

Centre for OSCE Research



The CSCE/OSCE and the Environment 1975-2000

An Annotated Documentation of
Selected Commitments, Decisions, Conclusions & Recommendations
elaborated in the Framework of CSCE/OSCE Negotiating Bodies and Seminars

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Comment

This documentation contains decisions by CSCE/OSCE Negotiating Bodies as well as conclusions and recommendations elaborated in the framework of those bodies and seminars dealing with environmental problems. Decisions are printed in **bold**, conclusions and recommendations are printed in normal letters. Some of the conclusions and recommendations were advanced by individuals, others were informally approved by the (majority of) participants at the relevant meeting. In both of these cases, the conclusions and recommendations do not reflect a consensus of the participating States. However, they have been regarded as important enough to be included in official Chairmans' Summaries and Rapporteurs' reports. In this sense, they reflect the discussion on environmental issues in the framework of the OSCE and might indicate the possible future direction of decisions by OSCE Negotiating Bodies.

This documentation has been divided into eleven chapters and several sub-chapters (see "Contents") organised by subject and region in order to offer a thematic structure. Each chapter or sub-chapter is presented in chronological order. In some instances the reader will find double entries, as some paragraphs deal with a number of different issues – for example "Water" and "Transboundary Implications of Environmental Pollution". The topics of the eleven chapters have been selected to correspond to the main problems addressed by CSCE/OSCE documents since 1975. Where the Organization has devoted particular attention to addressing regional developments, sub-chapters on these regions have been introduced. As one would expect, in the chapter on "OSCE Structures and Institutions" sub-chapters have been introduced on the OSCE bodies most important for the "ecological dimension" of the Organization.

The paragraphs have been slightly edited in order to facilitate reading and understanding. They are presented in an anonymous format that does not identify the person or institution that has drawn the respective conclusion or has made the recommendation in question. However, in all cases the text indicates where single words closely following the sense of the proposition have been added, or where parts of a sentence have been omitted - i.e. [should] / [...].

Environmental matters have been part of the CSCE/OSCE agenda from the outset. The Helsinki Final Act, for example, contained a whole section on "Co-operation in the field of economics, of science and technology and of the environment". The recognition that environmental problems and especially disasters could act as potential sources of conflict within as well as between states¹ was not, however, explicitly reflected in the documents issued during the period of the "old CSCE". The need for international co-operation in environmental matters was particular stressed in the 1970s and 1980s. Inter-state co-operation in the environmental field was seen as a means of increasing co-operation in general, and thus increasing security through co-operation. Co-operation in the environmental field was also regarded as necessary in order to solve environmental problems effectively. Regarding the transboundary (cross-border) implications of environmental pollution, the need for bilateral and multilateral approaches was highlighted on a number of occasions, especially following the Chernobyl disaster, when a number of specialized commitments and common goals were identified in Vienna and Sofia 1989. In the late 1990s, the OSCE reiterated the view that regional co-operation was of importance in solving environmental problems, and that

¹ See OSCE Secretariat - OCCEA: Overview on OSCE Environmental Activities, Vienna 8 September 2000, SEC.GAL/107/00, 13 September 2000.

transboundary co-operation in environmental questions was also a confidence building measure. The overall focus of the OSCE has nevertheless changed to specific environmental problems more directly linked to security. Correspondingly, the economic dimension and subsequently ecological aspects of the economic dimension have received more and more attention within the OSCE.

In the 1970s and 1980s transboundary air and water pollution, in particular dangers related to nuclear energy, hazardous chemicals and wastes were identified as major areas of concern. The attempt in Vienna and Sofia 1989 to strengthen prevention and early warning as well as co-operation in the aftermath of industrial accidents reflected the discussions of that time, provoked by the Chernobyl disaster. These issues are still regarded as important today. This is especially reflected by the question of “water management”, which has become one of the major areas of environmental concern in the OSCE area. The need to protect and improve freshwater resources and to reduce water pollution had been already addressed in Helsinki 1975, Madrid 1983 and Vienna 1989. In Sofia 1989 the OSCE participating states drew up detailed commitments regarding the co-operation of states bordering transboundary watercourses. However, throughout the 1970s and 1980s the problems surrounding water pollution were only addressed in a general way without highlighting any specific relationship to security issues. This changed in the mid-90s, when a more concrete, security threatening situation in Central Asia prompted a second discussion on “water management”. After six years of silence, two seminars in Tashkent were dedicated to water management problems in Central Asia in 1995 and 1996, and further discussions were held in the framework of additional seminars, the Economic Forum and the Review Meetings. Finally, the 7th Economic Forum 1999 stressed that *“Good management of scarce freshwater resources is of utmost importance to security in the OSCE area”*. The discussions on water management questions in the OSCE have since been extended from Central Asia to cover other regions in the OSCE area, although the security implications are not always as pressing as those in Central Asia.

In general, the documents show that the security implications of environmental pollution and their transboundary effects have been more explicitly addressed in the late 1990s. This development is especially clearly documented in the chapters on “Inter-State and Regional Co-operation in Environmental Questions”, “Protection of the Environment”, “Transboundary Implications of Environmental Pollution”, “Water” and “Nuclear Safety and Energy & Environment”. These issues were addressed by the CSCE/OSCE at an early stage and have been taken up again - from a more up-to-date perspective - in the 1990s. The current discussions surrounding these topics also demonstrate, however, that not all issues related to the environment are now subsumed under the notion “environment & security” – this connection has been strengthened, but environmental problems without direct security concerns have also been addressed by the OSCE in the 1990es.

The sections on Inter-State Co-operation, Transboundary Implications, Water Management as well as Energy & Nuclear Safety are strongly inter-related and contain excerpts that often refer to other sections. Taken together, these chapters underscore that environmental pollution does not stop at national borders and that inter-state co-operation is therefore essential in this field. Nuclear safety and water management have been identified as areas of special importance in this regard, but other issues such as air pollution, erosion or biodiversity might receive similar attention in the future. For the time being, they have been included in the chapter on environmental protection which serves to a certain extent a “catch-all” function.

The relationship between economic development and the environment has also been discussed by the OSCE since its inception. The recognition that economic development must be compatible with protection of the environment was reflected in the Helsinki Final Act and was reiterated, *inter alia*, in the first economic forums. This was one of the rare occasions on which the “environment” was mentioned in the official summaries – indicating the economic focus of this body in its early stage. Having accepted the assumption that a sound economic development has to be based on a sound environment, the specialized seminars in the late 1990s discussed more detailed questions such as environmental taxes, financial support etc.

Another area already addressed in the Helsinki Final Act 1975 relates to the need to widen public participation in environmental matters. This issue has been the subject of continuous attention by the OSCE, but was more strongly promoted after 1998 in connection with the adoption of the UN/ECE Convention on Access to Information Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Århus Convention). Although the Organization has declared its support for other conventions and protocols related to the environment, the OSCE has adopted an unusually outspoken position as promoter of the principles of the Århus Convention. This support was first voiced in the preparatory seminars to the 7th Economic Forum and later in the Forum itself, and was also reflected in Istanbul 1999. The support for the principles of the Århus Convention, and the call for greater co-operation among NGOs, as well as between NGOs and governments or the OSCE, is reflected in several excerpts documented in the section on “The Role of Civil Society and Public Participation in Environmental Issues”. They underline that the “environmental dimension” of the OSCE is also closely linked to its “human dimension”. Environmental education and awareness, public participation and the strong role of civil society have been pointed out as important for the promotion of sustainable development and sound environmental policies. This approach is at least indirectly linked to security issues, insofar as the strengthening of civil society and environmentally sound development are also a means of strengthening security.

The call for enhanced public participation within states can therefore be seen as complementary to the calls for inter-state and regional co-operation in environmental issues. These also have a dual positive impact on security, through improving the environment as well as inter-state co-operation in general. Another aspect that received more attention in the environmental field in the 1990s was inter-institutional co-operation. As a result of growing OSCE engagement in the environmental field, the question of inter-institutional co-operation and co-ordination in this field has grown in importance. The need for strengthening the co-operation between institutions engaged in protection of the environment was emphasized for the first time in Paris 1990, and was taken up again in Budapest 1994. Thereafter, the need for inter-institutional co-operation was discussed in a more detailed and concrete form in regard to Central Asia during the Tashkent Seminar 1995. Whereas in Paris (1990) and Budapest (1994) co-operation with other international organizations in the environmental field was only briefly mentioned in the context of “environmental protection” and “environmental standards”, in Lisbon (1996) this interaction was already being directed towards “*the security relevance of economic, social and environmental developments*”. Reflecting the growing inter-connection between the environment and security, the Lisbon Summit called for enhanced interaction between the OSCE and regional, sub-regional and transborder co-operative initiatives in the economic and environmental field, as they contribute to the promotion of good-neighborly relations and security. Thus co-operation in the environmental field was once again promoted as a confidence-building measure that could help strengthen security. Likewise, it was the discussion surrounding the elaboration of a comprehensive Security Model for Europe that resulted in the adoption of the Charter for European Security

and the Platform for Co-operative Security in Istanbul 1999, which covers most of the entries listed in the section on inter-institutional co-operation. The economic and environmental dimension was consistently present during these discussions. The Basic Framework of the Charter on European Security laid out in the CiO's Progress Report on the Oslo Ministerial Council 1998 not only mentioned the environmental aspects of security on several occasions, it also featured a specific section on Economic and Environmental issues. However, the main focus in Oslo was clearly on the economic aspects of this dimension. Finally, the participating States agreed in Istanbul 1999, *inter alia*, to enhance the OSCE's ability to address economic and environmental issues in ways that would not duplicate existing work or seek to replace activities that could be more efficiently undertaken by other organizations. Unlike in the discussions surrounding the concept for a Platform for Co-operative Security in Copenhagen (1997) and Oslo (1999), the term "environment" was not included in the Platform itself in 1999. However, the Follow-up Seminar to the 8th Economic Forum in Vienna (2000) demonstrated that the Platform is of special relevance for the environmental activities of the OSCE. This was further documented in the "Annual Report 2000 on Interaction Between Organizations and Institutions in the OSCE Area", which included several reports of co-operation between the OSCE (mainly the OCEEA and OSCE Field Operations) and relevant international organizations in the environmental field. Efforts to enhance cooperation were also at the center of discussions at the Vienna Follow-up Seminar 2000, but have not been further elaborated in the preparatory seminars for the 9th Economic Forum (Bucharest 2001, Brussels 2001) which focused on "Good Governance". In this connection environmental questions have also been touched on, but not in enough depth to justify a section on "Good Governance & the Environment".

During the Vienna-Follow-up-Seminar to the 8th Economic Forum, concrete proposals concerning possible improvements of the co-operation and co-ordination between the OSCE and specialized agencies were discussed. These discussions revealed that the OSCE had to develop a clearer profile of its "economic and environmental dimension" and that it had to provide other organizations with a clearer understanding of what the Organization had to offer. According to the participants of this seminar, the OSCE clearly needed to co-operate with specialized agencies, as it was not an economic organization with a reconstruction role but rather a catalyst for international action with an early warning function – a role that the OSCE could fill best.

The role of the Secretary General and the Chairman-in-Office in strengthening co-ordination with other international organizations has been regarded as essential, although the main responsibility for fulfilling this task lies with the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, which is also reflected in his mandate, adopted in 1997 by the Permanent Council.

It is worth noting that the call for new mechanisms or institution for the co-ordination of environmental protection policies was first voiced by the Parliamentary Assembly in 1993. Three years later, the Permanent Council was tasked by the Lisbon Summit with elaborating a mandate for a co-ordinator within the OSCE Secretariat on OSCE economic and environmental activities. In 1998, it was again the Parliamentary Assembly that called for a reinforcement of the CEEA's role. This underscores the role of the PA in the environmental dimension: on several occasions it called on participating States to improve the OSCE's record in the environmental field.

After the CEEA, the institutions most important for the EED are the Economic Forum and the seminars related to it as well as the OSCE Field Operations. The former provided the forum

for open discussions and exchanges of opinions on environmental matters, which were than occasionally taken up by the OSCE Secretariat or the OSCE Negotiating Bodies. Thus the overwhelming part of this documentation is based on summaries of seminars or the Economic Forum. The latter became more and more engaged in environmental activities after the posts of “Economic/Environmental Experts” were established by the Permanent Council – first in the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia 1998, later on also in the OSCE Centres in Almaty, Ashgabad, Bishkek, Tashkent, the Mission to Tajikistan, the Offices in Baku and Erewan as well as for the Presence in Albania and the Mission to Skopje. The Missions were advised by the Economic Forum, inter alia, to produce spot reports² and to engage in small operational projects which could function as “door-openers”. The Parliamentary Assembly asked the Permanent Council to task them with information-gathering, evaluation and early warning on economic and environmental aspects. In sum, an increase of environmental activities on the field level has been supported on a number of occasions in the last three years, and the OSCE Annual Reports indicate that there has been a dramatic increase in such activities.

The role of the Permanent Council is of importance in this area, as it sets the agenda for Seminars and Economic Forum meetings and elaborates the mandates for the CEEA as well as for the missions – a role that in some cases is also taken by higher negotiating bodies. A relatively new development can be observed in the call for an “Environmental Code of Conduct”, first proposed by the Parliamentary Assembly in 1998 and taken up by the seminars in Warnemünde 1999 and the forthcoming one in Berlin 2001.

The OSCE has also taken up the issue of potential environmental damage caused by military conflicts or military establishments. While the latter issue was only raised sporadically in the early 1990s, the former was discussed in relation to the Kosovo conflict in the seminars in Malta and Sarajevo in 1999. However, no clear conclusions or decisions regarding possible strategies for the prevention of environmental damage caused by military actions were developed.

As indicated above, the most important topic for the OSCE and its concept of comprehensive security, however, concerns the relevance of threats to security stemming from environmental damages. Studying the documents related to the EED one can observe how environmental questions - which for a long time were treated as a mere side aspect of the economic dimension - became more and more important as the OSCE widened its activities in Central Asia. The increase in resources available for the EED in general and the establishment of large missions in the Balkans region facilitated this process. In Budapest, the participating States asked “*the Secretary General to designate a position for a full-time economic expert, and to designate Secretariat staff to ensure adequate support for these activities*”. Thus, at that time, the Environment as such was not explicitly mentioned, although environmental aspects were touched on in Budapest and the first seminar held on the economic dimension since the Budapest Summit – on rehabilitating the environment (Tashkent 1995) - dealt actually with environmental issues. However, with the exception of another seminar in Tashkent in 1996, subsequent seminars were for the most part dedicated to classic economic issues. Specialized agencies such as the European Environment Agency, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Program were invited to participate in the Economic Forum for the first time in 1999. While the 1996 Economic Forum was dedicated to the “economic aspects of security and the OSCE role” with the purpose of contributing elements to the discussion on a common and comprehensive security model for Europe for the twenty-first century (Lisbon Review 1996), the linkage between environmental problems and security was not highlighted at that

² Mission reports have not been included in this documentation.

stage. This approach was also reflected in the 1996 Lisbon Review Meeting, which elaborated on economic and social threats to security, but failed to take environmental issues into account. It is fair to say that the Vienna-Lisbon Review Meeting of 1996 concentrated on economic aspects. Environmental issues, insofar as they were raised at all, featured for the most part as an aspect of the economic dimension: *“in conflict prevention and early warning, more attention should be given to the economic aspects of security, including social and environmental aspects”* (Lisbon Review 1996). However, this economy-centered approach, started to change slowly in 1995/1996 and the starting point for the discussion on “environment & security” can be traced back to this period. For the first time within the CSCE/OSCE the Tashkent Seminar 1995 had noted *“that environmental aspects constitute an important element of the comprehensive concept of security”*. This notion was confirmed at the 4th Economic Forum 1996, where sound environmental conditions were identified as relevant to security. Later in the Lisbon Review Document *“economic, social and environmental causes of tensions and crises”* were mentioned on an equal footing, indicating that environmental aspects of security had been identified as factors in their own right and in the Lisbon Document, participating States finally urged the OSCE to *“focus on identifying the risks to security arising from economic, social and environmental problems...”*. Thus, although the OSCE was still focused on economic aspects, the importance of environmental threats to security was already recognized.

The Lisbon Document of 1996 confirmed the importance of strengthening the EED and its ecological aspects, with the PC tasked to elaborate a mandate for a Co-ordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities, thus formally putting both aspects on an equal footing and recognizing the need for further action in this area. Although the Economic Forum is still the “Economic Forum” and has not been renamed the “Economic and Environmental Forum”, environmental questions have been increasingly addressed in this body since 1996 and have been more and more treated as explicit security considerations. The need to address environmental issues not only for their own sake, but rather as an integral part of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis-management and post-conflict rehabilitation has also been stressed by the Norwegian CiO in his 1998 Progress Report. However, it was only after the decision to organize the 7th the Economic Forum in 1999 under the title “Security Aspects in the Field of the Environment”, that the interrelationship between Environment & Security began to be addressed more thoroughly by the OSCE. This is also reflected in this documentation. About three-quarters of the section on “Environment & Security” are extracts of the preparatory and follow-up seminars to the 7th Economic Forum, the Forum itself or events organized in 2000 and early 2001. These discussions suggest possible future directions as they include a detailed list of recommendations for further OSCE involvement – as well as restrictions – in this area.

The growing importance of environmental aspects for the work of the CSCE/OSCE after 1996 is also documented in the Annual Reports of this organization³. Between 1993 and 1996 only very short paragraphs on environmental activities have been included. In 1997 and especially after the appointment of the CEEA in 1998, OSCE activities in this dimension considerably increased. This can be gauged not only from the increasing number of seminars dedicated to environmental questions. Environmental questions have also been addressed more frequently and more thoroughly in the framework of the Economic Forum. OSCE field operations that were hardly involved in environmental activities before 1996 have also become more active.

