring desertification in Central Asia (also involving Afghanistan, Mongolia) and other follow-up activities.

10.00 – 10.30 Coffee break

10.30 – 12.30 **Closing Debate – The role of the OSCE in follow-up to the 15<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum**

**Moderator:** Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Araceli Jiménez-Segura, Liaison Officer, OCEEA/OSCE.

- Presentation on the role of the OSCE in follow-up to the 15<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum
- Discussion

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.00 **Closing Session** (open to the press)

- **Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorin**, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, OSCE Chairmanship.
- **Ambassador at Large for Climate Change, Cristina Barrios y Almazor**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, OSCE Chairmanship.
- **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

# Launch of the Environment and Security Assessment Report for Eastern Europe

**21 May 2007, 17:30**

Plenary Hall, Czernin Palace, Loretánské nám. 5, Prague

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

17:30 - 17:40	<b>Highlights and key findings</b>	Mr. Ben Slay, Director of UNDP's Regional Centre in Bratislava, Chairman of the ENVSEC Initiative (moderator)
17:40 - 17:50	<b>Countries' perspectives and priorities</b>	Mr. Aleksandr Savastienko, Head of Department, BelNitz Ecology Research Center, Belarus
17:50 - 18:00		Mr. Constantin Mihailescu, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic of Moldova
18:00 - 18:10		Mr. Mykola Babych, Deputy Head of State Water Management Committee, Ukraine
18:10 - 18:30	<b>Water for life: broader participation and transparency in the Dniester basin cooperation</b>	Representatives of state water authorities of Moldova and Ukraine. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Environmental Adviser, UNECE
18:30 - 19:00	<b>What has the coming day in store? Round-table on plans, ideas and support for the future</b>	All participants. Mr. Nickolai Denisov, ENVSEC Regional Desk for Eastern Europe, UNEP (moderator)

Rapporteur: Mr. Raul Daussa, Programme Officer, OCEEA/OSCE

## Special Event – Review of Environmental Challenges of the Caspian Basin and possible follow-up

**22 May 2007, 12:30**

Plenary Hall, Czernin Palace, Loretánské nám. 5, Prague

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Moderator: Ms. Elizabeth Smith, Senior Environmental Advisor, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Rapporteur: Mr. David Swalley, Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer, OCEEA/OSCE

12:30 - 13:00	<b>Countries' perspectives and priorities</b>	Mr. Ramiz Rzayev, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan
		Mr. Alzhan Braliev, Vice Minister of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan
		Mr. Dmitri O. Kolosov, Head of Legal Assistance Department, Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation
		Mr. Mukhammet Nepesov, Head, Laboratory for the Monitoring of Desertification, Ministry of Nature Protection, Turkmenistan
13:00 – 13:10	<b>Presentation of ENVSEC East Caspian Assessment</b>	Mr. Nickolai Denisov, ENVSEC Regional Desk for Eastern Europe, UNEP
13:10 - 13:30	<b>Discussion on plans, ideas and support for the future</b>	

“New international political and financing perspectives:  
Transboundary water management as a regional public  
good and Benefit Sharing beyond the river”

**22 May, 2007, 13.30**

Gallery Hall, Czernin Palace, Loretánské nám. 5, Prague

**LUNCH SANDWICHES AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

Conveners: Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Expert Group on Development Issues (EGDI), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Swedish Water House (SWH)

**Chair:** Mrs. Anne Due, Deputy Head of Delegation, Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Petra Polgar, Environmental Assistant, OCEEA/OSCE

- 13.30 Introduction by Mrs Anne Due, Deputy Head of Delegation, The Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE
- 13.40 Presentation by Dr. Anders Jägerskog, SIWI, on “Transboundary Water Management as a global public good – financing transboundary water co-operation”
- 13.55 Presentation by Dr. Marwa Daoudy, Institut des Hautes Etudes Internationales, Switzerland and CERI (Centre for International Studies and Research, Science Po, CNRS, Paris, on “Benefit Sharing in Transboundary river basins – what’s feasible and what’s not?”
- 14.10 Commentator: Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- 14.20 Questions from the floor, summing up of Chair

## Special Event – Review of Environmental Issues in Central Asia and possible follow-up

**22 May 2007, 18:00**

Plenary Hall, Czernin Palace, Loretánské nám. 5, Prague

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**Moderator: Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Rapporteur: Ms. Saba Nordstrom**, Environmental Adviser, OCEEA/OSCE

18.00 – 18.10	<b>Introduction</b>	Mr. Mikhail Outkine, Programme Officer for Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, UNCCD
		Mr. Usman K. Buranov, Leader, Agency of International Fund to Save the Aral Sea for the implementation of the Aral Sea Basin and GEF
18:10 - 18:40	<b>Countries' perspectives and priorities</b>	Mr. Masaid Hamidov, Minister of Water Resources and Land Reclamation of Tajikistan
		Mr. Alzhan Braliev, Vice Minister of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan
		Mr. Baratali Koshmatov, General Director, Department of Water Resources of the Kyrgyz Republic
		Mr. Bektemir Ibragimov, Deputy Head of National Water Inspection, Ministry for Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan
		Mr Akmammot Ovezov, Head, Department of Exploitation, Ministry of Water Resources of Turkmenistan
18:40 - 19:00	<b>Discussion on plans, ideas and support for the future</b>	

22 May 2007

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
CO-OPERATION OF SPAIN AND CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE OF THE OSCE AT  
THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 21 May 2007

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to welcome you to the second part of the 15th Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. First I wish to thank the Government and people of the Czech Republic, and especially my colleague Karel Schwarzenberg, for their generous hospitality; and I should like also to thank the Secretary General of the OSCE, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, and the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities, Bernard Snoy, and all his team for their magnificent work in organizing this Forum.

After the Preparatory Conference in Zaragoza, where we held discussions and were able to witness the preparations for the International Exposition on Water and Sustainable Development, "Zaragoza 2008", it is a pleasure to meet again in Prague.

For the first time in the history of the Organization, a plenary session is being devoted to the discussion of the environmental challenges in the Mediterranean region, a question which is attracting the attention of the political leaders of the OSCE participating States as well as of the Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, the business sector and non-governmental organizations. I wish to take this opportunity to pay my compliments to the heads of OSCE field missions and the officials responsible for economic and environmental questions and congratulate them on their valuable and fruitful work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Globalization, interdependence and the emergence of new threats to security in the OSCE area are blurring the lines separating our Organization's three dimensions. Today we regard them not as independent but as interrelated fields.

One of the key objectives of the Spanish Chairmanship is to achieve an improved balance and co-ordination between these dimensions. That will require of us a comprehensive approach targeting security, sustainable economic development and the promotion of international legality, human rights and democratic values.

We are convinced of the need to promote measures that will ensure peace, stability and co-operation, necessary conditions for maintaining levels of growth and well-being. These efforts must be accompanied by effective measures to protect natural resources and



the environment. The results of the United Nations panels of experts and scientists on climate change have sent out disturbing signals, referring us also to the question of human security.

The active defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms helps to guarantee democratic development, stability and security. This is pointed out in the Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century adopted at Maastricht in the year 2003.

The Spanish Chairmanship is placing the emphasis during this Economic and Environmental Forum on environmental protection and sustainable development, because they are closely linked to the quest for stability, security and prosperity. We share the common objectives of achieving sustainable development levels that will raise the quality of life through an efficient use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. In line with this, four main areas have been identified as priorities:

- Environmental security;
- Environmental governance;
- Social effects of environmental problems;
- Sustainable economic and environmental development.

The cause-and-effect relationship between the management of natural resources and possible national and international disputes is a complex reality of our time. The degradation and overexploitation of natural resources, in addition to their control and access to them, are potential factors of destabilization and conflict.

Indeed, demographic pressure and the exhaustion or degradation of resources are challenges which we shall have to take up within the next few decades, and this means that our work and co-operation must become more effective and transparent. We can thus remove the uncertainties regarding the future and confront the new realities on which our security and growth depend. Effective co-operation in the area of natural resources is a way of overcoming tensions and creating a climate of confidence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The global challenges call for global responses and political will; they will require material resources and legal mechanisms aimed at further strengthening our co-operation. These must increase our efficiency in confronting pressing challenges, in which global civil society and the international community are involved.

It will be important to include questions related to environmental security in the political agenda, reinforcing the participation of national and international public and private actors and promoting regional co-operation. We must implement systematic sustainable development and economic policies and adhere to the principles of good governance.

The need to recognize the link between the environment and good governance was one of the themes that emerged during the Bishkek and Zaragoza preparatory conferences. Soil degradation and contamination, effective water management, deforestation, the disappearance of ecosystems and climatic change have direct effects on human development.

They require effective co-operation, regulation and transparency, along with political responsibility, in order to organize and predict savings in gas and petroleum while a sustainable global energy model is developed.

Some transnational enterprises and ventures act in a non-transparent and discretionary way in these strategic sectors. They fail to exercise social responsibility in the territories and societies in which they operate. If we add corruption to this, we may find ourselves faced with biased and egoistic decisions on the distribution and location of supply points for resources which, like water, are essential to life and development and involve a universal right. Such conduct often leads to inefficient distribution. The World Bank considers that between 20 and 40 per cent of water supply is wasted as a result of corrupt or dishonest practices.

Good governance is nearly always a prerequisite for the adoption of sound environmental decisions and is one of the most important factors in the promotion of social and economic development. Public and private investors need stability and guarantees of good governance in order not to place future interests at risk. The proactive contribution of the business world to the building of peace means its involving itself in institutional strengthening and promoting transparency and good practices. Its inputs are decisive for maintaining stability and economic growth in the long term.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OSCE, in co-operation with other international organizations, such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe or the secretariat of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, plays a major role in strengthening the application of the Aarhus Convention and its principles. The OSCE area has adopted these principles and the Organization promotes them among its participating States. In this spirit, the Spanish Chairmanship supports the development of Aarhus Centres in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

Climate change is leading to disturbances in ecosystems, requiring us to display flexibility and to adapt. In decision-making and the adoption of measures, the intensity of these changes and the technological capacities of the societies concerned will be taken in to account. As may be seen from the document prepared for this meeting outlining possible outcomes, the OSCE could become a valuable instrument for helping the participating States in the development of co-operation with other bodies that promote advanced environmental technologies, as well as models and systems for environmental management.

Our Organization can serve as a platform for the exchange of information, good practices and know-how emanating from the environmental technology sector. For this purpose, the Spanish Chairmanship has proposed the organization of an international event concerned with the transfer of technology in the water sector, to be held in Central Asia after the summer.

Environmental degradation, combined with factors such as population growth and the absence of social and economic prospects, contributes towards migration flows. A comprehensive approach to migration involves countries of origin, transit and destination. Increased co-operation with regard to migration has taken place in various areas relating to human rights, security and social and economic development, and integration and multicultural coexistence have become a challenge for societies in the twenty-first century.

Hence the desirability of our strengthening our co-operation and participating in the “Alliance of Civilizations” initiative launched by the United Nations.

Migration resulting from environmental factors — whether within a State or between extensive geographical areas — represents an important issue for the future of the OSCE area. Our task should be to consider the role of the Organization in the promotion of good practices and in the co-ordination of research methods in order to increase knowledge regarding migration flows brought about by environmental circumstances, a task that affects the OSCE area and in which the contributions of our Partners for Co-operation will be decisive.

Arid lands and deserts make up 40 per cent of the surface of the Earth. Nearly one-third of Central Asia is affected by desertification. Central and Eastern Europe are threatened by soil degradation as a consequence of inappropriate agricultural activities and deforestation. These effects are sometimes aggravated by the contamination of land.

Some areas of my own country are suffering a serious risk of desertification, and 16 per cent of the area of the European Union is affected by soil degradation. The Spanish Chairmanship and the United Nations Conference to Combat Desertification are considering the establishment of a centre on this phenomenon in Central Asia, to permit the exchange of information and procedures for preventing and mitigating its aggravation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OSCE can implement a mandate to evaluate the potential risks to our security arising from economic, social and environmental factors. It is in a position to catalogue and monitor environmental resources and potential threats to our stability. Spain is advocating within the OSCE the elaboration of an Environmental Security Strategy. This will take as its basis the consensus already established in the Maastricht Strategy and will strengthen the undertakings assumed within the Organization.

The Spanish initiative has its inspiration in the indissoluble links between security, economics and the environment. The initial proposal incorporates certain principles or basic guidelines regarding environmental security which must be geared to the future and result in specific actions agreed upon by consensus.