³ Activity Reports have not been included into this documentation.

1. Environment & Security

a.) General

- **The participating States consider that the implementation of all provisions of the Final Act and full respect for the principles guiding relations among them set out therein are an essential basis for the development of co-operation among them in the field of economics, of science and technology and of the environment. At the same time they reaffirm their conviction that co-operation in these fields contributes to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole. In this spirit they reiterate their resolve to pursue and intensify such co-operation between one another, irrespective of their economic and social systems. (Madrid 1983)**
- Security and stability in today's Europe are dependent on political, economic and environmental, as well as military factors. (PA-Declaration Budapest 1992)
- **The participating States consider it important to pay close attention to the interrelationship among all of the dimensions of the CSCE's comprehensive concept of security. The economic dimension in the CSCE comprises activities designed to promote co-operation in the field of economics, the environment and science and technology, as well as regional and transfrontier co-operation. (Budapest 1994)**
- Environmental aspects constitute an important element of the comprehensive concept of security. (Tashkent 1995)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly hopes] that the discussions concerning "A security model for the 21st Century" will lead to the adoption of a broad concept of "Common and Comprehensive Security" encompassing not only military aspects but also economic, social, environmental and others building on close and interactive cooperation between governments and legislators at all stages of political developments in the OSCE region. (PA-Declaration Ottawa 1995)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,]
 - Reaffirming the recognition of the linkages between common security, economic sustainability and the human dimension;
 - Urges governments to build a broad-based security model that would reach beyond conventional security by recognizing the environmental inter-dependence of OSCE nations, and furthermore recognize the economic advantages of preventing air and water pollution so as to protect human health, run an efficient economy, and manage better our diminishing natural resources. (PA-Declaration Ottawa 1995)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,]
 - Recalling its support, in the 1995 Ottawa Declaration, for the adoption of a broad concept of "Common and Comprehensive Security" encompassing not only military aspects but also economic, social, environmental and others building on close and interactive cooperation between governments and legislators at all stages of political developments in the OSCE region;
 - Invites the OSCE and the participating States to continue the process of elaborating a common and comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century in order to present the progress achieved and the results available at the OSCE Summit in Lisbon in 1996. These should include:

- Entrusting the implementation and further development of commitments in the economic dimension of the OSCE process to organizations and institutions best suited for this field, and adjusting the OSCE role, including the need for an Economic Forum and for its further development with particular regard to environmental questions. (PA-Declaration Stockholm 1996)
- The existence of an overlap between environmental concerns and political conflicts calls for conflict prevention and disputes management at the global, regional and bilateral levels. Recommendations relevant for regional environmental security prepared by UN/ECE and based on the provisions of chapter 38 of UNCED's Agenda 21 may be applicable in the Aral Sea region. These recommendations concern: the transboundary aspects of changing production and consumption patterns; the integration of environmental policy into decision-making; protection of the atmosphere and the quality of freshwater resources; the safe management of toxic chemicals; the sound management of waste; and the protection of coastal areas. A regional approach to the protection of transboundary waters would promote environmental security through: the prevention and resolution of conflicts and disputes among States; the harmonization of regulatory objectives and standards; the prevention and control of transboundary water pollution; avoidance of the inequitable imposition of costs and distortions in competition and trading patterns; reductions in the pollution of the near-shore environment by land-based sources; mutual assistance in reducing water pollution; and the dissemination of information to the public. (Tashkent 1996)
- Positive measures between States could include co-operation in the environmental field. (4-EF 1996)
- [Directly relevant to security are] sound environmental conditions in accordance with the concept of sustainable economic development. (4-EF 1996)
- The OSCE should not take on an operational role [...], but should rather generate political impulses for an analysis of the economic, social and environmental causes of tensions and crises (Lisbon Review 1996 - REF.S/80/96).
- In conflict prevention and early warning, more attention should be given to the economic aspects of security, including social and environmental aspects, whereby the OSCE should not, however, take on an operational role but should entrust the competent organizations and institutions with appropriate tasks. (Lisbon Review 1996 - REF.S/80/96)
- **The same comprehensive approach to security requires continued efforts in the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic dimension and an adequate development of OSCE activities dealing with security-related economic, social and environmental issues. The OSCE should focus on identifying the risks to security arising from economic, social and environmental problems, discussing their causes and potential consequences, and draw the attention of relevant international institutions to the need to take appropriate measures to alleviate the difficulties stemming from those risks. (Lisbon 1996)**
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly]
- Recognizing that security in the OSCE region as a whole and, more particularly, security in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS region can be substantially affected negatively through economic, social and environmental developments that undermine public support

for democratic government and exacerbate ethnic rivalries and tensions. (PA-Declaration Stockholm 1996)

- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly] calls on the OSCE to identify threats to security, arising from problems in the economic, social and ecological fields, their causes and possible consequences, leading to the adoption by the relevant international institutions of appropriate measures to counteract these threats. (PA-Declaration Warsaw 1997)
- Certain economic and environmental problems could increase the probability of a potential conflict becoming a real one. The OSCE should be ready to respond rapidly and creatively to such risks as they emerge. In particular, OSCE field activities should be linked more closely to economic and environmental aspects of security, thus providing for early warning and creating opportunities for effective conflict prevention. (6-EF 1998)
- The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, [...] consider[s] a role for the OSCE with regard to new threats to security, such as: [...] environmental disasters and nuclear risks, to develop appropriate Confidence and Security Building Measures and co-operate closely with other organizations in these areas. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998)
- The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, calls on the OSCE Institutions, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Lisbon Document, to identify the risks to security arising from economic, social and environmental problems, to discuss their causes and assess their potential consequences on security. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998)
- The improvement of the environmental situation in the Black Sea region would lead to less tension and further strengthen security and co-operation in the region. (Istanbul 1998)
- In discussions concerning the economic dimension, reference was made to the need for further promotion of [...] environmental co-operation. Throughout the OSCE region. [...] Ministers welcomed the activities of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental activities. (Oslo 1998, Chairman's Summary)
- Economic and environmental questions should never be considered in isolation or for their own sake but rather as an integral part of the efforts being made in connection with early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. This is why the participating States should take the steps necessary to ensure early detection of security risks and challenges caused by economic, social and environmental problems. Opinions differed on the possibility of establishing a formal system/mechanism of indicators for identifying crisis situations. (Oslo 1998, Chairman's Summary)
- The OSCE should focus on identifying the risks to security arising from economic, social and environmental problems, discussing their causes and potential consequences, and draw the attention of relevant international institutions to the need to take appropriate measures to alleviate the difficulties stemming from those risks. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- The radical changes that have taken place during the last decade in Europe [...] focused increased attention on the non-military components of security - including those of an economic and environmental nature. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- Economic and environmental questions should never be addressed in isolation or for their own sake but rather as an integral part of the efforts aiming at early warning, conflict

prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, for all of which the OSCE is a primary instrument in its area. Interlinkages between the economic and the human dimension are particularly relevant in this context. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)

- The participating States are committed to take the measures necessary for the early detection of security risks and challenges caused by economic, social and environmental problems. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- By improving its ability to address economic and environmental threats and opportunities, the OSCE would also improve its ability to prevent conflict and to foster prosperity throughout the OSCE area. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- Environmental aspects of security need to become a regular part of the OSCE agenda and should be adequately addressed in the OSCE's ongoing work on a Document-Charter on European Security. In that connection, participants also stressed the need to identify comparative advantages among organizations and to ensure co-ordination and synergy, especially among the organizations active in the Mediterranean area. (Malta 1999)
- Those responsible for foreign policy and security-related decisions should pay closer attention to environmental questions. (Malta 1999)
- The OSCE could also play a role in the [Mediterranean] region from different perspectives needing to be identified but using its unique experience in promoting dialogue and in conflict prevention and resolution. (Malta 1999)
- The development of reaction capacities works best at a subregional level between neighbouring States. (Malta 1999)
- Recommendations: Elaborate early warning functions in OSCE, for instance by organizing seminars on future (environmental) 'hot spots' and building an inventory of future problems, also with a view to helping to elaborate strategic policies. (Malta 1999)
- Climate change is a fact and [...] it can pose a security threat through displacement of people, sea level rise, and desertification. Hence measures have to be devised to prevent and mitigate the impact of climate change before any further aggravation. (Malta 1999)
- [In political and in environmental areas], an "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". It is cheaper both financially and in terms of avoiding environmental degradation on the one hand, and human suffering and loss of life on the other, to prevent problems rather than to try to clean up after the damage is done. An overall environmental program includes community based strategies and NGO's at all levels. In this context, it was also noted that cooperation among NGO's across boundaries can help to strengthen overall security. (Warnemünde 1999)
- The need for environmentally sustainable development in the Baltic Region is a priority among the various stakeholders interested in security in the region. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Although environmental problems persist and have the potential to become a security concern, there are many efforts being undertaken by IGOs, NGOs and private citizens, regional institutions, national governments, scientists and academics to adopt sustainable

development measures and implement environmental policies to prevent conflict in the region. (Warnemünde 1999)

- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly]
 - Urges governments of the OSCE participating States to raise systematically awareness of security-related environmental developments, allowing prompt recognition and assessment of the security relevance of these developments;
 - Underlines that the unique competence of the OSCE regarding security-related economic, social and environmental issues must be developed further and complement the activities of other institutions;
 - Suggests in this context the OSCE focus its activities primarily on:
 - highlighting security risks arising out of economic, social and environmental problems;
 - giving the required political impetus to deal consistently and in good time with the deeper causes of such tensions;
 - impressing on decision makers and relevant international organizations the need to combat and overcome recognized socio-economic and environmental risks decisively and at an early stage;
 - Encourages the OSCE to enhance its role as mediator in security-related economic, social and environmental conflicts by conferring such task to the CEEA and ad hoc OSCE steering groups. (PA-Declaration St. Petersburg 1999)
- The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly [stresses] that on the basis of its broad membership and broad mandate the OSCE is particularly well suited to execute tasks involving civil crisis prevention, conflict settlement, and post-crisis assistance. The OSCE's area of responsibility includes matters concerning [...] environmental factors. (PA-Declaration St. Petersburg 1999, Resolution on the Role of the OSCE in Crisis Prevention and Conflict Settlement)
- While maintaining a flexible approach in addressing security-related issues, the OSCE needed to further define the area where economic and environmental matters intersected with security and stability, and articulate priority objectives for activities in this dimension. (Vienna-Istanbul 1999)
- Several participating States spoke of the importance of not focusing solely on increasing the effectiveness of the human dimension institutions and structures but of also strengthening the economic and environmental structures. (Vienna-Istanbul 1999)
- [One] participating State stressed that "forgotten conflicts" involving economic and environmental consequences, and problems in connection with internally displaced persons, such as those which existed in Central Asia, should be taken into account in budgeting. (Vienna-Istanbul 1999)
- **The link between security, democracy and prosperity has become increasingly evident in the OSCE area, as has the risk to security from environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources. Economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are indispensable for prosperity. On the basis of these linkages, we will ensure that the economic dimension receives appropriate attention, in particular as an element of our early warning and conflict prevention activities. We will do so, inter alia, with a view to promoting the integration of economies in transition into the world economy and to ensure the rule of law and the**

development of a transparent and stable legal system in the economic sphere. (Istanbul 1999)

- **Acute economic problems and environmental degradation may have serious implications for our security. Co-operation in the fields of economy, science and technology and the environment will be of critical importance. We will strengthen our responses to such threats through continued economic and environmental reforms, by stable and transparent frameworks for economic activity and by promoting market economies, while paying due attention to economic and social rights. (Istanbul 1999)**
- The OSCE could play a catalytic role in helping participating States to find assistance in addressing the environmental impacts of conflict. It could also help in the overall peace-building process by facilitating transnational co-operation on environmental problems as a confidence-building measure. By integrating the areas of security and the environment, the OSCE could play a key role in bringing environmental concerns from the grass roots level to the attention of political and security decision-makers. (Sarajevo 1999)
- The OSCE should encourage the establishment of conflict related environmental impact assessment methodology and a conflict related monitoring methodology. (Sarajevo 1999).
- Competent international organizations should support national authorities during and after conflicts in standardizing environmental impact analyses and health risk assessments and in contingency planning, reconstruction and rehabilitation. (Sarajevo 1999).
- [There is a] need to promote credible democratic institutional development and to build mechanisms which take environmental factors into account during rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. (Sarajevo 1999).
- NGO's and REC's have a very important role in building up awareness of problems and in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of conflict-related damages to the environment. (Sarajevo 1999)
- The OSCE should support the activity of REC's towards assessing regional environmental reconstruction. (Sarajevo 1999)
- Consider the establishment of national and regional environmental intervention groups and contingency plans to address environmental incidents through cooperation on rapid clean-up operations. (Sarajevo 1999)
- Implementation and enforcement of existing international instruments addressing collateral environmental damages in conflicts should be further facilitated. (Sarajevo 1999)⁴
- The role of OSCE [lies] in developing shared understanding on various aspects of environmental issues in the context of conflict (such as costs of clean-up, organization of rapid intervention in environmental emergencies, parameters for successful regional environmental co-operation, etc. (8-EF 2000)

⁴ For further, Balkan-specific, recommendations and conclusions of the Sarajevo-Seminar see section *b.) Balkan* below.

- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly]
- [welcomes] the adoption of the Charter for European Security at the Istanbul Summit Meeting, which specifies the tasks of the OSCE in economic and environmental dimensions;
- reaffirms that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are a cornerstone for stability and further development of our societies. (PA-Declaration Bucharest 2000)

- Various issues relating to post-conflict situations needed further consideration:
 - Whether there was a need for an environmental emergency intervention organization (e.g. Green Helmets). Few organizations had the capacity to carry out this work at present. This could be included in consideration of the REACT (Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Team) initiative;
 - Who had the responsibility to finance clean-up work after conflicts. There was currently no consensus between the “polluter pays” and “loser pays” options;
 - How military planning should take wider account of the likely environmental effect, to try to minimize damage. Many established military practices resulted in widespread negative consequences;
 - Greater promotion of the need for conflict prevention, which was cheaper in the long term than conflict resolution and clean-up. (8-EF 2000)

- The OSCE should develop a special format for reporting on economic and environmental developments. (Tbilisi 2000)

- Ministers welcomed and supported the OSCE’s efforts in promoting the economic and environmental dimension of security on the basis of the relevant OSCE documents, *inter alia*, by identifying such risks to security, in order to improve the OSCE’s capability to prevent conflicts, to assist in post-conflict rehabilitation and to enhance economic stability. (Vienna 2000)

- The role of environment be strengthened within OSCE, given its importance in security concerns. (Brussels 2001)

- Pressure to deal with environmental problems has demonstrated forcefully the need to develop good governance practices world-wide. (Brussels 2001)

- International trade, international financial flows, labour standards, food safety and consumer protection as well as environmental governance are areas where the effects of globalisation are most often felt and where public authorities have to adapt to new circumstances. The full participation of OSCE participating States in the relevant international organisations and institutions - and, in particular the WTO - is desirable to ensure their effective integration in to the world economic system. (Brussels 2001)

- It [is] important to *categorize* problems regarding economic/environmental issues that have security implications. Second, the *convening* of meetings between governments, NGOs and the business community should be *increased* in order to prevent further conflicts. Third, *consciousness* of the threats stemming from economic weakness and environmental scarcity should be raised. And last, by increasing its links with other international organizations, through the platform concept, the OSCE should serve as a *catalyst* in preventing and finding solutions to conflicts. (Bucharest 2001)

- Sound political and institutional framework is essential for achieving sustainable economic and social development as well as environmental responsibility. (Bucharest 2001)
- The OSCE should achieve a comprehensive approach to security issues – problems can not and should not be allocated to a single “basket”. Interlocking issues require a response involving political, economic, environmental and social – human rights – responses. (Bucharest 2001)

b.) Balkans

- The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, [...] requests that OSCE participating States, as well as international institutions such as the European Union, urgently agree upon and implement a viable plan for physical and economic reconstruction under a unified leadership, in collaboration with all co-operative governments, organizations and financial institutions in the region, as well as with subregional organizations and processes, applying a holistic approach which will make sure that the best available solutions are selected in securing sustainable economic, social, cultural, environmental and political development. (PA St. Petersburg 1999, Resolution on the Situation in Kosovo)
- Regional environmental co-operation [is] important for peace and stability in South-Eastern Europe. (Sarajevo 1999)
- An Regional Environment Reconstruction Programme for South-Eastern Europe [...] could play an important role in promoting long term security and co-operation in the region:
 - Strengthen existing institutions in the region, such as Environment Ministries;
 - Improve the capacity of civil society and the legislature;
 - Provide emergency assistance for combating war damage;
 - Reinforce existing co-operative mechanisms and develop regional cross-border projects;
 - Support priority national and local environmental projects. (Sarajevo 1999)
- The Stability Pact provides an important framework that should be used fully to develop initiatives that address environmental priorities. Governments, including local government authorities, private sectors, and NGO's [should] work together to develop regional or transboundary initiatives focused on ensuring environmental priorities are on the Stability Pact agenda. (Sarajevo 1999)
- Reconstruction and rehabilitation should contribute to overall sustainable development in the [Balkan] region. (Sarajevo 1999)
- Recommendations of the Sarajevo Seminar:
 - [Support] the objectives of the October 4, 1999 SECI/ECE meeting on the Stability Pact that underscore the importance of promoting civil society, a focus on meeting citizen's needs, the involvement in decision-making of NGO's, and strengthening institutional capacity of local authorities at municipal levels. For the success of environmental projects, it is very important that any initiatives be fully backed by national governments, not solely environment ministries or NGO's.

- Continued involvement of the Project Preparation Committee (PPC) in environmental programs in Southeast Europe. In particular, the establishment of counterpart programs for small municipalities would help build local capacity to arrange funding and seek private sector investment, especially for projects (e.g., local water treatment) with financing requirements too low to meet traditional international financial institution thresholds.
- Better international community cooperation to develop rapid assessment of the impact of conflict on human health, including through the establishment of agreed standards of assessments. The development of a central clearinghouse or registry to identify which donor organization is funding what projects would improve both general efficiency of programs and funding mechanisms aimed at rapidly restoring social services after a conflict.
- Implementation of the UNEP Balkans (Habitat) Task Force recommendations on the Kosovo conflict.
- The OSCE should support the joint appeal of UNEP/UNDP under the United Nations interagency co-ordinated appeal by OCHA to have the power to address and remediate the environmental emergencies (i.e. chemical hot spots identified by the BTF) resulting from the Kosovo conflict as a humanitarian issue. (Sarajevo 1999)

c.) Moldova

- **Ministers agree that the following small and "do-able" steps could have beneficial consequences for the full resolution of these problems:**
 - (a) **with regard to the political settlement of the question of the status of Trans-Dniestria:**
 - **identification and implementation of specific projects in the areas of the environment and economic and cultural relations as well as information flows across the Dniestr River;**
 - (b) **with regard to military issues:**
 - **consideration of making use of the offers of assistance in solving the environmental problems caused by the presence of unstable munitions. (Oslo 1998, MC(7).DEC/2)**

d.) Central Asia

- Three OSCE dimensions – the politico-military, the human, and the economic and environmental dimensions – have to be respected and fostered. (Tokyo 2000)
- It could be useful to conclude Memoranda of Understanding additionally in the economic and environmental, as well as the political-military dimensions. (Tokyo 2000)
- The economic and environmental situation in each country is different and thus specific attention must be paid to the individual needs of each Central Asian country. The appropriate economic model must be considered for each country. (Tokyo 2000)
- The complex relationship between the economic and environmental dimension and security was raised as it cannot be seen in isolation from the political and human dimensions. All are interlinked when one speaks of security and stability. There must be a balance between market economy and political and social stability. Therefore a balanced approach among the three OSCE dimensions should be sought. Efforts should be made to

raise awareness of the economic and environmental difficulties facing each Central Asian country and initiatives should be addressed to these specificities. (Tokyo 2000)

- Promoting security and stability even in the economic and environmental dimension requires good governance and the rule of law to be practised. Without the implementation of legislation and an effective legal and court system tensions arising in these areas can be compounded. UN/ECE suggests establishing an early warning mechanism in this dimension to predict impending conflicts. (Tokyo 2000)
- OSCE is not an economic and environmental organization but rather a security organization. OSCE can assist in promoting public dialog and transparency within but also among the Central Asian states. OSCE is best suited to act as a political catalyst, maintaining political pressure for co-operative solutions to problems and to bring international attention to the problems and challenges facing each country. In addition, OSCE should focus on conflict prevention and facilitating the international community's efforts in this regard. The Platform for Co-operative Security was referenced as a mechanism to be called upon. It was mentioned that it was important for the Central Asian states to have a realistic approach to the Economic and Environmental Dimension. (Tokyo 2000)
- Proposals:
 - establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding in the economic and environmental dimension similar to MoUs between ODIHR and Central Asian countries concerning the human dimension.
 - establishing an expert group comprised of representatives of the Central Asian countries and the donor community.
 - the Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities [should] focus on responses to the situations facing the Central Asian countries.
 - the OSCE needs to develop the economic and environmental dimension more; however, not at the expense of the other dimensions. (Tokyo 2000)
- The legacies of the past needed continuous attention including resources and their management, environment, transport and training. The complex relationship between the economic dimension and insecurity was addressed, which could not be seen in isolation from the political, environmental, social and ethnic dimensions. A balanced development of all dimensions of OSCE was requested, putting more emphasis on the economic dimension. It was recalled that the OSCE was not an economic or environmental organisation but it considered such issues from a security viewpoint. All sides recognised that Foreign Direct Investment needed a climate of security and stability including the respect of the rule of law. (Tokyo 2000)
- Participants agreed that a comprehensive approach is important to tackle not only political and military issues, but also environmental, economic and humanitarian issues in the same framework. This is strongly supported by the European experience that the strategy of issue linkage was effective when vested interests were in conflict between different issues. (Seoul 2001)

e.) Baltics

- Several recommendations for OSCE to prevent conflict and promote sustainable development in the Baltic Region:
 - To develop a common understanding of the problems and the targets to be achieved;
 - To enhance cross border cooperation to promote a mutual understanding and common view of cross border environmental problems (i.e. transboundary river systems);
 - To establish and build networks of regional cooperation and pull all political synergies together to avoid duplication of efforts;
 - To use a step-wise approach to pricing the use of the environment in order to provide the necessary funds for improving municipal capacities for taking measures for protecting the environment (i.e. through the use of eco-taxes);
 - To ensure that environmental conventions are signed, ratified, implemented and followed-up in order to play a positive role in conflict prevention and dispute settlement (i.e. the Århus Convention, Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area etc.);
 - To ensure that the contracting parties to conventions live up to the obligations they undertake;
 - To provide early warning systems on environmental phenomena (i.e. natural disasters, man-made disaster to include nuclear disasters);
 - To promote an integrated approach and interagency coordination among all policy sectors (foreign and security, environment and development, transport, agriculture, education and industry sector);
 - To help coordinate interagency cooperation at the regional and international level (among lending institutions, security institutions). (Warnemünde 1999)

2. The Military, Wars and the Environment

- **The participating States should ascertain that their military establishments conform to their nationally applicable environmental norms in the treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes. (Helsinki 1992)**
- The CSCE parliamentary assembly:
 - Considering that security means more than military security and that security has an environmental aspect;
 - Aware of the interdependence between the military and the environmental sectors and that military resources could be used in the fight for a better environment;
 - Referring to the report presented by the UN Secretary General to the UNCED
 - Invites member countries and defence organizations to study the possibilities of – within the framework of the CSCE - integrating military-related resources into environmental strategies, using military means to strengthen the quick response capabilities for dealing with environmental emergencies, and using military means for environmental impact-assessment and decision-making. (PA-Declaration Budapest 1992)
- The CSCE Budapest Review Conference should adopt a Code of Conduct in the field of political and military security which broadens and refines the basic principles of the CSCE. [...] The adoption of such a Code of Conduct in the field of political and military security can contribute to greater stability in Europe. In the long term the Code should also include wider aspects in accordance with the broadened CSCE security concept;
 - This applies particularly to environmental safety. The relevant proposals of the Austrian and Hungarian delegations should be given consideration in this regard. (PA- Declaration Vienna 1994)
- Particular concern was expressed over the environmental, ecological and biological damage caused by conflicts in the region. However, it was noted that multi-lateral environmental co-operation in the region is permitting a more holistic approach to the resolution of these problems. (Malta 1999)
- The impact of war action on – biodiversity, and the resultant degradation, had been particularly felt in the Balkans. (Malta 1999)
- Wars in the [Balkan] region [had a] severe impact on environment and public health. (Sarajevo 1999)
- Environmental damage [is] not only an effect but also as a cause of conflict. (Sarajevo 1999)
- [There is a] need to carry out environmental follow-up work in the aftermath of armed conflict and the resultant displacement of persons. (Sarajevo 1999)
- Conflicts have negative effects on the environment that go beyond the actual conflict zone. The rehabilitation of conflict-related environmental damages is an integral part of international security and peace. The comprehensive political approach of the OSCE to international security and co-operation should take into account the specific destabilising effects of conflict related environmental damages. (Sarajevo 1999)

- An important environmental effect of conflict is its adverse impact on human health. (Sarajevo 1999)
- Appropriate international organizations [should] develop a more systematic approach to assessing the environmental impact of armed conflict. The OSCE could play an important role in this specific field of conflict prevention by lending the necessary political impetus towards fostering international co-operation in that regard. (Sarajevo 1999)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is] aware that environmental degradation can lead to disputes, tensions or even conflicts of far greater danger to common security than military threat, but also recognizing that war and armed conflicts always lead to serious environmental degradation. (PA-Declaration St. Petersburg 1999)

3. The Role of Civil Society and Participation in Environmental Issues

- **The success of any environmental policy presupposes that all population groups and social forces, aware of their responsibilities, help to protect and improve the environment, which necessitates continued and thorough educative action, particularly with regard to youth. (Helsinki 1975)**
- **The participating States reaffirm their respect for the right of individuals, groups and organizations concerned with environmental issues to express freely their views, to associate with others, to peacefully assemble, as well as to obtain, publish and distribute information on these issues, without legal and administrative impediments inconsistent with the CSCE provisions. These individuals, groups and organizations have the right to participate in public debates on environmental issues, as well as to establish and maintain direct and independent contacts at national and international level. (Sofia 1989)**
- **The participating States will also encourage education and instruction on environmental protection, promote the reproduction, circulation and exchange of information and data, as well as of audio-visual and printed material, on environmental issues, and encourage public access to such information, data and material. (Sofia 1989)**
- **We emphasize the significant role of a well-informed society in enabling the public and individuals to take initiatives to improve the environment. To this end, we commit ourselves to promoting public awareness and education on the environment as well as the public reporting of the environmental impact of policies, projects and programmes. (Paris 1990)**
- **The participating States will support intensified work within the relevant international organizations to make liberalized international trade and the protection of the environment mutually supportive. (Helsinki 1992)**
- **The participating States will work towards the development of policies aimed at increasing environmental awareness and educating citizens to reduce the risks of natural and technological disasters, as well as preparing appropriate actions when such disasters occur. To this end, the participating States recognize the important work under way through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) programme. The participating States will take appropriate steps to enhance public participation in environmental planning and decision making. (Helsinki 1992)**
- **The participating States encourage the creation of environmental centres in the Russian Federation and the newly independent participating States, modelled after the Regional Environmental Centre in Budapest. These centres would work to promote full participation of both the public and private sectors, including non-governmental organizations, in environmental decision-making. (Budapest 1994)**
- **Among the ideas for possible future action participants discussed:**
 - a) **Increasing public participation in environmental decision-making. This was welcomed as way to educate people, improve information, and gain support for sound environmental policies. [...]**

- e.) Participants welcomed an EU suggestion that the OSCE might undertake a survey on the status of NGO's in the Central Asian region and their capacities in order to encourage their integration into the environmental decision-making process. (Tashkent 1995)
- Participation of the public in environmental decision-making was recognized as important for promoting sustainable development, and it was stressed that information exchange and information sharing were essential in this connection. (Tashkent 1996)
 - Dealing with environmental problems often calls for innovative sorts of groupings, particularly those which involve grass-roots local organizations and national or even multi-national NGOs, which might provide models for activities in other areas. (Chisinau 1998)
 - Participants urged the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting, which takes place next month in Oslo, to endorse the Århus Convention and encourage all OSCE participating States to sign, ratify, publicize and fully implement this watershed agreement. (Istanbul 1998)
 - Activities of this sort [bringing together diplomats, governmental specialists in each of these fields, the private sector and NGOs] help generate solutions to environmental security problems, but they could also reinforce democratic practices by making broad-based public participation a standard part of governmental behaviour. (Istanbul 1998)
 - The exchange of information between NGOs and relevant actors in the region should be increased. The accession to the Århus Convention by all countries in the region was regarded as important. The forthcoming Black Sea Ministerial Conference in Istanbul scheduled for March 1999 was regarded as an important occasion at which all NGOs could meet and discuss further co-operation. The existing networks and the networks currently being established, for instance the NEWREC's should be used. (Istanbul 1998)
 - There is a need to raise the awareness of the public in monitoring compliance with national and international instruments and regulations. (Istanbul 1998)
 - There was also agreement on the need for broader public environmental education. (Malta 1999)
 - In addition, the necessity of keeping NGOs and the private sector informed of and involved in events like this was also reiterated by many delegations. There was wide agreement that a stronger parliamentary presence at future Seminars would be beneficial, since it is parliamentarians who must pass the legislation necessary to ensure sound environmental practices. (Malta 1999)
 - Concerning lessons learned, participants agreed that co-operation among NGOs across boundaries strengthens overall security and co-operation. Furthermore it was recognized that political and legislative initiatives often follow the efforts of individuals and groups, such as NGOs. Participants believed that seminars such as this one are useful tools for initiating dialogue which could ultimately increase the sensitivity of governments to important economic and environmental issues as well as focus their attention on the need to resolve such issues. (Malta 1999)

- The following recommendations to the OSCE Participating States were endorsed by the Working Group I:
 - To encourage a better presence of parliamentarians and representatives of NGO's within national delegations;
 - To further recommend and facilitate implementation of existing legal instruments. (Malta 1999)
- The full implementation of existing agreements, such as the UN/ECE's Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (The Århus Convention), might be even more important than creating new agreements. The Århus Convention was regarded as an important step towards ensuring public participation in the environmental matters. (Warnemünde 1999)
- [In political and in environmental areas], an "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". It is cheaper both financially and in terms of avoiding environmental degradation on the one hand, and human suffering and loss of life on the other, to prevent problems rather than to try to clean up after the damage is done. An overall environmental program includes community based strategies and NGO's at all levels. In this context, it was also noted that cooperation among NGO's across boundaries can help to strengthen overall security. (Warnemünde 1999)
- The importance of participation of NGO's, not only in OSCE events like this, but also in discussions within governments and between governments, was emphasized. Furthermore the important role of NGO's in promoting public awareness on environmental issues, as foreseen in the Charter of Paris and other fundamental OSCE documents, was stressed. NGO's also noted the importance of recognition and "a place at the table" in enabling them to play their proper role. With regard to the various actors and structures dealing with environmental concerns, it was noted that in certain areas of cooperation (such as energy and infrastructure) a greater degree of co-ordination/centralization of efforts is desirable, as long as all stake-holders, including NGO's, businesses, and other representatives of civil society are included. However, in other cases, such as public education efforts, a multiplicity of small-scale efforts - even if they sometimes duplicate each other or seem to compete with one another - might be beneficial. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Although environmental problems persist and have the potential to become a security concern, there are many efforts being undertaken by IGOs, NGOs and private citizens, regional institutions, national governments, scientists and academics to adopt sustainable development measures and implement environmental policies to prevent conflict in the region. (Warnemünde 1999)
- The OSCE should encourage and support the crucial role of NGO's in awareness-raising, education and dissemination of information, and continue to promote co-operation with NGO's. The NGO's were regarded as especially crucial in regions of potential conflicts. In this connection, the commitments of OSCE participating States on public education in the Charter of Paris (1990) and other fundamental OSCE documents should be taken into consideration. The Århus Convention was regarded as an important step forward to ensure access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. For the OSCE, the Convention could be seen as a means to enhance consensus-based decisions aiming at involving many stakeholders in the decision-making process. The OSCE should encourage its participating States to sign,

ratify, and implement the Convention as soon as possible. Thus, the OSCE had a promotional role within its relevant area of concern. (Warnemünde 1999)

- The Århus Convention did not stand on its own, but was linked to other areas of importance, such as health, transport, energy, and nuclear safety. As the OSCE approach to security was comprehensive, the OSCE could encourage enhanced synergies between different sectors, institutions, and various legally binding instruments. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Public participation was regarded as a key part of the concept of security at all levels because it led to democratic processes. The UN/ECE's Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (The Århus Convention) was regarded as central to the OSCE's broad concept of security, since it comprised fostering of democratisation, environmental security, and sustainable development in Europe. (Warnemünde 1999)
- The possibilities and motivations for public participation in the [Baltic] region varied. Weak or unclear legal provisions, as well as low degrees of motivation among NGO's were listed as problems. It was stated that a fear of touching upon "sensitive" environmental issues existed. It was said from the NGO side that economic support to NGO's should not only be directed towards specific projects, but also cover administrative costs. Foreign assistance projects should to the largest extent possible contain a public participation component. (Warnemünde 1999)
- There was general agreement about the necessity to implement the OSCE commitments concerning access to information, public participation and access to justice. It was agreed that the Århus Convention serves an important role in the implementation of wider OSCE values and principles. The environmental challenges facing Kazakhstan and the other Central Asian States underline the value of the Århus Convention, as these challenges can not be met adequately without public involvement. The provisions of the Århus Convention were regarded as crucial to successfully addressing environmental issues in the region. Kazakhstan's signature of the Århus Convention was seen as an important step towards building civil society and transparency in Kazakhstan in general. The ratification and meaningful implementation of the Århus Convention by Kazakhstan would be significant. Information about Turkmenistan's accession to the Århus Convention was warmly welcomed. The other OSCE participating States in Central Asia were strongly encouraged to accede to, and implement the Århus Convention. This should constitute an important element in their implementation of their own OSCE commitments. (Almaty 1999)
- The Working Groups agreed that, despite of general legal framework being in place in the countries of the region, building capacities to implement the Convention was needed in the form of guidance and training. A possibility to develop guidelines for authorities and the public was considered to be useful and should be investigated further. The reports from the Working Groups will be attached to this summary. (Almaty 1999)
- OSCE offices in the region should support activities related to the implementation of the Århus Convention and of the full realization of its objectives. The Regional Environmental Centre (REC), which will be established in Central Asia, should also focus on these issues. As the Special Programme for the Economies of the Central Asia (SPECA) gathers momentum, it should also promote the Århus Convention principles.