As you know, the first draft of a proposal for an Environmental Security Strategy has already been circulated. I would encourage you to discuss in depth, in Prague and later in Vienna, the two documents outlining the proposed strategy. The Chairmanship hopes to see a Declaration on Environmental Security adopted in Madrid which will be ambitious and demonstrate the effective commitment of all the participating States to an OSCE involved in the protection of the environment. To complement it, a Plan of Action has been drafted, with far-reaching proposals which can place the OSCE at the forefront of the international organizations with responsibilities in the field of environmental security. In our view, it is time to reflect on the role that we want our Organization to play in these areas and to give a decisive impetus to its economic and environmental dimension. Our proposal for an Environmental Security Strategy offers this possibility, but now it is for all of you to decide whether we are to take this decisive step forward. It is a historic opportunity which we should not let pass.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that we have all contributed to making this Economic and Environmental Forum a “carbon neutral” event, consistent with the subject under consideration. Thanks to the indispensable support of the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities, the volume of carbon dioxide emissions generated by the meeting will be calculated and countered through the large-scale planting of trees, a practice which meetings of international organizations and institutions are beginning to follow.

I should like to take this opportunity to invite you to two important events being convened in Spain: to the meeting in Valencia of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in November 2007 and, in a very special way, to the “Zaragoza 2008” International Exposition on Water and Sustainable Development.

As OSCE Chairman-in-Office, I think that we should reaffirm our political will to promote a debate on the environment and its implications for security, and to take the lead in that debate; Spain will also take this approach in international forums.

So as not to convert into a reality the assertion of Victor Hugo that “nature speaks and mankind does not listen”, it is my hope and desire that the deliberations of the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum should be crowned with success.

Thank you very much.



## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

### The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

Part 2 / Prague, 21 – 23 May 2007

**“Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable  
development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and  
water management”**

### Welcoming Remarks

**by OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to join the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, and Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg in welcoming all guests and participants to this second part of the 15<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management.”

I notice with great pleasure that many high level representatives of the OSCE participating States, our Partners for Co-operation and our partner organizations as well as from the private sector, academia and numerous NGOs have come to Prague for our meeting.

I take this as **a sign of appreciation** for what the OSCE does in the economic and environmental field, as a sign of confidence in what the OSCE can do in the future and as a renewed commitment for even stronger and closer co-operation and partnership. The high level and diverse participation constitutes also a guarantee for a successful Forum.

Indeed, ladies and gentlemen, **a great challenge lies ahead of us**, as over the next two days, we have to analyze the environment and security nexus and identify the role that our Organization can play in this field. Our objective is to enhance the political dialogue on a subject of strategic importance for all of us.

The **relation between security and the environment** has been the object of much research and the subject of many publications in recent decades. Most of these studies indicate that environmental problems are increasingly an underlying cause of instability, conflict and unrest. The security of individuals, communities, states and the global community is increasingly jeopardized by environmental threats. Environmental issues are, indeed, becoming security concerns, because, even

without directly causing open conflict, they have the potential, among others, to destabilize countries and to displace populations.

However, despite what, I believe, are increasingly obvious inter-linkages, **environmental issues are still not high enough** on the national and international agenda.

**There are encouraging signs.** Recently, environmental security is becoming an increasingly important theme of the international political agenda and debate. For example, on 17 April the UN Security Council held a thematic debate exploring the relationship between climate, energy and security. The UN Secretary General recently appointed three Special Envoys for climate change. Environment, development and conflict prevention were also discussed at a high level European conference in Berlin at the end of March.

In this light, the decision of the 56 OSCE States last year, following the proposal of Spain, to focus the 2007 Economic and Environmental Forum on issues related to environmental security and sustainable development appears topical, even visionary.

There exists a strong momentum that we should not miss to take advantage of and also to support. This momentum is also generated by the experience and expertise that the OSCE itself is developing in dealing with environmental concerns. The preparatory Conferences in Bishkek and Zaragoza and the first part of the Forum, in Vienna, highlighted very well what the OSCE does in this field.

**Acting as a platform for political dialogue between a unique group of States, the OSCE is becoming an unparalleled network for innovation in linking environmental concerns with security.**

In a few words, I would only mention the work carried out under the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), in partnership with other organizations, such as the regional environmental assessments, the numerous capacity building exercises and the support provided to local stakeholders; the activities related to promoting trans-boundary water co-operation, many of them developed in co-operation with the UNECE, such as in the case of the Sava, the Dniester and the Chu and Talas rivers; the “Melange Project”, which is currently carried out in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, aimed at destroying environmentally dangerous stockpiles of rocket fuel component (melange) and so on.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The OSCE involvement in tackling environmental problems across its region provides increasing evidence of a worrying truth, which has already been stated by many academics and practitioners. **Namely that, much too often, environmental threats are self-generated: indeed, we perpetrate them on ourselves.** They are, much too often, the result of neglect or mismanagement.

While accepting this statement, I take an optimistic approach and believe that, once we have correctly identified this problem, we can also find the right solution. It is my belief that solutions can be found especially in the **promotion of good governance** and in **deepening regional co-operation.**

Broadening and deepening the quality of governance specifically requires the co-operation of the legislative, executive and judiciary branches of government, effective legal systems and law enforcement to underpin sustainable development, economic growth, environmental and social stability and security. It also requires integrated decision making across all sectors at both regional and national levels. It also requires a constructive partnership involving government, business, NGOs and the public. The OSCE should continue its engagement in these directions.

As a platform for political dialogue, as well as through its network of field presences, the OSCE can also stimulate political will, promote regional co-operation and work closely with other international organizations, which complement the OSCE with technical expertise and know-how.

Our aim is that the Economic and Environmental Forum should lead to specific and operational recommendations, some of which could be transformed into potential OSCE Decisions. We also hope to identify concrete projects, which the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities as well as the OSCE field presences could later on implement.

I am confident that we can achieve these objectives. I wish all of you a pleasant stay and fruitful debates. I strongly encourage you to participate actively in what, I am confident, will be a qualitatively outstanding meeting and to engage our speakers and panellists in an open dialogue.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, and his team, for the outstanding work they have done in the preparation of this Economic and Environmental Forum.

Thank you for your attention.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**The 15th Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum  
Part 2 / Prague, 21 – 23 May 2007**

**“Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: land degradation, soil contamination and water management”**

**Introductory Remarks by  
Bernard Snoy  
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 15th Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum. I should like to thank the Spanish OSCE Chairmanship for the leadership provided during the preparations for this meeting. The Chairmanship and my Office have tried over the past year to ensure that our debates are dynamic, pragmatic and action-oriented with a view to delivering concrete results.

I should also like to express my gratitude to all the high-ranking guests and participants for joining us in Prague to take part in our deliberations. I am also very pleased that the OSCE field presences are widely represented and will certainly play an active role in our deliberations. I am particularly pleased about the large and high-level participation from partner international organizations, NGOs and representative of the business and academic community, who join us at the Forum. We consider all of you to be key partners, without whom we would not be able to implement our comprehensive mandate. Allow me to particularly thank the UNECE for preparing an excellent and timely report on the implementation of commitments in the environmental sphere, which we will discuss tomorrow morning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Economic and Environmental Forum remains a key OSCE yearly event in the economic and environmental dimension, and together with the preparatory meetings reflects the Organization’s preoccupation with traditional and new challenges to security.

This year, the Forum focuses on “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: land degradation, soil contamination and water management”. This is indeed a very relevant topic for the OSCE. As stated in the 2003 OSCE Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, *“Environmental degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources and mismanagement in the processing and disposal of wastes have a substantial impact on the health, welfare, stability and security of our countries and can upset ecological systems. These factors, together with problems of access to resources and negative external effects of pollution, can cause tensions between countries.”*



Unlike potential military threats, environmental threats are real and ongoing. When considering environmental security issues, it is important to recognize the root causes as well as the interplay and the effects of a multitude of variables. As the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Minister Moratinos, said in his speech at the preparatory conference in Zaragoza, “the effects of negative environmental processes are already a reality, as reflected in reports of international organizations and groups of experts ... such changes point directly to human activity and above all to developments that ignore environmental ramifications”. Most security problems are generated by (and generate in their turn) complex situations involving environmental, political, social and economic issues.

An organization such as the OSCE, which aims at promoting comprehensive security, can therefore play a useful role in tackling issues related to environmental security, sustainable development and sustainable management of land and water resources. I think we have already proved that we can bring added value to international, regional, national and local efforts aimed at improving the governance and the management of land and water resources, at promoting enhanced transboundary co-operation, and exchanges of information and of know-how. In the follow-up to this year’s Forum, our Organization should reinforce its co-operation with regional and international organizations and direct its efforts toward building political will and local capacities, filling existing gaps and strengthening and enforcing existing co-operation mechanisms.

However, not every environmental issue will result in a security problem. It is therefore important for an organization like the OSCE to focus on those issues and on those contexts that pose risks to security.

A great number of ideas and recommendations emerged from the preparatory conferences in Bishkek and Zaragoza and the Vienna Forum. Now, in Prague, the time has come to streamline and prioritize them. I hope that you found useful the ‘Tentative outcome’ paper, which is designed to stimulate the discussions and elicit reactions, contributing in this way to identifying the most suitable follow-up.

I should like to draw your attention to special events with a more regional focus and also to take this opportunity to commend the initiative of Sweden to convene an event dedicated to transboundary water management.

Before concluding, I am pleased to announce the release of the Annual Activity report of my Office for the period June 2006 to May 2007.

I look forward to hearing our distinguished keynote speakers and then the comments and interventions from the floor. I am confident that our discussions in the coming days will be fruitful and that we will achieve our goals.

Thank you for your attention.

25 May 2007

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR LOPEZ JORRIN,  
HEAD OF THE TASK FORCE OF THE SPANISH CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE  
OSCE, AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE  
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 23 May 2007

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I think that an initial conclusion of a general nature that we can draw at the end of this 15th Economic and Environmental Forum is that the OSCE should utilize and enhance its function as a forum for dialogue among the participating States and other key players in the areas of environmental security and good governance and of sustainable development. The OSCE can and should help to create and maintain political momentum in these matters.

At the beginning of its Chairmanship, Spain launched a debate on the elaboration of an OSCE Environmental Security Strategy. This is a matter which the Spanish Chairmanship sees as deserving priority; it considers that the issues involved are of great importance and need immediate action, in which the OSCE can take the lead. The process has so far proved to be a dynamic one, generating much interest among experts, related organizations and delegations. We believe that the idea of adopting a document of this type at the Madrid Ministerial Council meeting enjoys wide support. As you know, a first draft for the strategy has recently been circulated in Vienna. I should like here to express appreciation to the experts and the staff of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for their support in working on it, as well as for the valuable comments that we have received from various delegations.

During these days in Prague, we have again had the opportunity to consider various items relating to environmental security and to continue the debate on the role of the OSCE. On the basis of these deliberations, we shall review the document and seek to identify those themes that are most relevant in the OSCE context of environmental security and, at the same time, complement other aspects that are already being considered by sister organizations, and allow use to be made of comparative advantages that our Organization may enjoy. We shall also undertake a careful analysis of the possible financial implications of this process.

Soil degradation and contamination, as well as the poor management of water resources and other natural resources, have long-term negative consequences for people's lives. Sustainable management of the soil, of water and of other natural resources is therefore a complex exercise, requiring a long-term commitment and co-operation at various levels, both within countries and between them, as well as with institutions, civil society and the business community. The OSCE is called upon to play an important role in all these matters.

The Chairmanship would like to take this opportunity to encourage the Office of the Co-ordinator and the field missions to develop and implement follow-up activities.

After listening to the presentations of the experts during the last three days, I think I can say that we have no alternative but to keep these issues among the main priorities of our agenda. It will therefore be of great importance to continue and intensify our co-operation and exchange information, lessons learned, effective practices and know-how in the fields of combating soil degradation and of water management. My own country, which is confronting these challenges, is very interested in learning from the experience of others and in turn offers its knowledge to any countries that may be interested. The OSCE would be a suitable focal point for facilitating such exchanges.

There are various ways in which follow-up activities can be planned and organized for this 15th Economic and Environmental Forum. Some priority activities could take place very soon, in the second half of 2007, while others will need greater elaboration in order to meet the needs of the beneficiaries and to serve our common objectives.

I wish again to stress the importance of taking a long-term view when considering these problems and assuming undertakings, as the sole guarantee of success. We could achieve this objective through a thematic approach — for example, by taking up water, land or forests. However, another approach would be to divide the follow-up activities into the following categories:

#### **In the first place, research, risk assessment, analyses and monitoring**

As you know, an Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) assessment report for Eastern Europe was launched during this Forum. This type of study is a first step in the involvement of the OSCE in these matters, and it needs to be followed up by other activities and events aimed at dealing with the risks and challenges we have identified during these days.

The analysis of environmental problems in the Mediterranean region, together with subsequent follow-up activities, should also appear on our agenda.

I should like to express the appreciation of the Chairmanship for the active role that the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation have played during this Forum. Spain fully supports increasing our co-operation with them and, in particular, tackling the problems of soil degradation and water management.

I therefore appeal to the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to identify practical ways of increasing our co-operation in these fields.