The forthcoming high level conference in the "Environment for Europe"-process to be held in Kazakhstan in 2000 was welcomed. Special NGO activities should be considered in connection with this meeting. (Almaty 1999)

- Practical support for NGO's, related to information technology was emphasized as important, and should be considered. (Almaty 1999)
- [There is a] need for mechanisms, tools and resources, both for government and non-governmental organizations, in order to collect and disseminate information. (Almaty 1999)
- Despite of general legal framework being in place, some problems still remain:
 - Lack of adequate mechanisms and practices leads to lack of information and availability thereof.
 - Legal frameworks and instruments for implementing the convention exist already in many places, however laws are in some cases still on contradiction with each other.
 - The authorities in some cases seem not to have proper tools to collect and incorporate public views and opinions in to decision-making processes.
 - Several participants raised the problem of classification of information. It was noted that environmental information is generally available, unless it has been regarded as a State or industrial secret. There should be clear legal definitions on to what extent an information is private property or classified to be secret. (Almaty 1999)
- In some cases information simply does not exist:
 - Resources and capacities for data collection are in some cases inadequate.
 - The authorities in some cases seem not to have tools or resources to disseminate the information in the form that is understandable or accessible to the public.
 - The NGOs do not always fully understand or use even the existing mechanisms to get information. (Almaty 1999)
- Building capacities to implement the Convention was needed in the form of guidance and training. (Almaty 1999)
- Recommendations for further work:
 - Training of local authorities to understand and take account the importance of public opinion as well as creating mechanisms to incorporate them into decision-making processes.
 - Building capacities of NGOs and raising public awareness to fully understand and use even the existing legal tools and mechanisms. was considered equally important.
 - When implementing the Convention it was recommended to use best practices and to learn from the knowledge and experience from the other countries.
 - The idea of creating Guidelines for authorities as well as for public was welcomed and considered to be useful.
 - The role of NGOs in the implementation of the Århus Convention was considered to be crucial. (Almaty 1999)
- Despite general legal requirements for public participation there is lack of concrete mechanisms and procedures for notifying the public, collecting their views and taking due account of them. However, there are informal ways of public participation where NGOs serve as a channel for public involvement. (Almaty 1999)

- NGOs should be supported in channelling the view and opinions of the general public to decision-makers and in helping the public understand environmental problems and getting involved in decision-making. (Almaty 1999)
- Public participation in decision making with regard to the environment, the right to know about environmental problems, and access to justice in environmental matters, are important for security. Past experiences teach us that lack of democracy, transparency and due process in these matters undermine public confidence in public institutions and public decision making. The right of civil society to participate may prevent other conflicts where democratic rights are at stake, and thus be an essential and an important conflict prevention measure within and between States. (7-EF 1999)
- Participating States were encouraged to establish relevant forums and capacity building instruments, and to collaborate with the public and stakeholders such as the business community and environmental movements. New technological possibilities for such dialogue should be explored. The OSCE could help to facilitate programmes to promote participatory democracy; strengthening the NGOs by the establishment of networks to develop and improve communications among NGOs, and between governments and NGOs. In its own processes the OSCE should intensify co-operation with NGOs, applying in this respect the principles of the Århus Convention, and consider including this in the work programme of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. The OSCE should also consider the elaboration of a Code of Conduct on environmental aspects of security. (7-EF1999)
- Promoting a working civil society, with a strong NGO movement, transparent decision-making, open public participation, and an impartial, independent judiciary [is of importance] as well as the need to support the rapid integration of countries in transition to work effectively with international institutions and organizations. (Sarajevo 1999)
- Enhanced efforts to strengthen practical environmental cooperation at the local level. Cooperation among municipal or district authorities, with involvement of NGO's and the public, should focus on practical economic activities such as sharing of resources, pollution abatement, etc. Local cooperation can overcome political obstacles at the national level and lead to central government support. Such activities need modest assistance from the international community and should be focused on important, transboundary projects. (Sarajevo 1999)
- Cooperative efforts to get environmental concerns high on national government's agendas when developing rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. This requires active public participation, strong civil society and democratic institutions, and the establishment of environmental impact assessment mechanisms to build consensus for targeted investments in market-based development projects that are sustainable. (Sarajevo 1999)
- As it was currently doing with the Århus Convention, the OSCE could further the impetus given to the signing and implementation of legal instruments generated by the UN/ECE, many of which had a direct bearing on security. (Vienna-Istanbul 1999)
- [The OSCE] should encourage development and networking with and between NGOs and profit from their work in fostering public participation in decision-making on economic and environmental issues. (Vienna-Istanbul 1999)

- **In the spirit of the 1998 Århus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, we will [...] seek to ensure access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. (Istanbul 1999)**
- Devote efforts to stimulating awareness and public participation in decision-making processes regarding environmental issues. (8EF-2000- Implementation Review).
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly]
 - Appeals to all OSCE participating States to switch from words to deeds and honour their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and Århus Convention;
 - Appeals to the OSCE to help foster close co-operation of the state and non-governmental organizations working in the field of environmental protection. (PA-Declaration Bucharest 2000)
- [Regarding the environment] good governance should also involve the civil society. The UN/ECE Århus Convention on access to information and justice [is] the best model of such an international instrument and could be used for other sectors. (Brussels 2001)
- OSCE should promote openness and public access to information and documents, a principle laid down, *inter alia*, in the Århus Convention in regard to environmental matters. OSCE should continue to promote and raise awareness about Århus Convention. (Bucharest 2001)

4. Inter-State and Regional Co-operation in Environmental Issues

- Many environmental problems, particularly in Europe, can be solved effectively only through close international co-operation. (Helsinki 1975)
- The participating States declare that problems relating to the protection and improvement of the environment will be solved on both a bilateral and a multilateral, including regional and sub-regional basis, making full use of existing pattern and forms of co-operation. (Helsinki 1975)
- They will develop co-operation in the field of the environment in particular by taking into consideration the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment, relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Prague symposium on environmental problems. (Helsinki 1975)
- The participating States are resolved that co-operation in the field of the environment will be implemented in particular through:
 - exchanges of scientific and technical information, documentation and research results, including information on the means of determining the possible effects on the environment of technical and economic activities;
 - organization of conferences, symposia and meetings of experts;
 - exchanges of scientists, specialists and trainees;
 - joint preparation and implementation of programmes and projects for the study and solution of various problems of environmental protection;
 - harmonization, where appropriate and necessary, of environmental protection standards and norms, in particular with the object of avoiding possible difficulties in trade which may arise from efforts to resolve ecological problems of production processes and which relate to the achievement of certain environmental qualities in manufactured products;
 - consultations on various aspects of environmental protection, as agreed upon among countries concerned, especially in connexion with problems which could have international consequences. (Helsinki 1975)
- The participating States will further develop such co-operation by:
 - promoting the progressive development, codification and implementation of international law as one means of preserving and enhancing the human environment, including
 - principles and practices, as accepted by them, relating to pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of their States affecting other countries and regions;
 - supporting and promoting the implementation of relevant international Conventions to which they are parties, in particular those designed to prevent and combat marine and fresh water pollution, recommending States to ratify Conventions which have already been signed,
 - as well as considering possibilities of accepting other appropriate Conventions to which they are not parties at present;
 - advocating the inclusion, where appropriate and possible, of the various areas of co-operation into the programmes of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, supporting such co-operation within the framework of the Commission

and of the United Nations Environment Programme, and taking into account the work of other competent international organizations of which they are members;

- making wider use, in all types of co-operation, of information already available from national and international sources, including internationally agreed criteria, and utilizing the possibilities and capabilities of various competent international organizations. (Helsinki 1975)

- The participating States will make use of every suitable opportunity to co-operate in the field of environment and, in particular, within the areas described below as examples:
 - *Control of air pollution*
Desulphurization of fossil fuels and exhaust gases, pollution control of heavy metals, particles, aerosols, nitrogen oxides, in particular those emitted by transport, power stations, and other industrial plants; systems and methods of observation and control of air pollution and its effects, including long-range transport of air pollutants;
 - *Water pollution control and fresh water utilization*
Prevention and control of water pollution, in particular of transboundary rivers and international lakes; techniques for the improvement of the quality of water and further development of ways and means for industrial and municipal sewage effluent purification; methods of assessment of fresh water resources and the improvement of their utilization, in particular by developing methods of production which are less polluting and lead to less consumption of fresh water;
 - *Protection of the marine environment*
Protection of the marine environment of participating States, and especially the Mediterranean Sea, from pollutants emanating from land-based sources and those from ships and other vessels, notably the harmful substances listed in Annexes I and II to the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by the Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters; problems of maintaining marine ecological balances and food chains, in particular such problems as may arise from the exploration and exploitation of biological and mineral resources of the seas and the sea-bed;
 - *Land utilization and soils*
Problems associated with more effective use of lands, including land amelioration, reclamation and recultivation; control of soil pollution, water and air erosion, as well as other forms of soil degradation; maintaining and increasing the productivity of soils with due regard for the possible negative effects of the application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides;
 - *Nature conservation and nature reserves*
Protection of nature and nature reserves; conservation and maintenance of existing genetic resources, especially rare animal and plant species; conservation of natural ecological systems; establishment of nature reserves and other protected landscapes and areas, including their use for research, tourism, recreation and other purposes;
 - *Improvement of environmental conditions in areas of human settlement*
Environmental conditions associated with transport, housing, working areas, urban development and planning, water supply and sewage disposal systems; assessment of harmful effects of noise, and noise control methods; collection, treatment and utilization of wastes, including the recovery and recycling of materials; research on substitutes for non-biodegradable substances;
 - *Fundamental research, monitoring, forecasting and assessment of environmental changes*
Study of changes in climate, landscapes and ecological balances under the impact of both natural factors and human activities; forecasting of possible genetic changes in

flora and fauna as a result of environmental pollution; harmonization of statistical data, development of scientific concepts and systems of monitoring networks, standardized methods of observation, measurement and assessment of changes in the biosphere; assessment of the effects of environmental pollution levels and degradation of the environment upon human health; study and development of criteria and standards for various environmental pollutants and regulation regarding production and use of various products;

- *Legal and administrative measures*

Legal and administrative measures for the protection of the environment including procedures for establishing environmental impact assessments. (Helsinki 1975)

- The participating States agree on the following recommendations on specific measures:
 - to develop through international co-operation an extensive programme for the monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transport of air pollutants, starting with sulphur dioxide and with possible extension to other pollutants, and to this end to take into account basic elements of a co-operation programme which were identified by the experts who met in Oslo in December 1974 at the invitation of the Norwegian Institute of Air Research. (Helsinki 1975)
- The implementation of the provisions of the Final Act concerning Confidence-Building Measures, Co-operation in the field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of Environment, as well as Co-operation in Humanitarian and other fields was thoroughly discussed. It was considered that the numerous possibilities offered by the Final Act had not been sufficiently utilized. (Madrid 1983)
- The participating States consider that the implementation of all provisions of the Final Act and full respect for the principles guiding relations among them set out therein are an essential basis for the development of co-operation among them in the field of economics, of science and technology and of the environment. At the same time they reaffirm their conviction that co-operation in these fields contributes to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole. In this spirit they reiterate their resolve to pursue and intensify such co-operation between one another, irrespective of their economic and social systems. (Madrid 1983)
- The participating States, agree to encourage the development of scientific co-operation in the field of agriculture at bilateral, multilateral and sub-regional levels, with the aim, *inter alia*, of [...] ensuring optimum use and conservation of water resources. To this end, they will promote further co-operation among research institutions and centres in their countries, through the exchange of information, the joint implementation of research programmes, the organization of meetings among scientists and specialists, and other methods. (Madrid 1983)
- The participating States welcome with satisfaction the important steps taken to strengthen co-operation within the framework of the ECE in the field of the environment, including the High-Level Meeting on the Protection of the Environment (13-16 November 1979). (Madrid 1983)
- The representatives of the participating States of the CSCE [...] decided to recommend to their Governments:

- the promotion of bilateral and multilateral co-operation among participating States and the non-participating Mediterranean States in the field of environment protection of the Mediterranean region within the appropriate frameworks, in order to contribute, in particular, to the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), keeping in mind the provisions of the Final Act and the activities already included in the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts held at Valletta and the possibility of new initiatives in other fields of common interest, such as study programmes on jellyfish.
 - co-operation among international organizations on the Mediterranean environment notably by the ECE and UNEP.
 - the MAP, of actions aimed at better harmonization of national legislation on the protection of Mediterranean waters from pollution, in implementation in particular of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols signed by the parties to the Convention.
 - the improvement of methodologies within the appropriate framework for evaluating economic damage caused by pollution in the Mediterranean and for determining means to protect the Mediterranean environment.
 - co-operation in concrete actions aimed at ensuring compliance with standards laid down in the MARPOL Convention 73/78, for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea resulting from maritime traffic. (Venice 1984)
- **The participating States reaffirm their willingness to further their co-operation in the field of economics, of science and technology and of the environment. (Vienna 1989)**
 - **Recognizing the need for preventive action, the participating States will strengthen their co-operation and intensify efforts aimed at protecting and improving the environment, bearing in mind the need to maintain and restore the ecological balance in air, water and soil. They will do this by, inter alia, developing their internal legislation and their international commitments, and by applying the best available means, taking into account levels of developments as well as economic and technical constraints. They underline the importance of the Regional Strategy for Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources in ECE Member Countries Covering the Period up to the Year 2000 and Beyond. They welcome, and will take due account of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as well as the work already undertaken within the competent international fora, in particular within the framework of the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (hereafter called "the Convention"). (Vienna 1989)**
 - **The participating States will cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally with a view to improving and co-ordinating their arrangements for prevention, early warning, exchange of information and mutual assistance in cases of industrial accidents likely to cause transboundary damage to the environment. They will also initiate the examination of key elements related to the transboundary character of industrial accidents, such as clean-up, restoration and liability. (Vienna 1989)**
 - **The participating States will seek closer co-operation and greater exchange of information on the problems associated with potentially hazardous chemical including assessment of the risks to health and the environment. They will explore possibilities for closer harmonization of their legislation and regulations on the handling of these chemicals. (Vienna 1989)**

- The participating States are aware of the opportunities, as they became apparent during the Meeting, for increased co-operation in the CSCE process, with regard to the protection of the environment. They reaffirm their will to strengthen their co-operation and intensify efforts aimed at protecting and improving the environment, bearing in mind the need to maintain and restore the ecological balance in air, water and soil. They also recall their commitment in the Vienna Concluding Document to acknowledge the importance of the contribution of persons and organizations dedicated to the protection and improvement of the environment, and to allow them to express their concerns. They reiterate their willingness to promote greater public awareness and understanding of environmental issues. (Sofia 1989)
- The participating States will also stimulate exchange of information and environmental data, and foster scientific and technological co-operation in order to prevent and reduce pollution. (Sofia 1989)
- The participating States, [...] believe that co-operation in the field of economics, science and technology and the environment is an essential element in their overall relations, and that it should become even more prominent in the future. (Bonn 1990)
- The participating States will, in order to facilitate and promote economic co-operation, undertake comprehensive co-operation between their respective statistical services in the bilateral and multilateral context. The priority areas for such co-operation are the statistics on [...] environment, energy and other raw materials such as forestry and mineral products and industrial production in addition to other major components of national production and national income accounting. (Bonn 1990)
- The participating States consider that they should extend and deepen their co-operation in the field of energy and raw material saving techniques. To that end they favour the marketing of energy conservation and raw material saving technologies and will promote increased energy efficiency. The participating States will also co-operate bilaterally and multilaterally in the field of hydrocarbon technologies, solid fuels and renewable energies and processes for the separation of waste components and their recycling and upgrading. They will also co-operate, e.g. through the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the field of nuclear energy and of the safety of nuclear installations in accordance with their energy policies. (Bonn 1990)
- With a view to improving the quality of life the participating States attach priority to techniques designed to promote the health and safety of their populations. They intend to co-operate in assessing the impact of environmental stress on the population by exchanging relevant data on the effects of environmental pollution. They also consider it important to create the conditions enabling the various elements which contribute to an improved quality of life to be developed. (Bonn 1990)
- They reaffirmed that co-operation in the fields of economy, science, technology and the environment remains an important pillar of the CSCE. (Berlin 1991)

- They therefore encourage transfrontier co-operation arrangements on a national, regional and local level, inter alia, on local border crossings, the preservation of and visits to cultural and historical monuments and sites, tourism, the improvement of traffic, the economy, youth exchange, the protection of the environment and the establishment of regional commissions. (Geneva 1991)
- **The participating States will intensify the existing and growing co-operation between them in order to restore and maintain a sound ecological balance in air, water and soil and they recognize their individual and common commitment towards achieving these goals (Helsinki 1992).**
- **They emphasize that environmental protection should be a major consideration in international co-operation among them. They encourage work towards elaborating an Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe, as well as elements for an Environmental Programme for the whole of Europe, in the follow-up to the 1991 ministerial conference "Environment for Europe". (Helsinki 1992)**
- The importance of regional co-operation was particularly stressed. Participants welcomed the recently adopted Nukus declaration on the Aral Sea as a good starting point for developing closer co-operation among the countries of the region. Proposals were made to enlarge the process so as to cover the sustainable development of the whole water basin. (Tashkent 1995)
- Calls were made for greater international co-operation in public health care. (Tashkent 1995)
- Participants considered a number of ideas on possible future action. The OSCE is well placed to play a significant role as a forum for consultation and as a facilitator in preparing the ground for a confidence-building process leading to genuine co-operation. The Nukus declaration provides an agreed inter-governmental platform on which further regional co-operation can develop. The Interstate Council for the Aral Sea (ICAS) and the executive committee can promote and implement this co-operation. The OSCE and relevant international organizations all have a role to play in supporting this co-operation. Among the ideas for possible future action participants discussed:
 - a) Focusing on public health as high priority. Participants welcomed a proposal for undertaking a regional assessment of the public health situation. This should be performed by an appropriate international organization.
 - b) Increasing public participation in environmental decision-making. This was welcomed as way to educate people, improve information, and gain support for sound environmental policies.
 - c) Creating the necessary legal and administrative framework to encourage sustainable development in the region and attract domestic and foreign capital. In particular, economic and legal measures for promoting sustainable environmental development in the Aral Sea region might be a good subject for a future regional seminar.
 - d) Other suggestions included encouraging studies on land use reform and ownership, as well as on the possibility of developing a regional economic free zone to foster regional security.
 - e) Participants welcomed an EU suggestion that the OSCE might undertake a survey on the status of NGO's in the Central Asian region and their capacities in order to encourage their integration into the environmental decision-making process. (Tashkent 1995)

- Environment [is] an important issue for the OSCE, which provide[s] a framework for fostering solidarity among countries and working out schemes for co-operation. (Tashkent 1996)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly] calls, on the basis of the conclusions of the Monaco Parliamentary Conference, for the urgent promotion of sub-regional co-operation and transboundary exchanges, particularly in the field of environmental issues, which are of an increasingly transnational nature. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998)
- The question of co-operation among regions across borders and co-operation between regions and other States: Several participants stressed the advantages of cross-border co-operation between regions as a means of developing issues of mutual interests. Such co-operation contributed to developing the identity of the populace in the regions concerned and was useful in contributing to economic development. It was also stated in this regard that globalization of the economy had in many cases blurred the traditional central government responsibility for relations with other countries. A number of regions had already established offices in other countries in order to promote economic, environmental and other interests of the regions. It was noted that this development was yet another reason for developing and strengthening adequate channels of communication between central and regional authorities within a country. (Chisinau 1998)
- The Bucharest Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea was regarded as very important for the whole region. Relevant conventions such as MARPOL, the ESPOO Convention, The Convention on Biodiversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and a fisheries convention were mentioned. In addition, some countries wished to develop bilateral agreements on tributaries. [...] Some speakers stated that the Convention needed increased monitoring and enforcement. The Commission Secretariat had developed work programmes and a budget, but the lack of resources at the Black Sea Commission Secretariat in Istanbul was presented as a major obstacle for further development. (Istanbul 1998)
- A more formal co-operation between the Danube and the Black Sea countries at all levels and between key institutions was proposed. The OSCE could facilitate the action between the Parties concerned and increase the awareness of the up-stream countries of their responsibility. (Istanbul 1998)
- The OSCE could play a role by encouraging access to environmental conventions. The OSCE initiate an environmental performance review of the states in the Black Sea basin. The OECD and the UN/ECE had the capacity, resources and the methodology available that the OSCE could utilize. (Istanbul 1998)
- Strengthening the political will was of key importance to maintain the political momentum for the Black Sea environmental co-operation. Therefore it was suggested that a broad integration of environmental concerns were needed in the finance, security, and foreign policy sectors. The OSCE's broad membership, neutral status and focus on environmental security was seen as an important link that could help foster dialogue among concerned parties. In general, some speakers pointed to the need for decisions regarding sustainable development and preventive approaches to be taken at the highest political level possible. The Black Sea should be given priority when countries in the catchment area were in the process of developing National Environmental Action Plans

(NEAP's). The national leaders should also be encouraged to strengthen environmental regulations and enforcement. (Istanbul 1998)

- It is recognised that, while energy and environmental issues could lead to problems in relations among neighbouring countries, every effort should be made to favour a co-operative approach. No single country should act in isolation, but actions should rather be made in a regional context. In particular, when planning new energy projects, the environmental impact on neighbouring countries should be considered; serious differences should be discussed between those concerned, at an early stage. (Istanbul 1998)
- The respect for and implementation of existing international conventions and agreements, in the fields of energy and the environment as in other areas, was underlined as an important contribution to co-operation in the region. The elaboration of new instruments should be left for areas still not covered by existing international instruments. Successful examples from other regions should be taken into account. (Istanbul 1998)
- Not only the bordering governments but also those part of the Black Sea catchment area should be involved in the efforts to solve regional environmental problems in a spirit of co-operation and good neighbourliness. (Istanbul 1998)
- Participants emphasized the consistency of national goals in the environmental field and called for more active dialogue within governments and among governments to facilitate co-operation. They also noted the need to increase dialogue with national governments, observing that those responsible for foreign policy and security-related decisions should pay closer attention to environmental questions. Furthermore, there was agreement that governments need to promote informational exchanges and dissemination with regard to existing international conventions and agreements in this field. There was also agreement on the need for broader public environmental education. The working groups stressed that fuller implementation of existing Conventions, including mechanisms for dispute resolution, rather than the creation of new mechanisms, should be a primary focus. (Malta 1999)
- Through the exchange of views on experiences with environmental co-operation (in particular within the context of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme, and the European/Mediterranean Partnership), participants determined that successful cases of co-operation were often based on the identification of common interests within which the parties could focus on technical rather than political issues. The Israeli/Jordanian/Palestinian example was especially useful in this regard, as was the explanation of the work of the OSPAR Commission. In that context, it was suggested that the OSCE, through the support and encouragement of transboundary projects could over the long term help to build a climate of confidence and security so that the parties involved could focus on technical issues. It was widely recognized that the OSCE had an important part to play in promoting the role of NGOs, which are key institutions of civil society and which help to support democratic developments in many OSCE States. (Malta 1999)
- Particular concern was expressed over the environmental, ecological and biological damage caused by conflicts in the region. However, it was noted that multi-lateral environmental co-operation in the region is permitting a more holistic approach to the resolution of these problems. (Malta 1999)

- The development of reaction capacities works best at a subregional level between neighbouring States. (Malta 1999)
- Recommendations
 - The OSCE might consider presenting the case study "Co-operation in the Mediterranean" at the next OSCE Economic Forum in Prague as an example of long practice of co-operation;
 - Better and more focused dissemination of information, especially to countries that can only be reached by the OSCE, in order to promote more integration. To this end, networking based in particular on OSCE Missions could be very useful. (Malta 1999)
- It has also been identified that there are many areas for further cooperation. It is important to ensure that European Union enlargement should not create new barriers to cooperation among Baltic States and non-EU Member States, but instead should foster cooperation, capacity building and policy coordination. There is a need for increased cooperation with all stakeholders and players in the Baltic Region that calls for a concerted approach (this includes increasing public education on all levels and increasing the role of NGOs in decision-making processes in all relevant sectors). Strengthening both environmental legislation (esp. as future development and growth in the region continues) and providing continued financing and continual evaluation of environmental programs is critical. In order to develop and maintain mechanisms for transparent discussion of needs, priorities for funding assistance between donors and recipients should be identified and discussions should be integrated around bilateral and basin-wide needs. The application of best environmental practices and ensuring that the use of best available techniques are provided for industry is another crucial step. This also requires that financial support is available only for environmentally sound industries and activities. Designing effective methods for environmental fees and taxes to be imposed at the municipal level needs to be further explored. Lastly the collection of reliable data and providing accurate reporting and availability of information to public (releasing or declassifying formerly sensitive information) is important to provide cooperation. It was also suggested that sea and air surveillance of the area can create mechanisms for integrated eco-system monitoring. (Warnemünde 1999)
- It has been recognized that without an effective cooperation at all levels (local, national, regional and international) sustainable development can not be achieved. (Warnemünde 1999)
- In the Baltic Sea Region there exists considerable information on environmental problems as well as regional co-operation organisations and processes to address them, such as the (Pan-European) Environment for Europe, incl. The Project Preparation Committee (PPC), Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) as well as the co-operation within and around the EU. These organisations in addition to bilateral co-operation, can be used effectively to continue and to intensify the regional environmental co-operation. Multi-partner projects and programmes, with participation of the International Financial Institutions (IFI's), are important in order to promote the necessary environmental investments in the region. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Proposals for possible OSCE activities:
 - To promote co-operation between different sectors of society (Industry, Government, NGOs) on the issue of environmental security.

- Avoid creating new barriers inside the Baltic Sea Region.
 - To promote co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region on renewable Energy sources. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Further cooperation in humanitarian de-mining activities, including those promoting mine clearance and social, economic and environmental rehabilitation. (Sarajevo 1999)
 - Trans-border co-operation on environmental issues is an important tool for strengthening democratic institutions and for the prevention of conflict. The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation's joint environmental expertise can be drawn upon in this regard to enhance our overall ability to prevent conflict. Participants recommended that the Stability Pact Meeting scheduled in Rome on 17 December also focus on the environmental concerns raised at this seminar as an overarching concern in the rehabilitation process. (Sarajevo 1999).
 - Regional co-operation is of importance in solving environmental problems. Environmental co-operation between local parties involved might serve as a confidence-building measure. [...] Environmental co-operation could foster wider regional co-operation and thereby contribute to the reinforcement of the civil society and sustainable development in the region. (Sarajevo 1999).
 - The OSCE recognizes that the sound management of hazardous wastes is a major concern during the conflict cycle and supports the co-operation of appropriate international organizations to prevent or remediate any adverse effect of hazardous waste to human health and to the environment. (Sarajevo 1999).
 - Transboundary cooperation [is of importance] since environmental problems do not stop at national borders and cooperation as a confidence building measure. (Sarajevo 1999)
 - The OSCE [...] could also help in the overall peace-building process by facilitating transnational co-operation on environmental problems as a confidence-building measure. (Sarajevo 1999)
 - We further recognize the importance of addressing economic and environmental risks in the region, such as issues related to water resources, energy and erosion. We are convinced that strengthening regional co-operation will promote stability and security in Central Asia, and we welcome the active approach taken by the Chairman-in-Office to this effect. (Istanbul Declaration 1999)
 - Encourage the ratification and implementation of existing agreements in the environmental field. (8-EF 2000)
 - The following factors were seen as crucial for successful co-operation:
 - The need for a shared political commitment to resolving or tackling the environmental issue;
 - Use of an established framework, such as an international Convention, in tandem with national environmental policies based on sustainable good governance;
 - The involvement of all stakeholders, including the government, NGOs and business, thereby ensuring that the population was fully involved in the process;
 - Clear and concrete objectives for co-operation;

- The need to co-ordinate environmental actions with economic, health and social policies, to ensure an integrated approach;
 - The existence of an independent organization willing to play the role of honest broker to build confidence. (8-EF 2000)
-
- Environmental issues are often of a regional nature, and their resolution requires inter-state co-ordination and information-sharing. (Almaty 2000)

5. Inter-Institutional Co-operation in Environmental Issues

- We welcome the operational activities, problem-oriented studies and policy reviews in various existing international organizations engaged in the protection of the environment, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We emphasize the need for strengthening their co-operation and for their efficient co-ordination. (Paris 1990)
- They express their intention to work together, along with the relevant international organizations and institutions, to ensure the maintenance of environmental standards in the CSCE area. The participating States welcome the establishment of the European Environmental Agency in Copenhagen, and acknowledge the key role it will play in the dissemination of information in this field. (Budapest 1994)
- The participating States will collaborate with the relevant international organizations in the preparation of the next Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference, scheduled for Sofia in 1995, and express their intention to continue their support for this process. (Budapest 1994)
- Organizations such as OSCE, UNEP, WHO and others should establish a plan of co-ordinated actions in the environment protection for Central Asia. (Tashkent 1995)
- Participants stressed the importance of developing an integrated and comprehensive environment monitoring system for the region. They called for better co-ordination among national and international organizations in this regard. (Tashkent 1995)
- The OSCE should further enhance its ties to mutually-reinforcing international economic and financial institutions, including regular consultations at appropriate levels aimed at improving the ability to identify and assess at an early stage the security relevance of economic, social and environmental developments. Interaction with regional, subregional and transborder co-operative initiatives in the economic and environmental field should be enhanced, as they contribute to the promotion of good-neighbourly relations and security. (Lisbon 1996)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,]
 - Invites the OSCE and the participating States to continue the process of elaborating a common and comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century in order to present the progress achieved and the results available at the OSCE Summit in Lisbon in 1996. These should include:
 - Entrusting the implementation and further development of commitments in the economic dimension of the OSCE process to organizations and institutions best suited for this field, and adjusting the OSCE role, including the need for an Economic Forum and for its further development with particular regard to environmental questions. (PA-Declaration Stockholm 1996)
- The regular priorities [of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities within the OSCE Secretariat] will be:
 - to enhance OSCE interaction with relevant international economic organizations, financial institutions and organizations active in the environmental field, as well as

- with relevant regional, subregional and transborder economic co-operation organizations and initiatives;**
- **recognizing the role these organizations, institutions and initiatives play, to establish interaction and regular consultations with them based on the concept of co-operative security and aimed at the development of synergies;**
 - **to draw on their expertise in working to assess potential security risks stemming, wholly or in part, from economic, social and environmental factors;**
 - **to offer them the added value of the OSCE's unique political and security perspective; to foster co-operation and information-sharing between the OSCE and international economic organizations/financial institutions in addressing the economic and environmental aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation. (PC.DEC/194, 5 November 1997)**
- **Drawing on the interlinkages between security and prosperity based on economic freedom and social justice and environmental protection, they will ensure that the economic dimension receives appropriate attention as an element of the early warning and conflict prevention activities of the OSCE and provides further political impetus to the work carried out by specialized economic and financial and other relevant institutions. (Copenhagen 1997, MC(6).DEC/5)**
 - In accordance with the concept of the Platform for Co-operative Security, the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension should provide political impetus for work carried out by specialized economic and financial bodies, and that the OSCE - as a Europe-wide security organization - is well placed to provide such an impulse in support of the reform efforts needed to permit the integration of transition economies into the world economy. However, differences of principle persist regarding the need for the OSCE to go beyond this role and to develop additional capabilities in this area. (Oslo 1998, Chairman's Summary)
 - Regular meetings of, and consultations among, senior representatives of the relevant organizations and institutions should be considered. This could help in co-ordinating their activities and, where necessary, their co-operative work programmes. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
 - The Document-Charter should include an indicative list of possible areas for regional/subregional or bilateral co-operation, without necessarily creating new institutions. Such a list could include, inter alia, the [...] environmental [...] co-operation. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
 - The OSCE's economic and environmental dimension should provide political impetus to work carried out by specialized bodies. The OSCE - as a Europe-wide security organization - is well placed to provide such an impulse in support of the reform efforts necessary to permit the integration of economies in transition into the world economy. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
 - Close interaction between the various international organizations and institutions is required, since the new risks and challenges can be effectively confronted only through their combined expertise and resources. The OSCE should play a political role in reinforcing such interaction among all relevant international organizations and institutions as well as regional, sub-regional and transfrontier co-operation organizations and

initiatives in accordance with the concept of the Platform for Co-operative Security. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)

- The aim should be to enhance complementarity and promote synergies, thus making optimum use of available resources, while fully maintaining the independence of the individual organizations and institutions. The OSCE should concentrate its efforts on priority areas and retain its flexible approach in relation to tensions and crisis situations. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- The OSCE's ability to cope with economic and environmental issues should be enhanced but in ways that neither duplicate existing efforts, nor replace efforts that could be more efficiently undertaken by other organizations or entities. In evaluating ways in which the OSCE can foster economic and environmental stability, there is a need to focus on those areas in which the OSCE has a clear advantage - e.g. establishing politically binding norms, creating political impetus for the implementation of these commitments, providing early warning, on-the ground monitoring, and co-ordination and mediation assistance. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- It was emphasized that environmental aspects of security need to become a regular part of the OSCE agenda and should be adequately addressed in the OSCE's ongoing work on a Document-Charter on European Security. In that connection, participants also stressed the need to identify comparative advantages among organizations and to ensure co-ordination and synergy, especially among the organizations active in the Mediterranean area. (Malta 1999)
- Lead the OSCE to work to acquire further expert advice on the issue, work along with other bodies who have done some studies on the matter, and later prepare a plan for identifying the major environment-related security threats. (Malta 1999)
- The OSCE, and specifically the Office of the Economic and Environmental Co-ordinator, could act as facilitator and mediator with other Organizations active in [a special] field. (Malta 1999)
- It is important to avoid duplication of efforts among the many actors in the region and to avoid large policy distortions among key regional institutions (esp. when related to official development assistance). (Warnemünde 1999)
- In the Baltic Sea Region there exists considerable information on environmental problems as well as regional co-operation organisations and processes to address them, such as the (Pan-European) Environment for Europe, incl. The Project Preparation Committee (PPC), Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) as well as the co-operation within and around the EU. These organisations in addition to bilateral co-operation, can be used effectively to continue and to intensify the regional environmental co-operation. Multi-partner projects and programmes, with participation of the International Financial Institutions (IFI's), are important in order to promote the necessary environmental investments in the region. (Warnemünde 1999)
- The OSCE should utilize the work of the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society in order to identify environmental aspects of security. (Vienna-Istanbul 1999)