One of the main concerns that have been reiterated during this Forum concerns migrations flows caused by environmental factors. This is a subject which needs to be better understood and documented and on which research must be conducted. The OSCE could support and facilitate action in this area. As we learned from the discussions during the part of the Forum held in Vienna, the OSCE is at this moment considering a possible partnership with the United Nations University to conduct studies on possible models concerning migrations that may in the future be caused by environmental factors. This study would concentrate on three countries in Central Asia and North Africa.

## **Secondly, the promotion of good governance**

The Spanish Chairmanship appreciates and supports the proposal of the Russian Federation to organize a conference in Moscow, during the first half of October 2007, dealing with the role that the private sector can play in environmental protection and sustainable development, with special reference to co-operation between the public and private sectors. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development might be a natural partner in these efforts, together with large enterprises.

With regard to the sustainable management of forests and measures to counter the indiscriminate, illegal felling of trees, a first step might be the organization of capacity-building activities in the countries concerned, to be followed up subsequently by action at a regional level. The OSCE should continue consultations with partner organizations, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

## **Thirdly, the promotion of transboundary and regional co-operation**

As the Chairman-in-Office announced in his opening statement to this Forum, the Spanish Chairmanship, in close co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator, is considering the holding of an event in Central Asia on co-operation in technology transfer relating to the efficient use of water. This proposal has received much support and was discussed yesterday evening during the side event devoted to Central Asia. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Central Asian delegations for their high level of representation, their active participation and their useful contributions.

The Chairmanship also welcomes the fact that the dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification are developing, and that preparations are being made for a joint activity. A technical seminar will be held which will serve as the beginning of a long-term initiative, the objective being the establishment of a regional centre for monitoring and management with regard to combating desertification in the Central Asian area. Spain supports this seminar and this co-operation.

As far as transboundary co-operation on water matters is concerned, the OSCE has already accumulated a great deal of experience through its activities on the Sava, Dniester, Chu-Talas and Kura-Araks rivers. This accumulated wisdom will be very useful in the development of activities on other transboundary watercourses. An example could be support for co-operation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in relation to the Amu Darya river. We might also consider the convening of a regional seminar on co-operation in water management in Central Asia, potentially the first step in a longer-term initiative designed to lead to a regional co-operation and security agreement on dams.

I should like to thank Sweden for its announcement yesterday of a special event on co-operation in water matters. I wish to encourage other delegations to take similar initiatives in the future. I should likewise mention that the OSCE will participate in “World Water Week”, being organized by the Swedish International Water Institute and to take place in August.

#### **Fourthly and lastly, capacity-building activities**

In this regard, mention should be made of the co-operation between the OSCE and UNECE in the framework of the project for training and co-operation in water matters, which will result in the OSCE participating, or rather assisting, in the organization of training seminars under its umbrella. We shall also discuss with UNECE the best way of strengthening our co-operation with the Interstate Commission for Water Co-ordination in Central Asia and with the Global Water Partnership.

25 May 2007

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY CRISTINA BARRIOS Y ALMAZOR,  
AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OF SPAIN, AT THE 15th  
MEETING OF THE OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 23 May 2007

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should first like to thank the authorities of the Czech Republic for the magnificent hospitality and generosity displayed by them, as always, during this second part of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

I also wish to thank the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and his Office for the close co-operation and systematic and meticulous support offered to the Spanish Chairmanship on economic and environmental matters. I am fully confident that the Co-ordinator and his team will continue to lend all their support to the Spanish Chairmanship during the follow-up activities, as well as to the incoming Finnish Chairmanship.

The Spanish Chairmanship proposed a theme that linked soil degradation and management and water management with security in the OSCE area. Unfortunately, the relevance of the subject chosen by Spain has been confirmed by events during this year. To cite only two significant examples, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has again drawn attention to this phenomenon and the Stern report describes its fearful economic repercussions. Paradoxically, economics is alerting us to the fact that the new “dismal science” is going to be the study of ways to protect the natural environment.

The debate on the environment and its principal issues — the loss of biodiversity, desertification, the change in rain patterns, the study of the behaviour of the oceans and the poles and the study of the atmosphere — are closely interrelated, and it can be affirmed that the scientific community, almost unanimously, is convinced that global warming accentuates the changes in these environmental variables.

Unfortunately, I believe that we are witnessing the end of an idea that dated from the beginning of the Industrial Revolution — the belief in constant economic growth and rises in standards of living and an unshakeable faith in the ability of technology to respond to any challenge posed by nature.

The idea of linear progress in the socio-economic conditions of our societies, with periods of acceleration and contraction but as part of a continual advance, has been abruptly invalidated by the impact of human activities on the environment.

Common sense tells us that recognition of a problem is the first step towards its solution. The next step is to identify the origin of the problem and draw the correct

conclusions, and the third, and most obvious, step is to do something about it. I think that in the OSCE we are at some point between the second and third steps.

The question of how to combat climate change is naturally outside the competence of the OSCE. There are other forums of a scientific character where this problem area receives special attention.

The contribution of the OSCE must consist not in attacking the causes of global climatic change but rather in dealing with its consequences, particularly with regard to the implications for security.

During our meetings, distinguished and expert speakers have enlightened us on various subjects: developments with regard to environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area, transboundary co-operation in water matters, good governance in the management of natural resources and action to counter soil degradation and contamination. We have also been sensitized to the impact that all these topics can have in the Mediterranean region.

Not all is lost. The anxieties aroused by the hole in the ozone layer, a source of concern during the 1980s and 1990s, have been dispelled by forceful action on the part of the international community.

I think this is the path that we must follow. Ideas for avoiding environmental disasters that may have implications for security in the OSCE area exist. We all know the remedies, though there may be a need for the additional political will required to apply them.

The OSCE has a limited role in the international community, but within its sphere of influence it can help ensure that tensions of varying origins are not aggravated by climatic factors or the poor management of natural resources, thus directly affecting our security.

The preparatory conferences and this Forum have sought to convince us of the full validity of the link between security and the environment. I am sure that the OSCE and its participating States have heard the message.

Now that the 15th Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum is drawing to a close, I should like to mention that preparatory steps by the incoming Finnish Chairmanship are already well under way. The Spanish Chairmanship has followed closely the consultations conducted by Finland on the theme proposed for the 16th Meeting of the Forum, which will concern regional and subregional river and maritime communications in the OSCE area, security and the protection of the environment.

The proposed theme has obvious links with matters discussed in the two preceding meetings of the Forum under the Belgian Chairmanship and the Spanish Chairmanship. This continuity in the discussions will contribute to focusing the work of the OSCE in the economic and environmental dimension and increasing its effectiveness. I shall be saying nothing new if I express my conviction that, to judge from the reactions of delegations in Prague and consultations in Vienna, the theme enjoys the widest possible support. We hope for a prompt decision on the theme, dates and organizational modalities for the 16th Meeting of the Forum, which will allow it to be well prepared. I wish our Finnish friends every success in the noble task awaiting them.

Thank you very much.

# THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

PART II / PRAGUE, 21 - 23 MAY 2007

## KEY CHALLENGES TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE OSCE AREA: LAND DEGRADATION, SOIL CONTAMINATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT

### REPORTS OF THE RAPPORTEURS

#### Introductory Plenary Session

**Moderator:** H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, OSCE  
Chairman-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Philip Reuchlin, Economic and Environmental Adviser,  
OSCE/OCEEA.

H.E. Cristina Narbona, Minister of Environment of Spain, stressed the important role environmental security has in today's political agenda. The fact that it was recently discussed at the UN Security Council was proof of this. In particular, environmental degradation can harm economic development, notably in marginal communities, and can be socially disrupting. In view of these problems, it is a moral obligation to put into action the technical solutions which are already available. Spain for its part has already set up common databases with its neighbours, and works intensively on pollution management and desalinisation. Minister Narbona stressed the need to increase cross-ministerial co-operation.

H.E. Minister Janez Podobnik, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, recalled that according to the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment report, Southern Europe is expected to experience increase heat waves, wildfires, and reduced crop productivity. Snow season duration will shorten and water scarcity will increase. To cope with the situation, the countries in the region have agreed to establish a Drought Management Centre which will be hosted by Slovenia. Slovenia also participates in the Water Scarcity Drafting Group, a group with the task of preparing a technical document on drought management with the goals of serving as a base document for political decisions on water scarcity and drought management within the EU. The Minister welcomed the Spanish proposal of a Strategy on Environmental Security by affirming that it is an important document which will be a good basis for negotiation.

H.E. Minister Masaid Hamidov, Minister of Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, highlighted Tajikistan's critical role with regard to Central Asia's water resources. More than half of the water that flows towards the Aral Sea originated in Tajikistan. During the Soviet time a water sharing order was established based on a seasonal exchange in water



resources, electric energy and other resources, which worked rather effectively. Currently there is an imbalance in the economic mechanism that has been designed to replace the Soviet agreement and Tajikistan calls upon its neighbours to re-initiate negotiations to find suitable solutions to the problems that are linked in one way or the other to water. In addition, the Sarez Lake poses a threat to downstream neighbours, should it spill. Tajikistan suggested building a water pipeline from the lake to those areas in need of water and creating an international consortium for the construction of this conduit.

Mr. Kaj Barlund, Director of Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, spoke on behalf of Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of the UNECE. The UNECE welcomed the good co-operation they had had with OSCE so far in the field of transport, under the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), and on other themes. With regard to the proposed Environmental Security Strategy, the UNECE felt that all 5 UNECE conventions in the field of environment should be integral parts of the Strategy. The UNECE was preparing the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe', which would take place in Belgrade on 10-12 October 2007 and urged the OSCE Chairmanship to take full advantage of the existing institutional architecture managed by the UNECE. The UNECE representative stressed the urgent need to strengthen existing environmental institutions and to implement multilateral environmental agreements.

### **Discussion:**

The European Union stressed the need for NGO's and OSCE's Economic and Environmental Officers to be present at the Forum. It also noted the newly developed strategy for Central Asia and the EU-Russia partnership, which are possible vehicles to bring EU Directives, such as the Water Framework Directive, to these areas.

GUAM noted that its members would be signing a memorandum of understanding at the next GUAM summit on nuclear and radiological safety. GUAM members also stressed that conflict situations should be first solved politically before trying to co-operate on environmental issues.

The representative of Belarus highlighted that the Chernobyl legacy still affected its citizens and expressed its support for the choice of theme for the Forum. He noted that especially with regard to nuclear power stations close to international borders there was a need to exchange information.

Turkey announced that it had circulated a document (EF. DEL 35/07) to address, from the Turkish point of view, some of the elements contained in a number of documents circulated ahead of the Forum, such as the UNECE Report for the review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension, the document on the tentative outcome and possible follow-up to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, and the draft OSCE Environmental Security Strategy.

The representative of Armenia noted that each phase of the conflict cycle demanded co-operative behaviour and that environment was one of the possibilities to engage adversaries. It also noted that the implementation of policies was equally important as the policy development itself.

## **Review Session: Review of the implementation of OSCE commitments**

**Moderator:** Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado y de la Válgoma, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE, OSCE Chairmanship

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Raul Daussa, Programme Officer, OSCE/OCEEA

Ambassador Sanchez de Boado introduced the report prepared by the UNECE (EF.IO/13/07) and asked Mr. Kaj Barlund, Director of the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, to summarize the main findings.

Mr. Kaj Barlund explained that the report covered the major OSCE environmental commitments starting with the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, followed by the 1979 High-level Meeting on Environment, which led to the establishment of the Convention on Transboundary Air Pollution, and the 1989 Sofia Meeting on Protection of Environment, which led to the Conventions on Transboundary Waters and on Industrial Accidents. Finally, the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for Economic and Environmental Dimension was also part of the review document.

The report focussed on national legislation, international conventions, and international cooperation experiences, and covers the five UNECE environmental conventions with a special focus on the EECCA and SEE regions. The report was divided into three chapters: (1) Strengthening environmental governance, including environmental performance, public participation and compliance with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); (2) Improving water management and transboundary waters, and (3) Environmental information and education.

### Environmental Governance – Environmental Performance:

The evaluation tool for Environmental performance is the UNECE environmental performance reviews, which are published by the UNECE.

Among the major achievements, Mr. Barlund highlighted the development of framework environmental laws, the adoption of National Environmental Strategies (NEAPs) and National Strategies for Sustainable Development, and the increase of environmental expenditure.

On the other hand, the remaining weaknesses included the lack of subsidiary legislation, the weak implementation and enforcement, the lack of clear prioritization, and the fact that in some cases environment ministries were downgraded or even dissolved.

Mr. Barlund stressed that the way forward should be based on strengthening the political support to resolving persistent environmental problems and the capacities of environmental authorities. Moreover, increasing the effectiveness of environmental financing and institutionalizing the integration of environmental policy into sectoral policies was another area to consider.