- **The OSCE is characterized by its broad membership, its comprehensive approach to security, its large number of field operations and its long history as a norm-setting organization. These qualities enable it to identify threats and to act as a catalyst for co-operation between key international organizations and institutions in the economic and environmental areas. [...] We will foster such co-ordination between the OSCE and relevant international organizations in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security. We will enhance the OSCE's ability to address economic and environmental issues in ways that neither duplicate existing work nor replace efforts that can be more efficiently undertaken by other organizations. We will focus on areas in which the OSCE has particular competence. (Istanbul 1999)**
- Environmental co-operation [is of importance] both as a concrete conflict-prevention measure and as an indispensable element is of post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation. Impartial and independent fact-finding technical assessments (such as the Balkan Task Force Report) can provide a useful common frame of reference. (8-EF 2000)
- Enhanced co-operation between the OSCE and specialised economic, environmental and financial institutions as well as sub-regional organizations remains a priority. NGOs as an indispensable link to civil society are strategic partners. (8-EF2000)
- Although some progress had been made in the past years concerning the OSCE's interaction with specialized international organizations, there was still a need for improvement [...] one of the main tasks of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities [is] to facilitate the OSCE's interaction with other actors in pursuance of shared goals. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- Co-operation and co-ordination in the economic and environmental fields [is] particularly complex and challenging. [...] The only way of overcoming such problems [inter-institutional relations is] by further developing all of the three crucial dimensions: the Human Dimension, the Politico-Military Dimension and the Economic and Environmental Dimension. [...] The only solution would be for the OSCE to further develop its capacity in the field of economics and environment with other international players. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- Four "products" the OSCE [is] able to offer to other organizations:
 - Great variety of activities dealing with human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
 - The OSCE [is] primarily a political organization and that its PC meetings, the Ministerials and the regularly held Summit meetings, could help to generate political support on all levels;
 - Third, the permanent presence of OSCE field missions could be seen as a useful element in devising mutually reinforcing activities with other organizations;
 - The OSCE would be an attractive partner to other organizations, with regard to economic and environmental projects because it was not seen as a competitor. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- "Modalities for co-operation", [in the Platform for Co-operative Security] could facilitate inter-institutional relationships.
 - With regard to the [...] organization, [...] elements for co-operation and co-ordination had already been developed [...]: ODIHR had arranged or participated in joint assessment missions. Second, the Secretariats of the OSCE and the Council of Europe had elaborated a "Common Catalogue of Co-operation Modalities". [...] The exchange of information in

the early phases of the planning of a project or a political initiative is of importance; the existence of clearing houses and co-ordinators [is] crucial in these initial steps. Concerning [...] governments, [...] participating States should make inter-institutional relations a key element of their policies within international organizations. [...] The specific dynamics of NGOs made them reluctant to be integrated, but [...] governments and international organizations should avoid imposing their rules on the non-State actors' behaviour. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)

- Preliminary conclusions.
 - First, [...] some form of general inter-institutional arrangement would lead to good co-operative relations, but [...] this would be difficult to achieve in the fields of economics and environment, due to the high number of players and their inherent differences.
 - Second, [...] a number of particularly complex and concrete problems and situations should be identified and subsequently discussed under the inter-institutional relations aspect.
 - Third, each international institution [should] contribute to co-operation and co-ordination.
 - With regard to the OSCE two interrelated elements were of particular importance. First, the OSCE had to develop a clearer and more profiled consensus on what the "economic and environmental dimension" implied in terms of the OSCE's operational activities. And following that, the OSCE had to provide to other institutions a clearer understanding of what the Organization had to offer. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- The Organization [was encouraged] to more clearly define the precise mandate of the OSCE in the EED in order to identify the value added that the Organization could provide. The OCEEA was tasked to develop a work plan and a conceptual framework for achieving its objectives, to be discussed by participating States. It was also noted that besides developing clear conceptual frameworks and mandates. It was equally crucial how mandates and agreements were implemented in practice. In order to give the EED more importance in the work of the OSCE, it was also suggested to raise the profile of EED issues in regular discussion for a such as the PC. The need for co-operation with other, more specialized, agencies was clearly identified since the OSCE was not an economic organization with a reconstruction role, but rather a catalyst for international action with an early-warning function. It was noted, however, that the OSCE had already created high expectations in mission countries, which would be difficult to justify by apolitical or a catalyst role only. Several participants thus supported the idea that the OSCE should also implement small projects as possible door-openers or kick off larger projects which could be taken over by specialized organizations. A concrete example was presented in which the OSCE fed into a larger World Bank project on poverty reduction by providing the local impulse for the donor organization through its extended field presence. Regarding international co-ordination, [...] some institution-building was necessary to ensure co-operation among donors. International funds should be matched wherever possible by contributions from recipient countries and recipients should eventually be in a position to implement projects independently. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- Inter-institutional co-ordination should be strongly promoted. [...] Co-ordination activities should [...] develop on a case-by-case basis. In general, the OSCE should not necessarily aim at playing a leading role in the EED, or even an operational role in all EED areas. Its ambitions should be pragmatic and realistic, focusing on those areas where it had added value to offer. Co-ordination in the EED was important on two levels, namely, in the area of political co-ordination with partners on strategic issues and on the operational level with (inter)governmental and non-governmental partners in the field. Major modalities for

co-ordination included the exchange of information, the organization of joint assessment missions with partners, making co-ordination issues a standard item of meetings on general issues, and the development of joint pilot projects. The role of NGOs and the civil society had to be considered. Regarding the appropriate mandate of the OSCE, the mandate of the Organization in the EED needed further clarification, and focus should be given to areas where the OSCE had proven strengths. The development of a clearer mandate also implied that the OSCE would refuse to take on certain activities which did not properly correspond to its mandate, even if voluntary financial contributions were offered. The OSCE could be best as a catalyst, including stimulation, facilitation, offering a framework for co-operation, but leaving technical assistance to the better qualified organizations. However, in particular within field missions, small-scale projects could function as a door-opener. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)

- Optimization of inter-institutional relations in the economic and environmental dimension (EED) area should be strongly promoted in a pragmatic way and should continue to be a key issue in all of OSCE's operational efforts. OSCE should promote co-ordination also in this area, but should be careful about developing too many highly sophisticated co-ordination arrangements in abstracto. Too many of such mechanisms could even hinder smooth co-operation in practice. In contrast, OSCE's co-ordination activities should be based on a case-by-case approach. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- It should be emphasized that OSCE does not have the ambition to play a leading role in the EED area. Co-ordination is highly important in this area and OSCE could play an important role in this area, but this does not necessarily mean that the Organization has to play an operational role at the same time. If OSCE will play a co-ordinating role, it should be in terms of 'partnerships' and not of a 'leader'. OSCE's level of ambition should be realistic and pragmatic, focusing on those areas where it has an additional value. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- Co-ordination could be focused on two levels in the EED area: (a) political co-ordination with partners on strategic issues; (b) operational co-ordination at the field level with partners (both (inter)governmental and non-governmental) on issues/projects of common interest which have security implications. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- There are many modalities for co-operation and co-ordination in the FED area. (a) promotion of the exchange of information (in terms of regions or themes), in particular 'early information', also through investing strongly in updated, well-developed websites; (b) the organization of joint (needs) assessment missions with partner organizations, following the successful model introduced by ODIHR in the human dimension; (c) making co-ordination/co-operation a standard agenda item of meetings devoted to more general issues; (d) the possible development of joint pilot projects. 5. Further attention should be paid to the role of NGOs (including the business community) in the EED area, in particular also in terms of co-ordination. Besides, the OSCE has a great potential to support civil society initiatives also in this area. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- In order to promote effective co-ordination, there appears to be a need for further clarification of the role of the OSCE in the EED, both for the OSCE itself, its field missions and for OSCE's partners in this area (other intergovernmental organizations, States, and NGOs). The OSCE should continue its efforts to inform its partners about its mandate and role in the EED area. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)

- OSCE's mandate in the EED should be focused more clearly on those issues in which it has a proven strength and in which it has a clearly additional value to offer:
 - (a) a focus on those EED issues which are of a high political character in the sense that these issues are of great importance for the promotion of stability within individual States and/or regionally;
 - (b) OSCE's strength is undoubtedly in the area of human rights, democracy and rule of law, all of them essential elements of good governance. Without good governance, one can hardly expect sustainable economic development. Therefore, OSCE can offer activities fitting well into broader concepts for sustainable economic and social development. The underlying comprehensive security concept of OSCE is a major strength in this respect;
 - (c) OSCE can play a facilitating role in the EED area whenever and wherever needed and requested. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- OSCE should have the courage to continue to develop a clearer profile of its mandate in the EED area, eventually also by refusing to take on (or continue) certain activities that do not belong to the above-mentioned categories, taking into account OSCE's inherent limitations (limited staff, small size, no legal status, etc.). This implies that OSCE should be careful in interpreting its EED mandate too broadly. Although many economic and environmental problems have a security dimension and should be of concern to the OSCE, this should not necessarily mean that the Organization has to become (or continue to be) active in all these issues in an operational way. This should also be applicable to activities which could be funded by voluntary contributions: whenever such (proposed) activities would not fit into the more clearly defined mandate, the OSCE should carefully consider whether to accept these contributions. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- A major function of the OSCE in the EED area is clearly of a catalytic nature: stimulating, facilitating, offering a framework for co-operation and co-ordination, but leaving technical assistance to better qualified organizations. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- Special attention should be paid to the specific situation of OSCE field missions: small operational projects may function as "door-openers", thereby facilitating OSCE's overall tasks and mandate. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- In order to guarantee that the EED area will be given its proper, important place in OSCE's overall comprehensive security approach, it is essential that the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General, supported by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities play a leading role in clarifying the OSCE's mandate in this area and in co-ordinating OSCE's EED activities with other partners. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- International trade, international financial flows, labour standards, food safety and consumer protection as well as environmental governance are areas where the effects of globalisation are most often felt and where public authorities have to adapt to new circumstances. The full participation of OSCE participating States in the relevant international organisations and institutions - and, in particular the WTO - is desirable to ensure their effective integration in to the world economic system. (Brussels 2001)
- While international structures in the field of trade are strong there is a need for a strong international environmental counterpart and it would be useful to see better cooperation between UNEP, WTO and other bodies. (Brussels 2001)

6. OSCE Structures and Institutions

a.) Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

- The CSCE-Parliamentary Assembly] recommends the establishment, at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers, of a new mechanism or institution, as appropriate, to coordinate the environmental protection policies of, and promote environmental cooperation between, all the participating States in order both to safeguard the natural environment and to protect the health and economic well-being of all peoples throughout the CSCE community. (PA-Declaration Helsinki 1993)
- **We task the Permanent Council to review the role of the OSCE Secretariat in the economic dimension, and to elaborate a mandate for a co-ordinator within the OSCE Secretariat on OSCE economic and environmental activities, to be submitted not later than the 1997 Ministerial Council. (Lisbon 1996)**
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly] expresses the wish for the appointment of a high profile OSCE representative, before the next Ministerial Council in Copenhagen, to observe the processes concerned with economic and ecological aspects of security in the OSCE region and to identify potential threats, to liaise with international economic and financial institutions, formulate economic policies for the OSCE and, when necessary, intercede with member governments. (PA-Declaration Warsaw 1997)
- **The participating States decide to establish the position of a Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities within the OSCE Secretariat.**
 - **The Co-ordinator, acting in support of the Chairman-in-Office, is charged with strengthening the ability of the Permanent Council and the OSCE institutions to address economic, social and environmental aspects of security.**
 - **The Co-ordinator will act in accordance with the OSCE's flexible approach in responding to tensions and crisis situations as they emerge and evolve. His/Her regular priorities will be:**
 - **to enhance OSCE interaction with relevant international economic organizations, financial institutions and organizations active in the environmental field, as well as with relevant regional, subregional and transborder economic co-operation organizations and initiatives;**
 - **recognizing the role these organizations, institutions and initiatives play, to establish interaction and regular consultations with them based on the concept of co-operative security and aimed at the development of synergies;**
 - **to draw on their expertise in working to assess potential security risks stemming, wholly or in part, from economic, social and environmental factors;**
 - **to offer them the added value of the OSCE's unique political and security perspective; to foster co-operation and information-sharing between the OSCE and international economic organizations/financial institutions in addressing the economic and environmental aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation;**
 - **to strengthen the economic, social and environmental components of the work of OSCE missions where appropriate as an essential early-warning tool and in the fulfilment of OSCE commitments;**
 - **to deepen interaction with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in areas within the Co-ordinator's competence;**
 - **to broaden OSCE interaction with representatives of the business community, business associations and relevant non-governmental organizations; and**

- **to develop, on the basis of input from participating States and other institutions, a work programme, to include planning for and follow-up to meetings of the Economic Forum, and the preparation of an appropriate schedule of events in the economic dimension. The Co-ordinator shall, within the scope of his/her mandate, participate in and provide input to these meetings and other related OSCE activities, including but not limited to annual implementation reviews and work related to the Security Model. In general, the Co-ordinator's activities shall be reflected in the Secretary General's reports to the Permanent Council; however, given his/her specialized expertise, he/she shall address that body as the need arises or upon request.**
 - **The Co-ordinator shall be an individual with a distinguished record of service, in the public or the private sector, in promoting enhanced economic co-operation and security in the OSCE region.**
 - **The Co-ordinator shall be appointed for a period of three years, in accordance with established OSCE procedures applicable to D2 and D1 positions.**
 - **The Co-ordinator will work under the direct supervision of the Secretary General. The post will be funded through the OSCE budget in accordance with the OSCE Staff Regulations. The Co-ordinator will be assisted by the Economic Adviser and necessary office staff. (PC.DEC/194, 5 November 1997)**
- The OSCE's abilities for dealing with security-related economic, social and environmental issues have been strengthened by the establishment of the position of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities- in particular the Co-ordinator's potential role in assessing the potential security risks stemming from economic, social and environmental factors, and in ensuring the necessary interaction between the OSCE and international organizations and institutions active in the economic and environmental spheres. (6-EF 1998)
 - The need to improve the early warning system concerns all OSCE bodies and missions/field presences. The OSCE Secretariat, in accordance with its mandate, possibly on the basis of the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre as well as the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, could consolidate its practice of submitting to the Chairman-in-Office's period (e.g., quarterly) report on possible challenges in the OSCE area. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
 - The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and any other relevant OSCE institution will monitor, in accordance with their respective mandates, the implementation of OSCE commitments in their respective fields of activity, and may report to the Chairman-in-Office any shortcomings in the implementation of these commitments that they may have identified, thereby fulfilling their early warning function. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
 - The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, acting under the authority of the Secretary General, should serve as a focal point for the OSCE's efforts to identify and address [...] threats. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

- Recognizing the insufficient development of OSCE activities in the Economic Dimension as well as the relative neglect of environmental, science and technology issues, particularly at the governmental level;
 - Noting that the Economic Forum should play a major role in laying out guidelines for the OSCE Economic Dimension;
 - Aware, however, that the mandate extended to the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities by the Lisbon Summit of 1996 has signalled increased attention to the economic component in determining overall security, particularly at a regional level;
 - Further noting that the Parliamentary Assembly has contributed to the development of the OSCE institutional structures as well as to the implementation of the OSCE objectives in the Economic Dimension by enhancing the democratic representativeness of this OSCE Institution;
 - Urges the reinforcement of the role of the Co-ordinator, allowing him to act as a link between the central OSCE Institutions and the OSCE structures operating in the field, for instance, by giving to the OSCE long-term missions an extended mandate including environmental issues;
 - Calls for the Co-ordinator also to be responsible for bringing the guidelines of the Economic Forum to the attention of the Permanent Council and report annually to the General Committee for Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment of the Parliamentary Assembly;
 - Calls for the staff, as well as the financial and technological resources assigned to the Coordinator, to be reinforced in order to enhance his operational capabilities in the various geographical areas within his purview. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998)
- The OSCE, and specifically the Office of the Economic and Environmental Co-ordinator, could act as facilitator and mediator with other Organizations active in [a special] field. (Malta 1999)
 - The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities should, under the authority of the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General and in close co-operation with the relevant OSCE field operations, develop regular reports concerning economic and environmental risks to security. These reports should include questions of promoting public awareness of the relationship between economic and environmental problems and security and the relationship between our Organization and others concerned with the promotion of economic and environmental security within the OSCE area. Such reports will be discussed by the Permanent Council. (Istanbul Declaration 1999)
 - The implementation of the OCEEA's mandate [is sometimes difficult]. Co-ordination problems exist not only between but also within organizations, including the OSCE, especially since the OSCE's mandate was not clearly defined. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)

b.) Economic Forum & Seminars

- **In this regard, a Seminar of CSCE Experts on the subject of "Sustainable Development of Boreal and Temperate Forests", will be convened in Montreal from 27 September to 6 October 1993. A proposal outlining the budget, agenda and**

modalities of this seminar will be presented by Canada for approval by the CSO before the end of 1992⁵. (Helsinki 1992)

- **The Permanent Council, reaffirming the role of the Economic Forum as an important instrument for dealing with the economic dimension, in particular to review all OSCE commitments in the areas of economics, environment and science and technology, in accordance with the Helsinki and Budapest decisions, decides: To convene a meeting in Geneva on 22-23 January 1996 to review the implementation of economic dimension commitments contained in the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe and other relevant OSCE documents. (PC.DEC/77, 28 September 1995)**
- The Economic Forum, as well as the OSCE economic dimension seminars, should serve as forums for the exchange of information, experience and best practices, familiarization with OSCE principles and values, increase of public awareness, involvement of the business community and NGOs, dialogue on co-operative solutions, etc. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- In November, a follow-up to the seminar held in 1995 on "Rehabilitating the Environment", with more regional focus on economic and legal measures for promoting sustainable environmental development in the region of the Aral Sea, is scheduled to take place in Nukus and/or Urgench (Uzbekistan); it will be organized in collaboration with UN/ECE, UNEP and other UN agencies. (4-EF 1996)
- Discussions on the economic aspects of security as well as on other related economic, environmental and social issues should be held within the framework of the Economic Forum and in the context of other relevant OSCE economic dimension activities. The OSCE and MPCs should also focus their discussions on environmental issues, giving special consideration to the fight against marine pollution, and the sustainable use of natural resources, including water. (Lisbon Review 1996)
- **The Sixth Meeting of the Economic Forum will take place at the Czernin Palace, Prague, from 1 to 5 June 1998.**
 - 2. The overall theme of that meeting shall be "Security aspects of energy developments in the OSCE area".**
 - 3. Within the framework of the overall theme, the Economic Forum will concentrate on the following main subjects:**

[...]

(c) Environmental implications. (PC.DEC/215, 5 February 1998)
- The overall theme of the Sixth Economic Forum was "Security aspects of energy developments in the OSCE area". The discussion focused on the following main subjects:

[...]

(c) environmental implications. (6-EF 1998)
- An Economic Forum seminar on "The role of stable and transparent economic legislation for economic and social transition" was held in Almaty on 22-24 October 1997 and [...] a joint OSCE/OECD Conference on "National and international approaches to improving integrity and transparency in government" will take place in Paris on 15-16 July 1998. A

⁵ See: "Seminar of Experts on Sustainable Development of Boreal and Temperate Forests", 27 September to 1 October 1993, Montreal. (This highly specialised Seminar has not been included in this documentation).

seminar on sub-regional environmental issues is expected to take place in Tashkent on 22-24 September 1998. These are only three out of a number of seminars announced at the Fifth Meeting of the Economic Forum. There is a need for better planning of seminars. (6-EF 1998)

- The next Economic Forum should take place in Prague on 25-28 May 1999. The overall theme of the Forum should be “Security aspects in the field of the environment”. Within the overall theme, one of main subjects should be “Environment and Energy”. (6-EF 1998)
- The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly [notes] that the Economic Forum should play a major role in laying out guidelines for the OSCE Economic Dimension. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998)
- Activities of this sort [bringing together diplomats, governmental specialists in each of these fields, the private sector and NGOs] help generate solutions to environmental security problems, but they could also reinforce democratic practices by making broad-based public participation a standard part of governmental behaviour. (Istanbul 1998)
- Participants believed that seminars such as this one are useful tools for initiating dialogue which could ultimately increase the sensitivity of governments to important economic and environmental issues as well as focus their attention on the need to resolve such issues. (Malta 1999)
- It was suggested that the OSCE organize a one-day seminar during which environmental experts would provide basic information to legislators in lay terms in order to help them in the process of drafting national legislation. More specifically, it was recommended that experts should present practical information on a range of issues (including climate change, endangered species etc.) and not simply provide theoretical information about the organizations for which they work. (Malta 1999)
- Recommendations:
 - The OSCE might consider presenting the case study "Co-operation in the Mediterranean" at the next OSCE Economic Forum in Prague as an example of long practice of co-operation;
 - Organization of a Seminar on experiences of "win-win" approaches at regional level;
 - Elaborate early warning functions in OSCE, for instance by organizing seminars on future (environmental) 'hot spots' and building an inventory of future problems, also with a view to helping to elaborate strategic policies. (Malta 1999)
- The OSCE should consider Follow-up activities aiming transferring positive experiences from the Baltic Region to other OSCE sub-regions. (Warnemünde 1999)
- The overall theme of the Seventh Economic Forum was “Security Aspects in the Field of the Environment”. The discussions focused on the following main subjects:
 - (a) Energy and the environment: security and the importance of sustainable energy development; institutional and legal settings, including the implementation of international conventions and instruments.
 - (b) Security aspects of shared water resources and regional co-operation, taking into account the different institutional and legal settings, including the implementation of international conventions and instruments.

- (c) Public participation: the role of civil society, the UN/ECE Århus Convention, NGOs and the business sector in achieving sustainable development; the involvement of the OSCE. The Forum also took up a discussion on the subject "Environmental Security". (7-EF 1999)
- The Special Working Group on Environmental Security should be followed up by a one-day seminar this year. (7-EF 1999)
 - **The Permanent Council [...] reaffirms its support for the Economic Dimension and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and welcomes the Co-ordinator's commitment to implement the work plan for the Economic Dimension and the dedication of his budget to that end. Furthermore, the Permanent Council encourages participating States, Partners for Co-operation, Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and other States, as well as international organizations and institutions to contribute to the voluntary fund for activities related to the economic and environmental aspects of security; (PC.DEC/331, 15 December 1999)**
 - **The Permanent Council decides that, within the framework of the overall theme "Economic aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation: the challenges of transformation" and with regard to the three preparatory seminars, that were held in the course of 1999 and 2000, the Eighth Meeting of the Economic Forum will concentrate on the following main subjects:**
[...]
 - **(b) Environmental impact of conflicts; rehabilitation measures (PC.DEC/340, 10 February 2000)**
 - **OSCE-Japan Conference 2000: "Comprehensive Security in Central Asia Sharing OSCE and Asian Experiences" (11 and 12 December 2000, Tokyo): Session 3: Economic and Environmental Security. (PC.DEC/367, 24 August 2000)**
 - **The Permanent Council decides that, within the framework of the overall theme "Transparency and good governance in economic matters" and with regard to the preparatory process, the Ninth Meeting of the Economic Forum will concentrate on the following main subjects:**
 - (a) Issues related to the promotion of transparency and good governance;
 - (b) Actors involved in the promotion of transparency and good governance;
 - (c) Instruments for promoting transparency and good governance.
 - [...]
 - 2. Moreover, taking into account its mandate, the Economic Forum will**
 - (a) Review the implementation of commitments in the economic dimension and the recommendations of the Eighth Economic Forum, including the seminars held under the economic dimension since the last Economic Forum;
 - (b) Discuss future activities for the economic dimension in 2001/2002.
- The PC will further include the conclusions of the Forum in its discussions of future activities of the economic and environmental dimension in order to identify possible recommendations and take the necessary decisions for appropriate follow-up activities. (PC.DEC/404, 1 March 2001)**

c.) Permanent Council

- The Permanent Council, in its deliberations on economic and environmental issues, should focus its attention on identifying threats and priority areas and fostering co-operative responses. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- [The Parliamentary Assembly] calls for the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to regularly place security-related economic, social and environmental problems on the agenda of the Permanent Council, with the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (CEEAA) presenting his analyses on concrete issues. (PA-Declaration St. Petersburg 1999)
- Regular discussion of the economic dimension in the Permanent Council (PC) are recommended, as well as joint presentations of UN/ECE and Forum reports to the PC. (8-EF 2000)
- The Permanent Council should consider ways and means, by drawing also on the expertise of other international institutions and organizations, of enhancing the OSCE's ability to address economic and environmental issues and to further refine and prioritize OSCE's tasks in this field. In doing so it would build on the conclusions of the recent follow-up seminar to the Eighth Meeting of the Economic Forum. (Vienna 2000)

d.) OSCE Field Operations

- **Noting that provision is included for the establishment of the posts of Human Dimension Expert and Economic/Environmental Expert in the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia as of 1 July 1998, invites secondments to fill these positions prior to 1 July, on the basis of tasks to be discussed beforehand in the Permanent Council. (PC.DEC/207, 16 December 1997)**
- **The Permanent Council, [...] reiterating its long-term interest in the economic, environmental, human and political aspects of security and stability in Central Asia [...] decides:**
 - **to extend the mandate of the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia until 31 December 2000 with annual reviews of the implementation of this mandate and of the activities of the Office. (PC.DEC/231, 11 June 1998)**
- OSCE field activities should be linked more closely to economic and environmental aspects of security, thus providing for early warning and creating opportunities for effective conflict prevention. (6-EF 1998)
- The establishment of OSCE centres in Almaty, Ashgabad and Bishkek [...] gives the OSCE and the countries involved a unique opportunity to intensify co-operation in all relevant spheres, including the economic, environmental, human and political aspects of security. (Oslo 1998, Chairman's Summary)
- The OSCE Missions can play an important role in the early warning system. In their reports regarding economic and environmental issues, which could subsequently be debated by the Permanent Council, they should concentrate on identifying threats to security stemming from economic and environmental problems. This is to alert the State

concerned, but also other Participating States, and specialized organizations, that there is an economic problem that could, if untreated, or treated as a purely technical/financial difficulty, lead to a wider security problem, either within the state concerned or more widely. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)

- Although the OSCE is not a scientific or technical organization, its Missions/field presences could still take a more proactive role with regard to environmental threats - specifically by identifying key environmental threats and flash points; focusing high-level attention at the PC on key problems and indicators; facilitating regional approaches to environmental issues both by focusing broad, high-level attention on key issues, and possibly through the mediation provided in expert discussions; providing assistance in co-ordination of external resources (funding, technical expertise, leveraging NGOs) to address specific threats; and fostering the development of environmentally-oriented NGOs. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly] requires consistent mandating of the OSCE field missions with information-gathering, evaluation and early warning on economic and environmental aspects, providing the missions, where necessary and where other organizations are not active, with specialized resources. (PA-Declaration St. Petersburg 1999)
- OSCE offices in the region should support activities related to the implementation of the Århus Convention and of the full realization of its objectives. (Almaty 1999)
- The following proposals for possible OSCE activities:
 - To get OSCE missions' assistance in alleviating the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. (Warnemünde 1999)
- **The Permanent Council, [...] decides: To establish, during the second half of 1999, an OSCE Office in Yerevan, which will perform the following tasks:**
 - **Promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of the Republic of Armenia within the OSCE framework, in all OSCE dimensions, including the human, political, economic and environmental aspects of security and stability. (PC.DEC/314, 22 July 1999)**
- **The Permanent Council, [...] decides to establish in January 2000, an OSCE Office in Baku, which will perform the following tasks:**
 - **Promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the OSCE framework, in all OSCE dimensions, including the human, political, economic and environmental aspects of security and stability [...]. (PC.DEC/318, 16 November 1999)**

The missions [should be requested] to produce spot reports on economic and environmental issues with security implications covered by their respective mandates. (8-EF 2000)

- Special attention should be paid to the specific situation of OSCE field missions: small operational projects may function as "door-openers", thereby facilitating OSCE's overall tasks and mandate. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- **OSCE Missions and Field Operations**
 - **Centre in Almaty: Economic and Environmental Officer S 31.12.2001**

- **Centre in Ashgabad: Economic and Environmental Officer S 31.12.2001**
 - **Centre in Bishkek: Economic and Environmental Officer S 31.12.2001**
 - **Economic and Environmental Officer S 31.12.2001**
 - **OSCE Centre in Tashkent: Economic and Environmental Expert S 31.12.2001**
 - **Mission to Tajikistan: Economic and Environmental Officer S 31.12.2001**
 - **Office in Baku: Economic and Environmental Officer S 31.12.2001**
 - **Presence in Albania: Economy and Environmental Officer S 31.12.2001**
 - **Spillover Monitoring Mission to Skopje: Economic and Environmental Adviser S 31.12.2001. (PC.DEC/399, 14 December 2000)**
- **The Permanent Council, decides to establish an OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. [...] In carrying out its tasks, the Mission will co-operate with and use the expertise of [...] the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. (PC.DEC/401 11 January 2001)**
 - Top priority should be given to *strengthening* the activities of the OSCE missions by supporting their programs in the economic and environmental dimension. (Bucharest 2001)

e.) Others

- The Ministers agreed that the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting should be an important milestone in the development of the CSCE process and should provide a clear vision for its future course. Representatives to the Follow-up Meeting should, in particular, be guided by: - the CSCE's comprehensive concept of security and stability, which includes human rights, political, military, economic and environmental components; Second Meeting of the Council. (Prague 1992)
- **States Parties may raise for consideration in the Open Skies Consultative Commission proposals for the use of the Open Skies regime in additional specific fields, such as the environment. (Open Skies Treaty)**
- **The Permanent Council, [...] expressing its satisfaction with the contribution made to the Voluntary Fund for Activities related to Economic Aspects of Security, encourages participating States, partners for co-operation, as well as international organizations, to contribute to this Fund; furthermore, on the basis of a report prepared by the Secretary General, to conduct general discussions on the financing of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension, including the financing of relevant seminars. (PC.DEC/207,16 December 1997)**
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly] recommends that the Parliamentary Assembly should initiate discussion for the preparation of an Environmental Code of Conduct to be adopted by participating States. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998)
- A regular review mechanisms had proven useful in other areas of security with which the OSCE deals and might usefully be tried in the environmental area as well. (Istanbul 1998)
- A proposal for the OSCE to consider is that it should foster the formulation of a Pan-Baltic group which focuses on Basin-wide management (scientific, technical, political, legal and economic) to help other large basins (i.e. Caspian, Black, Aral, Arctic and

Bering Seas). This group could serve a mentoring or consulting function for a period of some years and could provide a catalyst for regional efforts. Initial assessments should focus on developing a list of priority needs with time lines and financing strategies. Priorities should be developed by sector or area (i.e. legal framework, data network, etc). Priority needs by area should be merged with those and a comprehensive plan and financing scheme developed. (Warnemünde 1999)

- The following proposals for possible OSCE activities:
 - To elaborate "Environmental Code of Conduct". It can be initiated by OSCE and be similar to the Military Code of Conduct.
 - To get OSCE missions' assistance in alleviating the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. (Warnemünde 1999)

- In order to guarantee that the EED area will be given its proper, important place in OSCE's overall comprehensive security approach, it is essential that the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General, supported by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities play a leading role in her clarifying the OSCE's mandate in this area and in co-ordinating OSCE's EED activities with other partners. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)

- **The Permanent Council [...] reaffirms its support for the Economic Dimension and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and welcomes the Co-ordinator's commitment to implement the work plan for the Economic Dimension and the dedication of his budget to that end. Furthermore, the Permanent Council encourages participating States, Partners for Co-operation, Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and other States, as well as international organizations and institutions to contribute to the voluntary fund for activities related to the economic and environmental aspects of security. (PC.DEC/331, 15 December 1999)**

- **The Permanent Council, [...] tasks the Secretary General to submit proposals on the working programme of the OSCE activities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension to the Permanent Council no later than 1 February 2001. (PC.DEC/399, 14 December 2000)**

7. Protection of the Environment

- The protection and improvement of the environment, as well as the protection of nature and the rational utilization of its resources in the interests of present and future generations, is one of the tasks of major importance to the well-being of peoples and the economic development of all countries. (Helsinki 1975)
- [The participating states] agree
 - to study, with a view to their solution, those environmental problems which, by their nature, are of a multilateral, bilateral, regional or sub-regional dimension; as well as to encourage the development of an interdisciplinary approach to environmental problems;
 - to increase the effectiveness of national and international measures for the protection of the environment, by the comparison and, if appropriate, the harmonization of methods of gathering and analyzing facts, by improving the knowledge of pollution phenomena and rational utilization of natural resources, by the exchange of information, by the harmonization of definitions and the adoption, as far as possible, of a common terminology in the field of the environment;
 - to take the necessary measures to bring environmental policies closer together and, where appropriate and possible, to harmonize them;
 - to encourage, where possible and appropriate, national and international efforts by their interested organizations, enterprises and firms in the development, production and improvement of equipment designed for monitoring, protecting and enhancing the environment. (Helsinki 1975)
- The participating States agree on the following recommendations on specific measures:
 - to develop through international co-operation an extensive programme for the monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transport of air pollutants, starting with sulphur dioxide and with possible extension to other pollutants, and to this end to take into account basic elements of a co-operation programme which were identified by the experts who met in Oslo in December 1974 at the invitation of the Norwegian Institute of Air Research;
 - to advocate that within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe a study be carried out of procedures and relevant experience relating to the activities of Governments in developing the capabilities of their countries to predict adequately environmental consequences of economic activities and technological development. (Helsinki 1975)
- The main issues to be faced include such general phenomena as rapid demographic, social, cultural and psychological changes, the impact of the increasing sophistication of technology, the shifting role of women in society, alterations of values concerning the environment, and limitations imposed by a growing energy shortage. (Hamburg 1980)
- The process of urbanization has brought new possibilities and problems which have affected rural areas and open spaces as well as cities and their inhabitants. Among them are effects of internal and external migration, problems of crowding, disorder and crime, alterations to the natural environment, and pollution of the atmosphere, water resources and the land. All of this calls for an improved understanding of the processes of urbanization and their relationship to regional development. (Hamburg 1980)

- There has been a growing consciousness of the importance of environmental protection, but there are practical problems due to imperfect understanding of the environment. In addition, economic accounting should to an increasing extent take into consideration not only economic activity but also the social, cultural and ecological values of the environment. (Hamburg 1980)
- The highly complex problems of urban development and environmental protection require the use of multidisciplinary approaches, comparative studies and the development of mathematical, simulation or other kinds of models. Some of the difficulties in research on these matters are due to differences in the collection, analysis of data and other materials in the various countries. (Hamburg 1980)
- Based on the above considerations, six major areas of research were identified:
[...]
- (3) Preservation of national patrimony and environment.
- (4) Impact of new technologies on human behaviour, natural environment and urban ecosystems. (Hamburg 1980)
- Recommendations:
- Scientific conferences and seminars should be organized during the coming years on the problems of urban development, cultural changes and the quality of the environment. These meetings could focus particularly upon problems in comparative studies and methodology in the interdisciplinary approach to investigations of social, socio-economic, ecological and cultural aspects of urban development and environmental change. These conferences or seminars could be organized by UNESCO or ECE, and where appropriate in co-operation with existing international scientific bodies including the European Co-ordination Centre for Research and Documentation in Social Sciences (known as the Vienna Centre) and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). A consultative body of experts should prepare the meetings on the basis of results of national studies. The latter might focus upon a number of special pilot projects on urban and/or environmental issues, the results of which would then be discussed in the international forum. (Hamburg 1980)
- An inventory of recently completed and ongoing studies on the problems of urban development and of the human environment should be organized. A review of experience in international co-operation in research and in the exchange of information should be undertaken. These reviews could be compiled by one of the existing international bodies, for example, through UNEP, ECE or UNESCO. (Hamburg 1980)
- Eco-toxicological studies connected with relevant methods in the social and health sciences should be supported and improved on an international basis, especially within the relevant projects of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) of ICSU, and WHO. (Hamburg 1980)
- **Recognizing the need for preventive action, the participating States will strengthen their co-operation and intensify efforts aimed at protecting and improving the environment, bearing in mind the need to maintain and restore the ecological balance in air, water and soil. They will do this by, inter alia developing their internal legislation and their international commitments, and by applying the best available means, taking into account levels of developments as well as economic and technical constraints. They underline the importance of the Regional Strategy for**

Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources in ECE Member Countries Covering the Period up to the Year 2000 and Beyond. They welcome, and will take due account of, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as well as the work already undertaken within the competent international fora, in particular within the framework of the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (hereafter called "the Convention"). (Vienna 1989)

- **The participating States recognize the important role of transport in economic and social development and the overall consequences of increased activity in the transport sector, including problems related to the environment. They will therefore encourage the elaboration of measures for achieving an economically more efficient transport system, taking into account the relative merits of different modes of transport and their potential effects on human health, safety and the environment. In this connection they will, through bilateral and multilateral means, give particular attention to questions concerning multimodal transport networks, combined transport, transit nouns [sic!] and the simplification of transport formalities and, in particular, of transport documents. They also welcome the work done by the ECE in this context. (Vienna 1989).**
- **We recognize the urgent need to tackle the problems of the environment and the importance of individual and co-operative efforts in this area. We pledge to intensify our endeavours to protect and improve our environment in order to restore and maintain a sound ecological balance in air, water and soil. Therefore, we are determined to make full use of the CSCE as a framework for the formulation of common environmental commitments and objectives, and thus to pursue the work reflected in the Report of the Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment⁶. (Paris 1990)**
- **We attach priority to the introduction of clean and low-waste technology, being aware of the need to support countries which do not yet have their own means for appropriate measures. (Paris 1990)**
- **We underline that environmental policies should be supported by appropriate legislative measures and administrative structures to ensure their effective implementation. (Paris 1990)**
- **We stress the need for new measures providing for the systematic evaluation of compliance with the existing commitments and, moreover, for the development of more ambitious commitments with regard to notification and exchange of information about the state of the environment and potential environmental hazards. We also welcome the creation of the European Environment Agency (EEA). (Paris 1990)**
- **The participating States will encourage in the appropriate fora the development of a network of protection areas in the CSCE region to conserve and safeguard the large-scale natural and near-natural biotopes and ecosystems still in existence, as part of their natural heritage, as well as further development of the protection and conservation of animals. (Helsinki 1992)**

⁶ The concluding document of the Sofia Meeting has been included in the section "Transboundary Implications of Environmental Pollution".