### Environmental governance - Public participation

The evaluation tool for assessing public participation is the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and its Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Protocol.

Mr. Barlund described the major achievements such as the legislative provisions introduced in order to provide access to environmental information, the general broadening of the legal status for NGOs, and the development of legislation on public participation in strategic decisions by some countries.

Among the remaining weaknesses, Mr. Barlund noted some important obstacles to implementing measures for handling information requests and the lack of detailed requirements and procedures for public participation and public hearings. The weak access to justice on environmental matters (e.g. restrictions for legal standing, high cost of going to court) was also noted as an area to be improved.

The introduction of detailed procedures for public participation in decision-making, together with the development of PRTR systems and building capacities of enterprises to collect and report environmental data were among the issues noted as a way forward.

#### Environmental governance - Compliance with MEAs

The evaluation tool for reviewing the compliance of OSCE participating States with Multilateral Environmental Agreements is the implementation of the five UNECE Environmental Conventions and their Protocols.

The major achievements included the substantive progress in ratification of UNECE conventions (the Annex I of the Report provides a detailed list), the introduction of legislative frameworks, and the designation of competent authorities and engagement in bi- or multilateral cooperation.

Mr. Barlund highlighted that the remaining weaknesses OSCE participating States face are the lack of political commitment to accede to MEAs, especially to protocols which have more specific obligations; the never-ending reform of institutions hampering the continuity and sustainability of implementation; the weak co-ordination among relevant national authorities; and the lack of effective and timely reports.

The way forward should include better co-operation and co-ordination between various national and local authorities, further capacity-building to create or strengthen institutional frameworks and train personnel, and more efficient use of mechanisms developed under MEAs.

#### Improving water management and transboundary waters

The evaluation tool on water related commitments is the implementation of the Transboundary Water Convention and of the Protocol on Water and Health.

The major achievements included the progressive introduction of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the SEE and EECCA regions and several bilateral or multilateral agreements concluded on the basis of the Convention' principles and provisions like the Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention that entered into force in August 2005.

Mr. Barlund stated that more than 100 million people in Europe still did not have access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitation, and together with the region-wide problem of

overuse of groundwater, the Eutrophication<sup>1</sup> and the damage caused by floods were remaining weaknesses that needed to be addressed.

The way forward should aim, among other actions, at establishing national and local targets for quality of drinking water and of discharges, strengthening cross-sectoral integration, and developing and implementing guidance on water and climate adaptation.

### Environmental information and education

The evaluation tool to assess the progress on environmental information is the preparation of Pan-European Assessment Reports on Environment.

The major achievements on environmental information included the increased use of environmental indicators and the Pan-European assessment reports prepared for “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conferences.

On the other hand, the remaining weaknesses are the gaps and inconsistencies in raw data collection, the lack of data submission from a number of countries, and the obsolete monitoring approaches, standards and methodologies, which are not harmonized with evolving international practices.

The way forward include: the revision and upgrade of national monitoring programmes to make monitoring a practical tool for target setting and abatement strategies; the implementation of the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators and Indicator-based Assessments; and the co-operation with business and industry to implement Guidelines for Strengthening Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises.

The evaluation tool to assess the progress on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development. The major achievements were the introduction of ESD into legislation and policy documents in many countries, but the remaining weaknesses include the inertia in education systems and the lack of understanding of ESD concept in administrations. The way forward should consider multi-stakeholder co-operation, building competences in ESD at all levels of formal, informal and non-formal education, and the development of capacity-building projects and of new instruments and materials.

Finally, Mr. Barlund presented four proposals for OSCE/UNECE co-operation on: improving water and health in SEE and EECCA regions; building capacity for environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises and public authorities in Central Asia; promoting environmental indicator-based assessments in EECCA; and implementing education for sustainable development in SEE.

### **Discussion:**

Ambassador Sanchez de Boado stressed the fact that education was a key element to ensure environmental protection and opened the discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> Eutrophication is caused by the increase of chemical nutrients, typically compounds containing nitrogen or phosphorus, in an ecosystem. It may occur on land or in water. Eutrophication is frequently a result of nutrient pollution such as the release of sewage effluent into natural waters (rivers or coasts) although it may also occur naturally in situations where nutrients accumulate. Eutrophication generally promotes excessive plant growth and decay, favours certain weedy species over others, and is likely to cause severe reductions in water quality.

The delegation of Belarus stated that Belarus shared many of the ideas described in the report and welcomed the project proposals. Belarus has achieved strong environmental compliance with 20 international conventions and protocols which it ratified and is working together with the European Union, the CIS countries, and the union with Russia to improve this compliance even further. Belarus accessed the Kyoto Protocol in 2005 and has implemented projects in this area. Together with the OSCE Office in Minsk an Aarhus Centre was established in 2005. Areas to improve include the research on new waste disposal methods and the exchange of experiences and new technologies to maintain biodiversity. Finally, the delegation of Belarus emphasized the importance of Education for Sustainable Development.

One delegation asked Mr. Barlund how the OSCE and UNECE could assist those countries that have not yet ratified the UNECE conventions and protocols.

Another delegation stressed the role of political parties to ensure public participation and access to information in environmental matters and explained the recent creation of a dedicated ministry of ecology and sustainable planning and development.

The delegation of Azerbaijan stated its support to the UNECE report but warned against the possibility that the project proposals could not be demand-driven. The delegation suggested that the OSCE Office in Baku could follow the example of the Project Co-ordinator Office in Ukraine and translate the Environmental Performance Reviews into the local language. It encouraged neighbouring countries to sign the Water Convention and asked Mr. Barlund about the main expectations of the Ministerial meeting in Belgrade.

Mr. Bernard Snoy, CoEEA, asked Mr. Barlund to elaborate more on the four project proposals, e.g. how the OSCE field presences could help the UNECE and the European Environmental Agency (EEA) in strengthening the environmental indicators.

Mr. Barlund explained that the UNECE had noted that not enough political support and expertise followed the accession to a convention and that traditionally, when ratifying a convention, no national legislation allowing the implementation of the convention provisions was passed. He welcomed the creation of a new ministry in France and was looking forward to the added value that the new portfolio would bring, and stressed the important and desirable role of political parties in protecting the environment. Mr. Barlund further explained the main areas of the Belgrade Ministerial conference: Education for Sustainable Development, Biodiversity, Partnerships, and Economic Competitiveness and Environmental Policy.

Mr. Barlund stressed the fact that the UNECE already worked with the OSCE presences and that this practice should be further strengthened. He emphasized that the “Guidelines for the Preparation of Indicator-based Environment Assessment Reports” to be adopted in Belgrade were a good base to start working with the OSCE and pointed out at the project proposal on Environmental indicator-based assessments in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, included in the Annex II of the Report.

## **Plenary Session I: Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in the OSCE area**

**Moderator: Mr. Jaime Alejandro**, General Director of Environmental Quality and Evaluation, Ministry of Environment, Spain.

**Rapporteur: Mr. Andrew Price**, United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE.

The Moderator, Mr. Jaime Alejandro, stressed the need to examine the linkages between the environment, security and economic growth. He referred to the international context – the debate in the UNSC on 17 April – and the importance of the OSCE’s own Maastricht Strategy. Economic and population growth placed great stress on the environment and on resources. Policy reorientation was needed to deliver sustainable growth and to help alleviate the potential for conflict caused by climate change, poverty and migratory flows. The Spanish Chairmanship had drafted an environmental security strategy which set out a clear and viable role for the OSCE.

Dr. Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency (EEA), spoke about Europe’s environment in an age of transition. She outlined the key conclusions of the 2007 Belgrade Report, which the EEA will present at the Pan-European conference of environment ministers in Belgrade in October 2007. The report would conclude that resource conflicts and further declines in environmental quality and sustainability (including land degradation and soil contamination) were inevitable. The report would also highlight the large numbers of migrants, displaced persons and refugees. All these problems were particularly acute in the Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asia (EECCA) countries. Higher economic and social instability would lead to new security threats, which could not be resolved through traditional forms of security policy. Dr. McGlade explained how these problems might be addressed through improved data and technology (e.g. satellite information). Sharing information (e.g. European Spatial Data Infrastructures) and assimilating environmental and socio-economic data would be important. Applying the EU’s Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) system to the pan-European area would also help. It was important to develop systems which helped to predict threats to security and to manage crises when they arose.

Mr. Justin Mundy, Senior Adviser to the UK Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change, focused on the security implications of climate change. He described climate change as a “threat multiplier” - a stress on an already stressed system. It posed a threat to our collective security, not just to certain “hot spots”. The solution lay in a combination of diplomacy, market mechanisms and public/private partnership. He described a new age in which geopolitics were defined by resource scarcity shaped by climate change. The solution to conflicts and bilateral tensions lay in a better understanding of the linkages between economic, environmental and political security. As the Stern Report had shown, the economic cost of doing nothing was higher than the cost of taking action. But there remained a lack of political will to act. He congratulated the Spanish Chairmanship on its draft environmental security strategy. It was ambitious and deserved support. He thought the OSCE could play a particularly valuable role by establishing early warning systems through its field presence and by institutional capacity building.

Mr. Tom Spencer, Vice Chairman of the Institute for Environmental Security, warned that climate change could cause serious resource scarcity and migration movements which would pose very serious threats to security. Within the next 50 years, it might even lead to wars between states. The environment was a “hard” issue which could no longer be left to

environmentalists. He argued that the OSCE should be given a specific role in the field of environmental security. Creating a new organisation would take too long, and the OSCE's geographical coverage and experience of covering political-military issues gave it an advantage over some other international organisations involved in this field. He commended the Spanish Chairmanship's draft environmental security strategy. Spain had shown courage by adopting such an ambitious approach. The OSCE had a chance to shake off its association with the Cold War and to be seen instead as an organisation concerned with humanity.

Dr. Corrado Clini, Director General, Department for Environmental Research and Development, Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, Italy, argued that environmental security had to be at the forefront of the OSCE's work. The UNSC debate on 17 April had highlighted the threat to security presented by climate change. But it had also demonstrated that there was no consensus on how to tackle the problem and no organisation that could take on this challenge alone. The OSCE should play its part, but be conscious of the risk of duplication. Dr. Clini noted that although the response of the international community had so far been rather weak it was good that the issues were being examined in many different fora. He thought the link between the environment and economic/energy issues was particularly important. Dr. Clini commended the Spanish Chairmanship's draft environmental security strategy. He expressed the hope that it would lead to participating States collaborating on environmental security projects in vulnerable zones, notably in Central Asia.

### **Discussion:**

The debate that followed focused on the future role of the OSCE in the field of environmental security and, more specifically, on the Spanish Chairmanship's draft environmental security strategy.

The representative of Germany reported on the March 2007 Berlin Conference on Integrating Environment Development and Conflict Prevention. It was clear that climate change, population growth and migration had the potential to cause conflicts. Early recognition and prevention could be achieved through cross border co-operation and the involvement of industry and finance. The OSCE could play a role alongside other international organisations, notably in monitoring and alleviating the security threats from migration in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

One delegation said that the draft environmental security strategy was too ambitious and duplicated the work of other organisations. The delegation's preference was for a more realistic, non-political and results-orientated document, which would focus on activities that would add value, complement the work of others and reflect the outcome of the Belgrade Conference.

One participant highlighted the importance for the OSCE of developing synergies with other international organisations based on co-operation, and the avoidance of duplication and competition for funding. He argued that new mechanisms should only be introduced if they added value and were affordable.

Another participant argued that the OSCE had a role to play in this field but that the draft environmental security strategy had to be prioritised. Duplicating the work of others (e.g. the Arctic Council and IOM) had to be avoided. She expressed strong support for the OSCE's network of field missions and the ENVSEC initiative.

One delegation stated that the issues of climate change and the management of resources had to be reflected in the environmental security strategy, but not on the scale envisaged in the first draft. Some scaling back and fine-tuning was called for.

Finally, one delegation urged a more cautious approach towards developing the strategy and suggested that OSCE early warning systems should not be restricted to those countries that had Missions.

## **Plenary Session II: Water – transboundary co-operation**

**Moderator:** **Mr. Miguel Antolin**, Head of International Affairs, Directorate General for Water, Ministry of Environment, Spain.

**Rapporteur:** **Ms. Jeannette Kloetzer**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Yerevan.

Mr. Jean-Paul Rivaud, Head of International and European Unit, Water Directorate, Ecology and Sustainable Development Department, France, underlined the importance of looking into the matter of transboundary water co-operation not from a narrow sectorial point of view but from the perspective of hydrological units and hydrological cycles. This shall provide the natural framework for the integrated water basin management, which touches upon several aspects of sustainable development: economic, environmental and social. In this context reliable hydrological data was imperative.

Mr. Jean-Paul Rivaud stated that the OSCE could be instrumental in four main areas:

- developing programmes which would allow to update relevant data, involving countries which belong to the respective hydrological basins;
- involving the general public and fostering the development of a new “culture of water” in the civil society; in that sense he stressed how the Aarhus Convention was a useful tool;
- promoting the implementation of international conventions and basic legal acts; the OSCE can go back and refer to the Helsinki Act in view of the fact that water became a major stake in the modern global policy;
- disseminating the experience, lessons learned and good practice of the Hydrological Basin Organizations and of the International Network of Basin Organizations; the OSCE can enhance its co-operation with these organizations on transboundary water issues.

Mr. Victor A. Dukhovny, Director of the Scientific Information Center of the Central Asian Interstate Co-ordination Water Commission (SIC ICWC), presented the experience of co-operation of the five Central Asian States in the transboundary water management, mainly of the basin of the Amurdarya and Syrdaria Rivers and of the Aral Sea. He underlined the importance of creating primary documents and institutional bodies to initiate a conflict-free, harmonious water management to the benefit of all countries involved. Sustainable water availability was of major importance. He emphasized that it had to become a common understanding for governments and all stakeholders that water was of similar vital importance as gas, oil and minerals.



Mr. Dukhovny suggested the following recommendations for the OSCE:

- co-ordination between donors in forming regional programmes on water and environmental co-operation and improving the usage of donors funds;
- enhancing wide spread training campaigns for water users, water suppliers and water experts on all levels: basic, advanced and professional; involving farmers can also contribute to less soil degradation;
- paying more attention to the young generation and initiating “Water and Education” programmes in schools.

Mr. José Rocha Afonso, Vice-President of the Portuguese Water Institute, elaborated on the Spanish-Portuguese Co-operation and Regional Agreement. Mr. Rocha described the Agreement’s main characteristics within the various international and European agreements and laws. Finally, he explained the difficulties and outcomes of the implementation of the Spanish-Portuguese Agreement.

Mr. Rocha suggested the following recommendations for the OSCE:

- enhancing co-operation with other international organisations in the promotion of existing conventions on water co-operation;
- enhancing co-operation in the OSCE area, whilst also prioritising its actions in chosen zones;
- providing a fundamental link into the efforts undertaken in different areas, by acting as a forum for reflection on the outcomes of co-operation and on the overall water security difficulties, achievements and trends.

### **Discussion:**

One delegation appealed to the participating States to support the proposal for an MC Decision at the Madrid Ministerial Council aiming at enhancing the co-operation among OSCE participating States in the field of preservation of water resources.

Another delegation stressed the fact that it had had a longstanding and good experience in transboundary water co-operation with its neighbouring countries based on agreements and inter-governmental co-operation bodies. The delegation was prepared and willing to support a multilateral co-operation framework having in mind the Eurasian community and to foster the establishment of a data base on water resources and water use. With that aim the delegation announced that its country was ready to provide organizational and financial assistance.

An NGO representative praised the quality of the various proposals put forward during the sessions and stated that the OSCE must strengthen its efforts to build partnership networks. His NGO was currently operating only on the country level but he said that the Aarhus Centres could be interlinked in a regional context, which was something the OSCE should promote.

One OSCE Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation underlined the importance of the session’s theme for the Mediterranean region and stressed how the region was extremely affected by water scarcity and climate change.

The representative of the Danube Co-operation Initiative encouraged participating States to make use of the initiative's experience and to co-operate in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the Danube Initiative and the OSCE.

### **Plenary Session III: Good governance in managing natural resources**

**Moderator:** **Ambassador Arsim Zekoli**, Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE, Chairman of the Economic and Environmental Committee of the Permanent Council.

**Rapporteur:** **Mr. Philip Reuchlin**, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA.

**Mr. Jan Heino**, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, presented the activities of the FAO in the area of environmental governance. FAO supports its 189 member countries in strengthening their agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors and fostering rural development in order to overcome poverty and hunger. It provides data and information on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as on land and water issues. It also develops and assists with models, methods, concepts and definitions, provides capacity building, acts as a neutral forum for discussion and negotiation, and assists member countries upon demand in areas of its mandate. In particular, lack of good governance, especially ineffective forest law compliance, has been widely recognised as an important contributing factor to forest degradation and forest loss all over the world. The EU has a policy on "FLEGT", Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, centred on voluntary partnerships between the EU and selected countries. FAO has published, jointly with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), a study on "Best Practices for Improving Law Compliance in the Forest Sector", where much of the knowledge gained was synthesized and evaluated. Mr. Heino suggested that OSCE field presences could bring closer to the participating States and help put into action the various recommendations and best practices that have been elaborated in various fora that have dealt with forest governance.

**Mr. Juerg Gerber**, Chief Operating Officer of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), presented WBCSD activities. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a CEO-led, global association of some 190 companies dealing exclusively with business and sustainable development. The Council provides a platform for companies to explore sustainable development, share knowledge, experiences and best practices, and to advocate business positions on these issues in a variety of forums, working with governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations. The WBCSD's Water Project seeks to clarify and enhance business understanding of key water issues and drivers, promote mutual understanding between the business community and non-business stakeholders on water management issues, and provide tools and models to support effective business action. Currently, one of the main activities of the project is to develop a Global Water Tool for businesses to link a company's water inventory with external data. The tool will be launched during Stockholm World Water Week. The WBCSD Water Working Group brings together companies from the mining and metals, oil and gas, consumer products, food and beverage, chemicals, finance, and infrastructure services and equipment sectors.

During the discussion one participating State presented its activities with regard to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. Towards this it has adopted the “National Strategy for Management and Development of the Water Sector 2004 – 2015”. It also mentioned the good bilateral co-operation between Greece and Bulgaria in the area of the basin management plan for Mesta/Nestos River Basin. It also noted the good progress done in the Danube Basin under the auspices of the ICPDR.

Another delegation presented its activities with regard to environmental protection through legislation and government action. The country has moved from a system of sanctions against environmental polluters towards an incentive based system that promotes environmental-friendly practices. It has also established a tax system to finance an environmental fund, which has grown considerably in the past years

#### **Plenary Session IV: Challenges to the management of water resources and to countering desertification in the Mediterranean region**

**Moderator:** Ambassador Antti Turunen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE, Chairman of the Mediterranean Contact Group.

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Curtis Peters, Delegation of Canada to the OSCE.

Mr. José Luis Herranz Saez, General Director for Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment of Spain, conceptualized and described the scope and nature of desertification. Mr. Herranz went on to describe ways to combat this phenomenon, using the Spanish experience as a case study, which includes the following steps: identifying causal factors and defining practices to combat desertification, i.e. prevention of land degradation and land recuperation. To do this the Spanish government employs integrated and flexible policies that maximize prevention, institutional co-ordination at all levels of governance and widespread participation. Mr. Herranz stressed how desertification and climate change poses risks to all regions and the importance to co-ordinate all domestic, agriculture, forestry and industrial actors to mobilize action against land degradation, both in a national and international context. Mr. Herranz noted that the OSCE has a role to play in combating desertification in the region by providing studies ecology, seeking methods of adaptation and working with other institutions to combat this problem.

Mr. Shimon Tal, CEO of Tal Content - Consulting and Enterprise Ltd., talked about sustainability in water-stressed environments in Israel and the surrounding region. He highlighted that redistribution in the Southern Mediterranean was not a solution in water stressed regions and water should, in fact, be a catalyst for co-operation and not a cause for dispute. Mr. Tal outlined current and expected water demand (agricultural, domestic, industrial) and supply (recycled, natural, and manufactured) and described the balance between these two variables. He underlined the fact that policy makers will continue to try to meet the needs and demands of all national actors. To do this, he stressed that the southern Mediterranean citizens must practice water conservation as a way of life as this is the cheapest source of water. Water efficiency is also crucial and Israel and the surrounding countries must employ water saving technology, education and publicity. Finally, it is

imperative that institutional, administrative and legal changes are part of managing water scarcity.

Ms. Rania Abdel Khaleq, Director of the Water Demand Management Unit, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan, addressed the issue of water management and desertification in Jordan. Ms. Khaleq underlined the severe water situation chronic in Jordan, a country characterized in a situation of “absolute scarcity” (one of twelve in the world). Further, available renewable water resources are dropping considerably while demand continues to grow, in an environment where demand currently outstrips supply. She outlined the sectors that utilize water (municipal, industrial and agricultural) and presented Jordan’s water demand management strategy that focuses on conservation, recycling and education while employing methods that include tariffs, changing domestic, agricultural and industrial practices, employing new water-saving technology, and reusing waste water. She also described the need for greater efficiency that maximizes the net benefit of water in society, including by defining roles on water usages. On desertification, Ms. Khaleq stressed that land degradation had deep socio-economic impacts on Jordan and constraints to fully dealing with this phenomenon are environmental, institutional and financial.

Dr. Abdelkader Touzi, Director of the Research on Renewable Energy Unit, Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research, Algeria, discussed Algeria’s experience in preserving fragile ecosystems from desertification. Desertification is a serious problem due to climatic and physical conditions coupled with increased agricultural activities. Implementing sustainable agriculture is becoming imperative due to increased stress factors, such as overpopulation, overgrazing and fires. Dr. Touzi underlined that technology alone is not enough, as increased human and financial resources were needed, particularly in areas of training and research. Algerian policies to stem land degradation includes date palm tree cultivation, recycling, conservation, better irrigation practices, better grazing practices, increased research, among others. In spite of increased research there are continued scientific and technological constraints due to a lack of communication among institutions and individuals, limited technology transfer, assistance and investment, and a disconnect between laboratories and practical activities. Dr. Touzi believes that an integrated approach is needed and OSCE has a role to play in this. The Organization can inform participating States on technological innovation, provide research and training programs (e.g. multimedia and electronic libraries), provide an open forum for discussion and fund research and information management tools.

The various speakers agreed in suggesting that the OSCE has a role to play in countering desertification. The main points agreed upon were:

- The OSCE has a role to play in combating desertification in the Mediterranean region by providing studies on the ecology of the region, seeking methods of adaptation and working with other institutions to combat this problem;
- The OSCE can inform participating States on technological innovation;
- The OSCE can provide research and training programmes (e.g. multimedia and electronic libraries);
- The OSCE can provide an open forum for discussion and fund research and information management tools;
- The OSCE could hold a workshop/side event in Madrid to bring experts together to discuss desertification and begin to coordinate institutional actions to combat this phenomenon.

## **Discussion:**

One participant noted that migration, poverty and desertification were linked and governments in the north were just starting to understand this. He suggested that the only way to slow migration was to improve human development so people will not migrate, which necessitates combating land degradation. He further suggested that an OSCE expert's workshop could contribute to solving this problem.

Another participant stressed that Mediterranean issues were OSCE issues as they were linked by geography and OSCE participating States were already contributing to combat problems related to water.

A further participant highlighted the existing and growing problems of climate change which leads to population movements. He noted this was a pan-Mediterranean issue, which includes the OSCE.

A final participant encouraged the OSCE to further develop its concepts of Mediterranean engagement on this issue and expressed the desire to discuss it further at a higher level.

## **Plenary Session V: Land degradation and soil contamination**

**Moderator:** **Dr. Deniz Yüksel-Beten**, Head of Threats and Challenges Section, Public Diplomacy Division, NATO.

**Rapporteur:** **Ms. Anne Suotula**, Senior Economic and Environmental Officer, Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator Office in Uzbekistan.

The moderator, Dr. Deniz Yüksel-Beten, gave a short overview of some of the activities carried out by NATO in this field. She also mentioned many opportunities for NATO and the OSCE to inform each other on relevant activities and noted the possibility for joint projects in the future.

Mr. Grégoire de Kalbermatten, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) discussed land degradation and desertification under climate change scenarios. He pointed out how the challenges the UNCCD was meant to address were actually worsening under present scenarios of climate change. He stated that around 1,8 billion people were currently living in drylands and how entire regions in Eastern Europe and Central Asia were at risk.

Mr. de Kalbermatten went on to say that the OSCE and the UNCCD can provide impulses for selective and well-targeted areas of support in order to reduce vulnerabilities of ecosystems and people in the concerned regions. The OSCE's role in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation can be carried out along with UNCCD programmes dealing with land degradation, land pollution and drought management.

Mr. de Kalbermatten suggested possible areas of co-operation between the UNCCD and OSCE on national, sub-regional and regional levels, including data monitoring and assessment, land rehabilitation and prevention of land pollution. He called for the establishment of a sub-regional drought management centre in Central Asia, similar to the

one that is being established in South-Eastern Europe. The centre could perform an important function of providing sub-regional and national monitoring services and act as a first step towards emergency or conflict prevention.

Mr. Robert Raschman, Managing Director of Dekonta Company, gave an overview of the company's activities in remediation of contaminated sites through three different case studies: remediation of petrochemical plant in Pančevo in Serbia; bioremediation of sediments and sludge contaminated with crude oil in Baku in Azerbaijan; and a feasibility study for Lojane Mine Site in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Using these projects as an example, Mr. Raschman drew a number of important conclusions and recommendations for future work:

- Urgent action is sometimes a crucial aspect of successful remediation, but co-operation of various donors, rather than competition between them, is also needed;
- Implementation of high-tech remediation techniques, standards and methods is not always the most beneficial solution;
- There is no lack of available information on land degradation and soil contamination. The actual disposal work should be given priority instead of producing countless reports and assessments on the problem.

Mr. Raschman stressed that the OSCE could have an important role in co-ordinating the existing activities, elaborating the registers of contaminated site and identifying contamination problems that have trans-boundary consequences. The OSCE should be involved in addressing real environmental and public health risks regardless of the origin of the contamination (rocket fuel oxidizer melange, mining etc.)

### **Discussion:**

The moderator noted that there was ongoing work both at NATO and the OSCE for addressing the threats posed by “melange” in various countries.

One Asian Partner for Co-operation raised the importance of the issue of sandstorms and flash floods that plague the Asian region and that require transnational environmental co-operation. The delegation requested that the UNCCD provide more information on the convention's current efforts to mitigate sandstorms.

Mr. Kalbermatten agreed that sandstorms present a huge problem and explained that in this context the UNCCD can offer a platform for discussion and exchange of experience between nations but that the principal actors should be the nations affected by the issue.

The ensuing discussion touched on land degradation and soil contamination issues. Several delegations gave an overview of the situation in their countries, as well as presenting their respective Governments' efforts to address the issues of land degradation and soil contamination. One participant brought up the South Caucasus River Monitoring project as an exemplary ENVSEC activity in the region and stressed also the importance of assisting, including training, young scientists in all affected countries. Another participant raised the problem of environmentally induced migration and how it is likely to also affect the OSCE participating States. Regional co-operation should be strengthened to tackle this issue. In this connection, the delegation informed the participants of a workshop on resource mobilization, which is to be organized in the Czech Republic in spring 2008. The problems of the Aral Sea were also raised during the discussion.

Germany reiterated its earlier offer to assist other nations in restoring military lands, in waste disposal and in cleaning minefields as the country had gained considerably experience on the matter. Mr. Kalbermatten suggested that Germany participate with experts in one of the upcoming UNCCD meetings to further develop and give substance to this initiative.

From the discussion the following specific areas for possible OSCE action were raised:

- The OSCE should use its convening power in its regional sphere to clarify the links between natural resources scarcity and security in order to enable more effective responses from the states in environmental emergencies;
- The OSCE, taken into consideration its field presences and knowledge of local conditions, could also contribute to the set-up of regional co-operation mechanisms, including supporting the UNCCD effort to establish a sub-regional drought management centre in Central Asia;
- The OSCE should be well-placed to identify contamination problems with trans-boundary consequences and thus facilitate the development of joint agreements to prevent conflict that may erupt in the context of land pollution;
- The OSCE can play an active role in concentrating available financial resources and co-ordinating existing activities in the sphere of land degradation and soil contamination.

### **Closing Debate: The role of the OSCE in follow-up to the 15<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum**

**Moderator:** Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Araceli Jiménez-Segura, Liaison Officer, OSCE/OCEEA

Mr. Bernard Snoy, CoEEA, referred to the “Tentative Outcome and Possible Follow-up to the 15<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum” circulated on 19 April under the reference number EF.GAL/9/07. After highlighting some of the possible follow up activities in the document and others proposed throughout the various sessions he encouraged the participants to seize the opportunity to propose other follow up activities/projects or to comment on the already mentioned ones.

One OSCE Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation thank the Chairmanship and OCEEA for giving the Mediterranean partners the opportunity to discuss some pressing issues in the region such as desertification and stated that there was consensus among the Partners to ask the OSCE to have a workshop as a follow-up to the Session IV. It stressed the importance of bringing representatives of the business community into this activity, as economic reasons play a determinant role in affecting, whether positively or negatively, many environmental problems.

Another delegation stressed the fact that environmental security was a difficult concept to agree on and therefore there was an enormous task ahead for the OSCE. In order to succeed in this task the OSCE needed to work with other numerous organisations and avoid duplication. The delegation stated that one of the main tasks the OSCE should work on was the prevention of large natural disasters and hazards. The delegation proposed to establish

and finance an Eurasian Water Management Centre, to conduct, first of all, research in the Central Asia, in co-operation with the Central Asian states, EurAsEC, other international organisations, and invited the OSCE to participate in the work of this Centre. Finally, the importance of co-operating with the business community was also stressed. The partnership between the state and the business community was crucial in order to provide environmental security and sustainable development. It was announced that its Ministry of Natural Resources was at the final stage of discussing the dates and format of a Conference on public-private partnership to strengthen environmental security and ensure sustainable development. Ideally the Conference would take place at the beginning of October, before the Belgrade Ministerial Council.

One participant talked about a project that was currently being implemented by his Government on sustainable development and said that soil contamination was one of the key indicators. He stated how the OSCE would be useful in assisting on this issue (soil contamination and how it impacts sustainable development). Finally, he affirmed that his country was willing to share its experience and lessons learned with other Central Asian participating States.

A participant from one of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation expressed his concerns related to environmental issues and their impacts on sustainable development being not high on the political agenda of many Governments. In this respect, the Forum had been an important and useful platform to exchange views and experiences. He then gave a small briefing on an integrated water management project based on the Millennium Development Goals and requested assistance on assessing parts of the project's implementation. Finally, he stressed the pressing need for regional plans and the need to strengthen local capabilities as mechanism to enhance regional co-operation.

Another participant thanked the UNECE for its report and the Chairmanship for the Environmental Security Strategy draft proposal. She pointed out that the current draft proposal was too broad and that it was important to focus on specific issues where the OSCE can play an active role based on the Maastricht Strategy. Finally, her delegation welcomed the theme proposed by the incoming Finnish Chairmanship for the 16<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum. In particular it noted the links with the themes of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Fora.

One delegation said that the OSCE efforts should be focused on concrete agreed activities at the local and regional level. Given the limited resources, there should be further co-ordination of efforts in enhancing the active participation of the field presences in implementing programmes that help regional co-operation in trans-border environmental problems.

Other delegations supported the idea of enhancing OSCE work in fostering transboundary co-operation in the OSCE area, especially with regard to water issues.

A delegation stressed the importance of river management in Central Asia and suggested the development of a Regional Convention on water issues and proposed to host a conference to do so.

In another delegation's view, most of the sessions had been rather descriptive than prescriptive and often did not address whether and how the OSCE should act on problems. However, Plenary Session I was a model for how the Forum should work. The delegation praised the quality of the presentations at that session and the spontaneity of the discussion.



It clarified that its Government did not oppose the Spain's proposal for an Environmental Security Strategy, but that it was convinced that the current draft proposal needed to be fine-tuned and scaled back in order to avoid duplicating what other organisations were already doing. Finally, the willingness of the preceding speaker to devote financial resources to the second dimension was welcomed.

The Finnish delegation congratulated the Spanish Chairmanship and the CoEEA and his office for organizing a topical and well-focused second part of the 2007 Forum. It thanked the delegations for comments which had helped to make the Finnish proposal for the theme of the 2008 Economic and Environmental Forum more inclusive, and for their support. The delegation stressed the continuity between the themes of the 2006, 2007 and the 2008 Fora. Finally, it informed delegations that, after due process of decision-making in the PC, Finland intended to host the First Preparatory Conference of the 16<sup>th</sup> EEF in Helsinki on 10-11 September 2007.

### **SPECIAL EVENT: Launching of ENVSEC Assessment Report for Eastern Europe**

**Moderator:** Mr. Ben Slay, Director of UNDP's Regional Centre in Bratislava, Chairman of the ENVSEC Initiative

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Raul Daussa, Programme Officer, OCEEA/OSCE

Mr. Slay introduced the speakers and presented the highlights and key findings of the ENVSEC Assessment Report for Eastern Europe (EF.IO/20/07/Add.1 of 21 May 2007). He stressed the fact that Environmental Ministers need alliances to reach their goals, and so do international organisations. He then explained the rationale of the Environment and Security Initiative, a partnership of six international organisations which works with the partner countries to make the region more secure, sustainable and environmentally conscious.

Mr. Slay described the Eastern European region (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) as a bridge between the EU and Russia and also explained why energy security is a key issue for the region. He stressed that shared water resources deserve special attention as they offer excellent opportunities for regional co-operation, but some legacies of the past still place environment and security challenges that must be addressed.

Mr. Slay then explained which areas of activity the ENVSEC partners propose to focus on. The work programme would be divided into five focal areas:

- Management of common environmental resources;
- Mitigating security risks from sources of pollution and waste;
- Addressing the environmental aspects of security policies;
- Integrated approaches to environment security 'hot spots'; and
- Strengthening institutions in the environment and security domain.

Activities to be implemented range from capacity building, assistance in policy making, improve governance and public participation in environment and security issues.

Mr. Slay gave the floor to the representatives of the three countries to explain their perspectives and priorities.

Mr. Aleksandr Savastienko, Head of Department, BelNitz Ecology Research Center in Belarus, welcomed the report and explained that Belarus is developing a strategy to improve legislation reorienting its policy to prevention of environmental problems rather than remediation. Belarusian national priorities range from soil degradation prevention to disposal of military waste, protection of the rivers and biodiversity in Polessie. Flood protection and joint monitoring of the Pripiat River with Ukraine are also among the priorities, as well as the remediation of the Chernobyl disaster. Mr. Savastienko proposed the ENVESC partners to explore the possibility of monitoring and mitigating the risk of oil-gas pipelines in the region, by organising an event on technology security.

H.E. Constantin Mihailescu, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic of Moldova, expressed the full support to the ENVSEC report and explained the consultative process of the initiative. Moldova has signed many Multilateral Environmental Agreements and is a member of several international organisations that tackle environmental issues. The main environmental security issues that Moldova needs to address include the lack of wastewater treatment equipment (mainly in rural areas), air pollution (mainly in large cities), illegal waste disposal (Pesticides) and the risks of military bases. Mr. Mihailescu stressed as well the Transdnistrian conflict as a source of environmental insecurity and welcomed the assistance of the OSCE to help solve the issue. He then developed a list of priority actions that include regional co-operation, monitoring, information sharing, waste and chemical management, risk mapping, and facilitation of international agreements like the Dniester river agreement facilitated by the OSCE and the UNECE.

Mr. Mykola Babych, Deputy Head of the State Water Management Committee, Ukraine, expressed the gratitude of Ukraine to the organisers of the Conference and welcomed the report. He explained the priorities of Ukraine on environmental security issues: mitigation of man-made pollution and accidents, prevention of air and water pollution, inclusion in the security policy of measures to prevent degradation of the Dnieper, reduction of military and hazardous activities and focus on nuclear and chemical terrorism. Mr. Babych explained in more detail examples of water co-operation since 2002 when Ukraine developed water systems based on the EU Water Framework Directive. Ukraine is a member of the Global Water Partnership and is implementing projects with OSEC, UNECE and NATO. Seven out of the nine river basins in Ukraine have river basin organisations, but not many are dealing with environmental issues. Mr. Babych finalized its intervention praising the catalytic role of the OSCE in the solution of regional environmental problems.

Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Environmental Adviser, UNECE, presented the concrete example of co-operation and broader participation and transparency in the Dniester basin (EF.IO/24/07 22 May 2007). Mr. Libert explained that the Dniester river is transboundary (Ukraine, Moldova/Transdnistrian region) and flows from the Carpathian Mountains to the Black Sea. It has more than 7 million inhabitants in the basin, is the main source of drinking water in Moldova, and a major drinking source in Ukraine. The Dniester project identified through an evaluation the areas that needed co-operation. Those areas were: narrow scope of cooperation; limited participation of institutions; no public participation, and limited access and exchange of information. The project included activities to broaden the scope: health, ecosystems; broader participation; public participation, and information systems.

Mr. Nickolai Denisov, ENVSEC Regional Desk for Eastern Europe, UNEP, presented in detail the work programme of ENVSEC in Eastern Europe which is divided into the five clusters explained by Mr. Slay. Project activities have been identified in each cluster, and are available to delegations (EF.IO/18/07 21 May 2007) in the form of short project summaries.

Mr. Denisov explained that the ENVSEC work programme for Eastern Europe reflects issues and needs expressed by the countries throughout the assessment process. It also takes into account capacities of the initiative's partner agencies.

### **Discussion:**

One delegation asked for the involvement of the OSCE field presences in the Dniester project and how bilateral agreements were reached with the Transdnistrian authorities.

Mr. Libert replied that the project manager was based at the office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. Regarding Transdnistria, there was ongoing informal co-operation in the area of health and NGOs from both sides of the river participated in the meetings.

Another delegation praised the new initiative for Eastern Europe and stressed the importance of finding synergies with the EU Neighbourhood Policy. It also asked about the priority environmental areas/"hotspots" which are more related to security and might have the potential of leading to political conflict.

Mr. Denisov explained that the ENVSEC partners are already in contact with the Regional Desk of the EC and some synergies are in place, for example within the Dniester Project. The more problematic areas already appear in the report maps.

The NGO Ecotyras stated the importance of such regional initiatives and requested support to the NGOs that adhere to the principles of river basin co-operation. He explained the main problems of the region and mentioned that ecosystem services were needed to support the biodiversity and the Espoo convention should be respected in any major works in the Dniester basin.

### **SPECIAL EVENT: Review of environmental challenges in the Caspian Basin and possible follow-up.**

**Moderator: Ms. Elizabeth Smith**, Senior Environmental Advisor, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**Rapporteur: Mr. David Swalley**, Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer, OSCE/OCEEA

The session featured presentations of Caspian Basin countries' perspectives and priorities.

Mr. Alzhan Braliev, the Vice Minister of Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan, provided an overview of the main directions of the measures undertaken by the Government of Kazakhstan in regards to the environmental protection of the Caspian Sea. In the field of the preservation and sustainable use of bio-resources, Kazakhstan is reconstructing and modernizing fish-breeding factories, as well as conducting scientific research and establishing zoning and monitoring procedures to protect sturgeon stocks in the Caspian Sea. In attempts to reduce petroleum pollution in the Caspian Sea and improve the quality of sea water, Kazakhstan has implemented a programme to liquidate and remove over 153 (including 85 wells in the Caspian Sea flood zone) non-functioning oil wells and remove the remains of 53 sunken ships in Bautino Bay. Scientific research and monitoring of oil-extraction companies are also currently being conducted. Regarding the cases of the Caspian

seals deaths, Kazakhstan is interested in getting assistance from the international organisations, including the OSCE, in identifying the true causes of these incidents.

Kazakhstan is also taking efforts to develop a dialogue with non-governmental organisations. NGO representatives have been invited to participate in the Interdepartmental Commission on Environmental Quality Stabilization Issues. The Commission has reviewed issues related to the environmental safety of petroleum operations and other environmental requirements for activities involving the Caspian Sea.

Finally, the Kazakh government has been improving the level of legislation in order to set the foundation for protecting the marine environment. Among new legislation measures recently adopted have been bans on oil flaring and dumping of waste in the Caspian Sea. Other recent amendments have also included toughening criminal sanctions for environmental contamination by companies and individuals.

Mr. Ramiz Rzayev of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan confirmed that environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources were among the national priorities of Azerbaijan. More than 100 laws and other statutory instruments have been adopted, including those regulating the protection and use of water resources. In specific reference to the Caspian Sea, the main priorities are: the reduction of marine pollution, preservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of bio-resources, and the sustainable use of littoral areas.

Since petroleum extraction is a major economic activity in Azerbaijan, great efforts have been made to ensure that foreign oil companies are complying with international standards when extracting oil and gas deposits. Azerbaijan is also in the process of building and modernizing sewage systems throughout the country through its national budgets. Efforts are also be carried out to clean-up the 33,000 hectares of land and inland water reservoirs on the Absheron Peninsula, polluted by oil, sludge, and drill water. These pollution issues are paramount to the Caspian Sea because they have a direct impact on the biosphere of the Caspian Sea.

Azerbaijan has also taken significant steps to preserve biodiversity and the sustainable use of marine bio-resources. Some of these measures include the renovation, modernization, or creation of new fish hatcheries while at the same time taking efforts to combat poaching. Much work has been undertaken to improve the spawning grounds of native fish including the dredging of the Kura River. The Government has also considerably expanded the number of nature conservation areas (almost 11% of Azerbaijan's territory) and have created 7 national parks, three of which (Absheorn, Shirvan, and Girkan) are located in the Caspian coastal area. These protected nature areas make it easier to protect rare and endangered species of flora and fauna.

Mr. Oleg Mitvol of the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation highlighted the threat of pollution to marine mammals in the Caspian Sea. Specifically, Mr. Mitvol mentioned the recent death of approximately 1000 seals in the Northern Caspian region. Mr. Mitvol informed about the consultations with the Kazakhstan delegation at the Prague Forum and called upon the OSCE to organise a joint monitoring mission with the participation of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan to determine the causes of the deaths of marine mammals.

Mr. Mukhammet Nepesov, the Head of the Laboratory for the Monitoring of Desertification, Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan, provided a presentation on the priority

environmental issues for Turkmenistan in regards to the Caspian Sea. Turkmenistan has introduced a number of socio-economic measures and legal mechanism to combat environmental degradation in the Caspian sea coast and to protect the water quality and marine life. Considerable attention is being given to modernizing oil and gas production facilities.

Mr. Nikolai Denisov, of the United Nations Environmental Programme/GRID, provided a short overview on the upcoming ENVSEC East Caspian Environmental Assessment. The Assessment aims to identify and analyze the specific threats to environment and security in the Caspian region in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. The Assessment began with national consultations in 2006 with representatives from governments, civil society, and academicians to identify priority environmental issues in the East Caspian region. Once the Assessment is complete later in 2007, the ENVSEC Initiative will further develop a work programme to help remediate identified environment and security threats.

Ambassador Fuad Ismayilov, Head of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE, expressed a reservation on the part of his country regarding the proposed monitoring mission in the Caspian Sea, under the auspices of the OSCE, noting that the OSCE might not have sufficient expertise.

**SPECIAL EVENT: New international political and financing perspectives:  
Transboundary water management as a regional public  
good and benefit sharing beyond the river.**

**Chair: Mrs. Anne Due**, Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE.

**Rapporteur: Ms. Petra Polgar**, Environmental Assistant, OCEEA/ OSCE.

This session discussed one of the main priorities of Sweden, namely sustainable transboundary water management. The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is particularly concerned with the financial and political dimension of management of transboundary water resources.

Dr. Anders Jägerskog, project director of SIWI, referred in his presentation to the outcomes of the research and projects SIWI had been working on, in particular, the publication “Transboundary Water Management as a Regional Public Good - Financing development - an example from the Nile Basin”. Dr. Jägerskog presented an analysis of transboundary water management from the perspective of the public goods theory.

Dr. Jägerskog argued that global public goods justify international support as, due to their characteristics, public goods are neither provided through national development activities nor through market mechanisms. In addition support to public goods may have positive “spill-over” effects into other areas such as security, trade and regional integration. Sustainable management of transboundary water resources is in itself a regional public good as well as a source of regional public goods. By jointly managing a river, for example, riparian countries can generate public goods such as flood and drought protection, increased biodiversity and better conservation, improved water quality and even peace and regional stability.

Dr. Jägerskog summarized the key lessons for the OSCE:

- Co-operative management of a transboundary water resources is an important public good and a source of regional public good benefits;
- Developing and supporting transboundary river basin management does not only serve the preservation of water resources but can also be an important catalyst for promoting economic growth and regional stability;
- Transboundary water resources are often considered as source of conflicts but if addressed in the right way they can serve as a tool for co-operation;
- UNECE conventions may provide an adequate framework for generating public goods in basins in the countries in the region;
- OSCE can provide a neutral platform for discussions and data sharing;
- Reaching agreement takes time, thus transboundary water co-operation needs to be looked at from a long-term perspective. Investments should be made in processes (such as building collaborative structures and institutions, building capacity in the multi-sector use of water, and building trust amongst the riparian states) rather than in projects.

Dr. Marwa Daoudy, Graduate Institute for International Studies (Geneva) / Center for International Studies and Research (Paris), gave a presentation on the concept of benefit-sharing and how the concept could be used by the OSCE in terms of sustainable water management.

The benefit sharing concept emphasizes that co-operation on international watercourses will not just lead to sharing water but will offer greater incentives for states to enter into agreements. Hence, enhanced co-operation on the sharing of water (or the benefits arising from water resources) can offer real promise for defusing tensions and reducing broader conflicts. Therefore, any successful benefit-sharing scheme will require the generation of a 'broad basket' of possible benefits to act as an inducement to each riparian to be involved

In her presentation, Dr. Daoudy referred to a comparative analysis of the rivers Jordan, Kagera and Mekong, that concluded that well-managed watershed will provide enhanced benefits in terms of:

- Security: promotion of peaceful relations, reduction of military expenditure, prevention of human societal insecurity;
- Economic development: enhancement of trade, food production, local household consumption, livelihoods;
- Environmental protection: contribution to biodiversity, promotion of sustainable management of transboundary resources, access to sufficient water resources.

Mr. Bernard Snoy, CoEEA, expressed his gratitude to Sweden for initiating this special session and mentioned the participation of SIWI in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Conference in Zaragoza. He emphasized that the topic is of keen interest for the OSCE and that it has been very active in area of regulating global public goods, in particular in the field of management of transboundary water resources. Co-operation on shared resources is a win-win situation as increasingly realized by the scientific community but there is an urgent need for catalytic elements to put the concept into practice. Mr. Bernard Snoy mentioned that various international organisations are already active in this area (e.g. European Commission, European Environment Agency, UNECE) and stressed the role the OSCE can play in the political dimension. The OSCE is looking back at a long history in the field of transboundary water management and has played a crucial role in fostering co-operation on the cross-boundary rivers Sava, Chu and Talas and Dniester.

In the future, the OSCE may engage also more actively in the rehabilitation of the Aral Sea Basin and in fostering the co-operation on shared water resources in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

### **Discussion:**

Prof. Victor Dukhovny, Director of the Scientific Information Center of the Central Asian Interstate Co-ordination Water Commission (SIC ICWC), pointed out that management of shared resources does not only lead to common benefits but also common expenses. Hence, the question of sharing expenses has to be addressed in more detail.

Mr. Jägerskog agreed that the question of expenses and responsibility is a key issue and stressed that investments in transboundary water management are a long-term undertaking and called for donors to assist poor countries in bearing the cost.

H.E. Mr. Masaid Hamidov, Minister of Water Resources and Land Reclamation of the Republic of Tajikistan, stressed that most of the water in Central Asia is provided by Tajikistan but it uses only 8% of the resources. He called upon international organisations, donors and scientific community to provide assistance to downstream countries in order limit their water demand and to assist Tajikistan in the establishment of a power plant which would profit not only Tajikistan but the whole region.

The Co-ordinator added that sharing water between upstream and downstream countries is an issue of governance. Whereas under Soviet times, the allocation of water was decided centrally, it is now a question of terms of trade between upstream and downstream countries.

An Economic and Environmental Officer of the OSCE underlined the need for concrete water sharing criteria based on economic criteria that might help to balance opposed interests by upstream and downstream countries.

### **Special Event:     **Review of Environmental Issues in Central Asia and possible follow-up****

**Moderator: Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Rapporteur: Ms. Saba Nordstrom**, Environmental Adviser, OCEEA/OSCE

Mr. Mikhail Outkine, Programme Officer for Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, UNCCD, spoke of UNCCD as a legal instrument and of the National Action Programmes developed by all CA states and whereby sub-regional and regional Action Programmes were also expected. He mentioned the CACILM regional project with a project secretariat in Ashkabad as well as the UNCCD/OSCE preparations to foster a dialogue on setting up a regional drought monitoring centre in Central Asia. The first meeting is to be held in Tashkent, in October 2007 at the request of Uzbekistan, while a second meeting is proposed to be held in Kyrgyzstan in the summer of 2008.

Mr. Usman K. Buranov, Leader, Agency of International Fund to Save the Aral Sea for the implementation of the Aral Sea Basin and GEF, spoke of the decline of water in the Aral Sea and its high contamination of pollutants, as well as the social issues linked to the Aral Sea,

including unemployment, decline in industry and decline in the health of the population. Long terms assistance is needed and in particular the whole area of the Amu-Darya should be restored. Further to be improved is the counter measures to soil degradation and Mr. Buranov mentioned his openness for co-operation and assistance, hoping to co-operate with the OSCE.

H.E. Mr. Masaid Hamidov, Minister of Water Resources and Land Reclamation of Tajikistan, informed the participants that his government had prepared a declaration for all the governments in the Central Asia region to consider and to offer their feedback. The declaration was read out.

Mr. Alzhan Braliev, Vice Minister of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan, presented a comprehensive report on the situation in Kazakhstan and also the need for improvement in the Central Asia region with regard to addressing the challenges of climate change. In particular, new sources of energy were required. Further on, Mr. Braliev mentioned the co-operation with Kyrgyzstan on the Chu and Talas rivers, new statute being developed for the River Commission, and the aim of Kazakhstan to ratify the POPs convention. He concluded by stating that the links between environment and security were important and that his country would be in particular interested in further activities related to public participation aspects of water management. This was an area where the OSCE could develop and facilitate a political dialogue at the regional level.

Mr. Baratali Koshmatov, General Director, Department of Water Resources of the Kyrgyz Republic, spoke of the importance of irrigation for Kyrgyzstan and the focus on improvement of agriculture production. He also mentioned the work of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on the Chu and Talas rivers. Finally he noted the interest of working with foreign experts on water management.

Mr. Bektemir Ibragimov, Deputy Head of National Water Inspection, Ministry for Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan, noted that associations of water management should support the modernization of irrigation and raise the awareness amongst farmers. This in turn needs to be mirrored with a large state budget but is presently lacking human resources and equipment.

Mr. Akmammed Ovezov, Head, Department of Exploitation, Ministry of Water Resources of Turkmenistan noted that the water of Turkmenistan originates in other countries, with the Amu Darya being the main resource in this context. Presently Turkmenistan has bilateral agreements with Uzbekistan and Iran in the area of water. He said that his country recognizes the problems related with transboundary water and believes there is a need to improve the efficiency of water use. He also informed that Turkmenistan uses 95% of its water for irrigation.

Mr. Bernard Snoy, CoEEA, wrapped up the session with stating that the Central Asian countries face similar problems, related to water. He was encouraged by the co-operation between them and mentioned IFAS and ICWC in this respect, as well as the increased co-operation on drought management, through UNCCD.



## Log of Contributions

Document ID	Date	Author	Title	Language
<b>Opening Session</b>				
EF.DEL/38/07	21.05.07	Germany	European Union Opening Statement	English
EF.DEL/49/07	22.05.07	CiO Spain	Opening statement by H.E Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaube, OSCE Chairman -in - Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Spain	Spanish
EF.GAL/12/07	21.05.07	OCEEA	Introductory Remarks by Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities	English
<b>Introductory Plenary Session</b>				
EF.DEL/29/07	18.05.07	Tajikistan	Keynote Address by Mr. Hamidov Masaid Yakubjanovich, Minister of Melioration and Water Resources, Tajikistan, Member of the CA Intergovernmental Water Commisison. Water resourses- factor of security, cooperation and development of the Central-Asian region.Problems and ways of their resolving. Questions and prospects	EF.DEL/29/07
EF.DEL/29/07/Add.1	22.05.07	Tajikistan	Presentation by the keynote speaker, Mr. Hamidov Masaid Yakubjanovich, Minister of Melioration and Water Resources, Tajikistan, Member of the CA Intergovernmental Water Commisison	EF.DEL/29/07/Add.1
EF.DEL/30/07		Slovenia	Address by Mr. Janez Podobnik, Minister of the environment and spatial planning of Slovenia	EF.DEL/30/07
EF.DEL/44/07	22.05.07	Belarus	Statement by Amb. Alyksandr Sychov, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Belarus to the OSCE	EF.DEL/44/07
EF.DEL/0058/07	29.05.07	Georgia on behalf of GUAM	Statement of GUAM	EF.DEL/0058/07
EF.IO/19/07	21.05.07	UNECE	Statement by Mr Kaj Barlund, Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division on behalf of Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary, United Nation Economic Commission for Europe	EF.IO/19/07
<b>Plenary Session I</b>				
EF.IO/23/07	22.05.07	European Environment Agency (EEA)	Presentation by Ms. Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency (EEA)	English
EF.DEL/0059/07	29.05.07	Canada	Statement by Canada	English
<b>Special Event - ENVSEC</b>				
EF.DEL/34/07	20.05.07	Moldova	Presentation by Mr. Constantin Mihailescu, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Moldova	Russian
EF.DEL/41/07	22.05.07	Belarus	Contribution by Mr. Aleksandr Savastenko, Head of Department , BelNitz Ecology Research Center, Belarus	English Russian

EF.IO/18/07	21.05.07	ENVSEC	Contribution by the Environment Security Programme	English
EF.IO/20/07/Add.1	21.05.07	ENVSEC	Presentation by Mr. Ben Slay, Director of UNDP's Regional Centre in Bratislava, Chairman of the ENVSEC Initiative	English
EF.IO/24/07	22.05.07	UNECE	Presentation by Mr. Bo Libert, regional advisor on environment, UN Economic Commission For Europe (UNECE), Geneva	English
<b>Review Session</b>				
EF.DEL/43/07	22.05.07	Belarus	Statement by Mr. Alexandr Opimakh, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Belarus to the OSCE	English Russian
EF.IO/13/07	03.05.07	UNECE	Review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension	English
EF.IO/21/07	21.05.07	UNECE	Presentation by Mr. Kaj Barlund, Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE	English
EF.DEL/61/07	26.06.07	Azerbaijan	Review of commitments session - Talking points of the Delegation of Azerbaijan	English
<b>Special Event- Caspian Basin</b>				
EF.DEL/33/07	21.05.07	Kazakhstan	Statement by Mr. Alzhan Braliev, Vice Minister of Environment Protection, Kazakhstan	English Russian
EF.DEL/42/07	22.05.07	Azerbaijan	Contribution by Mr. Ramiz Rzayev, Chief of Protocol and Organization Sector, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan	English Russian
EF.IO/22/07	22.05.07	Environment and Security Initiative	Contribution by Mr. Nickolai Denisov, ENVSEC Regional Desk for Eastern Europe, UNEP	English
EF.IO/22/07/Add.1	22.05.07	Environment and Security Initiative	Background information by Mr. Nickolai Denisov, ENVSEC Regional Desk for Eastern Europe, UNEP	English Russian
<b>Special Event- Transboundary water management</b>				
		SIWI	Transboundary Water Management as a Regional Public Good. Financial development -an example from the Nile Basin	English
EF.IO/25/07	22.05.07	SIWI	Presentation by Mr. Anders Jagerskog, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)	English
EF.NGO/5/07	22.05.07	CERI	Presentation by Dr. Marwa Daoudy, Center for International Studies and Research, Paris	English
<b>Plenary Session II</b>				
EF.DEL/27/07	17.05.07	Kyrgyzstan	Issues of water security in Central Asia and ways of their decision	English Russian
EF.DEL/39/07	21.05.07	Bulgaria	Contribution by Mr. Boyko Peev, Chief Expert, Ministry of Environment and Water/Directorate, Bulgaria	English

EF.DEL/53/07	23.05.07	Russian Federation	Presentation by Mr. Rustem Khamitov, Head of the Russian Federal Agency of Water Resources	English
EF.IO/16/07	20.05.07	SIC ICWC	Statement by Mr. Victor A. Dukhovny, Scientific Information Center of the Central Asian Interstate Co-ordination Water Commission	English
EF.IO/16/07/Add.1	22.05.07	SIC ICWC	Presentation by Mr. Victor A. Dukhovny, Professor, Director, Scientific Information Center of the Central Asian Interstate Co-ordination Water Commission (SIC ICWC)	English
<b>Plenary Session III</b>				
EF.DEL/32/07	20.05.07	Thailand	Statement by Dr. Suttida Pliankarom, the Royal Irrigation Department, Thailand	English
EF.DEL/39/07	21.05.07	Bulgaria	Contribution by Mr. Boyko Peev, Chief Expert, Ministry of Environment and Water/Directorate, Bulgaria	English
EF.DEL/48/07	22.05.07	Belarus	Statement by Mr. Aleksandr Savastenko, Head of Department, BelNitz Ecology Research Center, Belarus	English Russian
EF.IO/14/07	15.05.07	FAO UN	Statement by Mr. Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General Forestry Department Food and Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO)	English
EF.IO/14/07/Add.1	21.05.07	FAO UN	Presentation on Assisting Countries in Managing Natural Resources, by Jan Heino, Assistant Director General Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO)	English
EF.NGO/3/07	15.05.07	WBCSD	Presentation by Mr. Jürg Gerber, Vice President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)	English
<b>Plenary Session IV</b>				
EF.DEL/25/07	15.05.07	Marocco	Desertification and migration: analysis and perspectives in North Africa	English French
EF.DEL/31/07/Add.1	22.05.07	Algeria	Presentation by Mr. Abdelkader Touzi, Director, Research on Renewable Energy Unit, Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research, Algeria	English
EF.DEL/23/07	15.05.07	Jordan	Water demand management in Jordan	English
EF.DEL/31/07	20.05.07	Algeria	Presentation by Mr. Abdelkader Touzi, Director, Research on Renewable Energy Unit, Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research, Algeria	English
EF.DEL/45/07	22.05.07	Israel	Presentation by Mr. Shimon Tal, former Water Commissioner of Israel	English
EF.DEL/46/07	22.05.07	Marocco	Contribution by Mr. Mohamed Badraoui, Director of Combating Desertification and Nature Protection, High Commissariat for Water, Forest and Combating Desertification, Marocco	English

EF.DEL/47/07	22.05.07	Spain	Presentation by Mr. Jose Luis Herranz Saez, General Director for Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Spain	Spanish
EF.GAL/0011/07	18.05.07	OSCE OCEEA	Food for Thought Paper	English French
<b>Special Event - Environmental issues in Central Asia</b>				
EF.DEL/28/07	18.05.07	Kazakhstan	Report by Mr. Alzhan Braliev, Vice Minister of Environment Protection, Kazakhstan	English Russian
<b>Plenary Session V</b>				
EF.DEL/51/07	23.05.07	Armenia	Presentation by Dr. Armen Saghatelian, Director of the Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies NAS, Armenia	English
EF.DEL/40/07	21.05.07	Bulgaria	Contribution by Valentina Vasileva, Chief Expert, Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria	English
EF.DEL/24/07	15.05.07	Czech Republic	Remediation of contaminated sites - experience from East European, Balkan and Former Soviet Union Countries	English
EF.DEL/24/07/Add.1	23.05.07	Czech Republic	Presentation by Mr. Robert Raschman, Managing Director, Dekonta Company, Czech Republic	English
EF.DEL/55/07	23.05.07	Republic of Korea	Remarks by the Delegate of the Republic of Korea	English
EF.IO/15/07	17.05.07	UNCCD	Key note speech by Mr. Gregoire G. de Kalbermatten	English
EF.DEL/0036/07	21.05.07	Israel	Contribution by Israel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MASHAV - Center for International Cooperation	English
<b>Closing session</b>				
EF.DEL/54/07	23.05.07	Germany	European Union Closing Statement	English
EF.DEL/0056/07	25.05.07	Spain	Closing Statement by Ambassador José Angel Lopez-Jorin, Head of the OSCE Task Force of the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship	English Spanish
	25.05.07		Statement by Ms. Barrios y Almazor, Ambassador at Large for Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain	English Spanish
EF.DEL/0060/07	31.05.07	Tajikistan	Statement by H.E. Mr. Hamidov, Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, Tajikistan	English Russian
EF.DEL/62/07	26.06.07	Azerbaijan	Concluding Remarks of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan	English
<b>General contributions</b>				
EF.INF/5/07/Rev.2		OSCE Prague Office	Final List of Participants	English
EF.GAL/8/07/Rev.3	20.05.07	OCEEA	Annotated Agenda	English

EF.DEL/0025/07	16.05.07	Morocco	Contribution by Prof. Mohamed Badraoui, Director of Combating Desertification and Nature Protection, High Commissariat for Water, Forest and Combating Desertification	English
EF.DEL/26/07/Rev.1	17.05.07	Bosnia and Herzegovina	B&H Country profile concerning soil and water issues	English
EF.DEL/35/07	21.05.07	Turkey	Turkish views on documents, EF.IO/13/07, EF.GAL/9/07 and CIO.GAL/66/07	English
EF.DEL/0037/06	21.05.07	Kazakhstan	Contribution by Mr.Ospanov, Chairman, Agency on Land Resources Management, Kazakhstan	
EF.DEL/50/07	23.05.07	Turkey	Contribution by the Delegation of Turkey on the The Fifth World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference	English
EF.DEL/52/07	23.05.07	Belarus	National report of the state of the environment in the Republic of Belarus	English Russian
CIO.INF/32/07	21.05.07	CiO Spain	Carbon neutral event - Information sheet	English
EF.IO/17/07	20.05.07	SECI	Southeast European Cooperation Initiative, Annual Activity Report 2006	English
EF.NGO/4/07	15.05.07	NGOs - CIS, Eastern and Central Europe	Towards integrated management of transboundary Dniester river and role of public participation	English
15-EEF.JOUR/2	23.05.07	OSCE	Journal of the Forum - Part 2	English, German, French, Russian, Spanish, Italian
SEC.GAL/0060/07	29.03.07	OSCE OCEEA	Logistic Information	English
EF.GAL/0009/07	19.05.07	OSCE OCEEA	Tentative Outcome and Possible Follow-up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum	English
EF.GAL/0010/07	17.05.07	OSCE OCEEA	OCEEA Activity Report Jun 2006 - May 2007	English
EF.INF/0003/07	10.04.07	OSCE	Information about the Program for Spouses on the margins of the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum	English
EF.INF/0004/07	10.04.07	OSCE	EF.INF/0004/07 Visit to the Decontaminated Location of a former Military Airport on the Margins of the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum	English