- **The participating States stress the need to develop, in the appropriate fora, efficient systems for monitoring and evaluating compliance with existing environmental commitments. They are looking forward to the results of environmental policy performance reviews being carried out in co-operation between OECD and the ECE. They encourage the ECE and other international organizations to consider ways of enabling all CSCE participating States to adhere to relevant conventions. (Helsinki 1992)**
- **Encouraging early implementation of the forest principles adopted at UNCED and recognizing the importance of sustaining the forest ecosystems of the CSCE region, the participating States decide to give impetus to this issue through practical discussions. (Helsinki 1992)**
- **The participating States will continue to encourage initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development, and will take the necessary steps toward implementing various international conventions and arrangements relating to environmental protection. (Budapest 1994)**
- [The CSCE parliamentary assembly]
 - Calls upon the reforming countries in developing their economic and industrial policies to pay careful attention to the important environmental dimension, and recommends the development of comprehensive programmes to address ground, air and water pollution, hazardous waste disposal and environmental degradation;
 - Calls upon the reforming countries to implement sustainable development strategies aimed at achieving an economic growth that is sound from the social point of view and protecting their basic resources and the environment for the sake of future generations;
 - Urges Western countries, in recognition of the international implications of environmental degradation, resulting in particular from nuclear installations, to co-operate with and assist the countries of Eastern Europe in addressing these environmental problems - to which the European Union has decided to devote particular efforts, it being understood, however, that environmental aspects and the rights of indigenous peoples are duly taken into account by countries receiving Western assistance. (PA-Declaration Vienna 1994)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is] convinced of the need, in conjunction with economic reforms, to preserve and enhance the environment in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. (PA-Declaration Ottawa 1995)
- Erosion is a serious problem not only in countries of the region. Reforestation is urgently needed in order to protect soil and water resources, especially in mountain regions. (Tashkent 1996)
- Toxic waste and soil contamination are important regional problems. A trilateral agreement on heavily contaminated soils has been established as a first step towards solving them. (Tashkent 1996)
- Mining is being vigorously developed in some areas, and this calls for stricter environmental controls. A novel environmental risk is posed by landslides of mining tailings, which may have transboundary effects. (Tashkent 1996)

- Land protection and land allocation need to be modernized with a view to the establishment of national parks (including inter-State parks) for the protection of flora and fauna. This would also require the establishment of State structures with responsibility for tourism. Some countries are introducing a new land code, giving priority to environmentally friendly farming. (Tashkent 1996)
- Erosion is a serious problem not only in countries of the region. Reforestation is urgently needed in order to protect soil and water resources, especially in mountain regions. (Tashkent 1996)
- Almost all countries of the region are completing or have completed their constitutional processes for accession to the Biodiversity Convention, the Climate Convention and the Convention on Desertification Control. Decisions on accession to the regional UN/ECE conventions still need to be taken. The Interstate Council for Aral Sea Problems is expanding its activities. (Tashkent 1996)
- The idea was put forward of "ecological tours" designed to increase the ecological awareness of decision-makers. Greater UNEP involvement in Central Asia was suggested, particularly with regard to waste management, and tire OSCE and UNEP were requested to develop a programme on the recycling of waste. It was proposed that the media play a greater role in spreading awareness about the need for action - for example, on the occasion of World Environment Day. (Tashkent 1996)
- Participants expressed support for the idea of a convention and called for the involvement of international organizations in its development. It was concluded that collaboration among the States of the region and a better co-ordination of efforts were crucial. Securing domestic and international funding for implementation of the convention was recognized as a key factor for the future. It was recommended that the convention be action-oriented, be designed to help promote sustainable development and address socio-economic problems. (Tashkent 1996)
- The importance of improving environmental monitoring and data systems and of addressing the economic implications of water and land use before finalization of the convention was emphasized. (Tashkent 1996)
- Environmental damage is of increasing concern to the entire OSCE community. (Lisbon Declaration 1996 and Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,]
 - Appeals to Western countries and pertinent financial institutions to provide targeted and coordinated financial, educational and technical support in order to increase the capacity of reforming states, particularly in the spheres [...] the environment
 - Appeals to Western corporations to adhere to Western environmental standards when building or upgrading industrial facilities in Central and Eastern Europe and in CIS states;
 - Calls for the harmonization, at the highest possible level, of environmental laws and standards between Western and Eastern Europe, drawing on the results of work undertaken within the framework of "Environment for Europe". (PA-Declaration Stockholm 1996)
- The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

- Convinced, however, that regional co-operation is crucial for infrastructure development, industry specialization, information sharing, dispute resolution and environmental protection;
 - Convinced that the current transition offers the chance to lessen the degradation of the environment and to move towards more sustainable economic development;
 - Calls on the governments of reforming countries to develop regulatory or supervisory bodies which would oversee reforms, monitor environmental progress and serve as watchdogs on state activities, economic crime and corruption;
 - Encourages those transition States aspiring to join the European Union to adjust their economic legislation and environmental standards to enable them to take part in the internal markets of the European Union in the future;
 - Urges all countries to pay attention to the sustainable use of their natural resources and therefore to develop legislation, institutions and practices to reach that goal;
 - Urges OSCE participating States to actively encourage the further development of international Conventions for the protection of the environment and to ratify and implement the international conventions already agreed upon. A high priority should be placed on the establishment of a binding Protocol for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the further development of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the drafting of a Protocol for the protection of forests;
 - Calls on the OSCE to identify threats to security, arising from problems in the economic, social and ecological fields, their causes and possible consequences, leading to the adoption by the relevant international institutions of appropriate measures to counteract these threats;
 - Expresses the wish for the appointment of a high profile OSCE representative, before the next Ministerial Council in Copenhagen, to observe the processes concerned with economic and ecological aspects of security in the OSCE region and to identify potential threats, to liaise with international economic and financial institutions, formulate economic policies for the OSCE and, when necessary, intercede with member governments. (PA-Declaration Warsaw 1997)
- The OSCE should, through its Institutions and in other ways, act as a forum in which economic and environmental issues can be raised, drawing upon expertise from all available sources. (Oslo 1998, CiO Progress Report)
 - An ever increasing extent, all the OSCE participating states are facing the same challenges deriving, in particular, [...] from the impact of environmental pollution [...]. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998, Resolution on an Economic Charter for the OSCE)
 - By way of conclusions and recommendations, delegations made the following points:
 - Although issues of biodiversity, desertification and fisheries are not currently causing conflicts in the Mediterranean region, they have the potential to do so. Already the introduction of non-indigenous species is cause of some friction. The OSCE's expertise in conflict prevention and resolution should be utilized. The OSCE should continue to integrate environmental questions into its general framework of regional security.
 - It would also be useful if the OSCE could establish an inventory of all regional, international and bilateral, agreements as well as co-operation initiatives in the field of environment and if it could encourage the participation of all Mediterranean States in these instruments and activities.
 - The point was also made by one delegate that the impact of war action on – biodiversity, and the resultant degradation, had been particularly felt in the Balkans.

- A holistic, regional, approach to environmental problems was urged by a delegate, who further proposed a three-pronged campaign on a regionwide basis: a scientific project to collect data on the state of the ecosystems of the region and to study the impact of human activities, including human consumption, on them; a concerted legislative-regulatory approach; and an educational campaign to enhance public awareness.
- The need was stressed by another delegate for the transfers of knowledge and technology from the experts to the end-users, in this case the fishermen, and for the establishment of a kind of co-management resulting from the latter's participation in the efforts to achieve sustainable exploitation of the living marine resources. (Malta 1999)
- The need is also seen to undertake a massive afforestation program, as well as finding more effective ways to fight forest fires, which constitute a major affliction in the countries of the Mediterranean. (Malta 1999)
- There is a need for intermediate steps to achieve long-term sustainable development (continual review of environmental development to ensure sound strategies). (Warnemünde 1999)
- There is a need for establishing new benchmarks for sustainable development (tailor-made solutions). (Warnemünde 1999)
- Environment and health issues [are] closely connected, and the new Protocol on Water and Health which would be signed at the London Ministerial [was welcomed]. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Biodiversity loss is an extremely difficult regional and global challenge. Within the Baltic Region, the over-fishing of indigenous salmon and cod fish stocks and damaging those ecosystems that provide nesting grounds for migratory birds are of major concern. Lastly the introduction of alien and exotic species into the region presets additional environmental risks. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Without addressing these environmental challenges there are areas for potential conflict. Immediate concerns that should be addressed are: [...] it is critical that resource scarcity be minimized (i.e. over fishing) and that the regional commons protected. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Concerning conservation of biological diversity in the Baltic Sea region it was:
 - Noted with regret that some important old growth forest areas and wetlands are under threat due to expansion of forestry and infrastructure construction; including also some energy and transport related projects.
 - Noted the importance of the work on sustainable forestry and biodiversity in the context of the Baltic Agenda 21. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Development of environmental funds drawn from fines levied on polluters and others found in violation of existing laws. These funds must be separate from national budgets and dedicated specifically to redressing environmental damage and supporting affected populations. (Tashkent 1999)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly]
 - Appeals to all OSCE participating States to comply with agreed environmental legislation at all levels and to speed up the pace of implementation and control.

- Supports the efforts by UNEP and the UNECE to develop an early warning system for environmental and natural disasters and calls upon the OSCE and the partner organizations to institutionalize mutual flow of information and analyses. (PA-Declaration St. Petersburg 1999)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly]
- Appeals to all OSCE participating States to switch from words to deeds and honour their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and Århus Convention.
- Calls upon the OSCE participating States to improve the credibility and the efficiency of the departments responsible for measuring environmental pollution or the pollutants in consumer goods, and to affirm the fundamental interest of OSCE countries in protecting vegetable and animal biodiversity, preserving the production of typical products in the different areas, using biotechnologies in a mindful and controlled way, thus promoting the general interest and international co-operation, inter alia through new monitoring mechanisms in the economic, technological, and environmental fields. (PA-Declaration Bucharest 2000)

8. Transboundary Implications of Environmental Pollution

- Each of the participating States, in accordance with the principles of international law, ought to ensure, in a spirit of co-operation, that activities carried out on its territory do not cause degradation of the environment in another State or in areas lying beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. (Helsinki 1975)
- The participating States welcome with satisfaction the important steps taken to strengthen co-operation within the framework of the ECE in the field of the environment, including the High-Level Meeting on the Protection of the Environment (13-16 November 1979). Taking due account of work undertaken or envisaged in other competent international organizations, they recommend the continuation of efforts in this field, including, *inter alia*, giving priority to:
 - the effective implementation of the provisions of the Resolution on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution adopted at the High-Level Meeting,
 - the early ratification of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution signed at the High-Level Meeting,
 - implementation of the Recommendations contained in the Declaration on Low and Non-Waste Technology and Reutilization and Recycling of Wastes, implementation of Decision B and C of the thirty-fifth session of the ECE concerning the Declaration of Policy on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, including transboundary pollution [...]. (Madrid 1983)
- The representatives of the participating States of the CSCE [...] decided to recommend to their Governments [...] support for increasing efforts towards the preservation of the Mediterranean environment undertaken also within and beyond the framework of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP). (Venice 1984)
- Recognizing the need for preventive action, the participating States will strengthen their co-operation and intensify efforts aimed at protecting and improving the environment, bearing in mind the need to maintain and restore the ecological balance in air, water and soil. They will do this by, *inter alia* developing their internal legislation and their international commitments, and by applying the best available means, taking into account levels of developments as well as economic and technical constraints. They underline the importance of the Regional Strategy for Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources in ECE Member Countries Covering the Period up to the Year 2000 and Beyond. They welcome, and will take due account of, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as well as the work already undertaken within the competent international fora, in particular within the framework of the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (hereafter called "the Convention"). (Vienna 1989)
- The participating States will cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally with a view to improving and co-ordinating their arrangements for prevention, early warning, exchange of information and mutual assistance in cases of industrial accidents likely to cause transboundary damage to the environment. They will also initiate the examination of key elements related to the transboundary character of industrial accidents, such as clean-up, restoration and liability. (Vienna 1989)

- The participating States are convinced of the need for timely and effective reductions of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes. They call upon Contracting Parties and Signatories to the Convention to become parties to the Protocol on the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 per cent. They recommend that further steps to reduce sulphur emissions, in line with the objectives of the Protocol, be taken by those States which are not parties to the Protocol, and that those States where this goal is already accomplished continue to control their emissions. Recalling that the said Protocol provides for reductions of sulphur emissions at the latest by 1993, they will work within the framework of the Convention for the elaboration at an early date of an arrangement for further reductions of sulphur emissions beyond the level established by the Protocol. (Vienna 1989)
- The participating States consider that control and reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions, or their transboundary fluxes, deserve high priority in their pollution abatement programmes. They welcome the elaboration and adoption of the Protocol on Control of Nitrogen Oxide Emissions. (Vienna 1989)
- Furthermore, they recognize the need to develop, within the framework of the Convention, arrangements to reduce emissions of other relevant air pollutants such as hydrocarbons and those producing photochemical oxidants. They will strengthen their co-operation accordingly, including by collecting and processing the necessary information. (Vienna 1989)
- The participating States agree to strengthen and develop the co-operative programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), inter alia through extending and improving the system of monitoring stations, providing EMEP with the necessary information regarding emissions of pollutants, further developing comparable methods of measurement, and expanding coverage to include other relevant air pollutants, in particular nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and photochemical oxidants. They also recommend that those countries which have not yet done so should become parties to the Protocol on the Long-Term Financing of EMEP. (Vienna 1989)
- The participating States will make every effort to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Further, they will foster national action and international co-operation on the control and reduction of the emission of ozone-depleting substances. (Vienna 1989)
- The participating States agree that further national and international research efforts should be made regarding the global warming phenomenon, and the role played therein by emissions of carbon dioxide and trace gases, in order to provide a scientific basis for mitigative action. (Vienna 1989)
- In order to protect and improve freshwater resources and to reduce significantly the pollution of seas and coastal areas, transboundary watercourses and international lakes from all sources of pollution, the participating States will develop and intensify national efforts as well as bilateral and multilateral co-operation. They recommend the elaboration of a framework convention or specific conventions to improve the protection of transboundary watercourses and international lakes. They will reduce

significantly discharges of toxic, persistent and potentially hazardous substances. Furthermore they will devote special attention to the development of appropriate alternatives to sea disposal in order to decrease progressively and substantially the dumping of harmful wastes and the incineration of noxious liquid wastes at sea, with a view to the early termination of such methods. (Vienna 1989)

- **The participating States recognize the need to improve international co-operation on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes. Taking into account the valuable work done in other international fora, they will encourage the elaboration of international agreements, including a global convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes. (Vienna 1989)**
- **The participating States will seek closer co-operation and greater exchange of information on the problems associated with potentially hazardous chemical including assessment of the risks to health and the environment. They will explore possibilities for closer harmonization of their legislation and regulations on the handling of these chemicals. (Vienna 1989)**
- The participating States will also stimulate exchange of information and environmental data, and foster scientific and technological co-operation in order to prevent and reduce pollution. (Sofia 1989)
- On the basis of the discussions held during the Meeting, the participating States recommend:
 - that the ECE elaborate an international convention, code of practice or other appropriate legal instruments on the prevention and control of the transboundary effects of industrial accidents;
 - the development of international exchange of information and the co-ordination of efforts in order to achieve closer harmonization concerning the management of hazardous chemicals;
 - that the ECE elaborate a framework convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes;
 - the implementation of the above recommendations as soon as possible, bearing in mind that the results will be evaluated by the next Follow-up Meeting of the CSCE, to be held in Helsinki in 1992. (Sofia 1989)
- The participating States recognize the importance of developing and applying commonly agreed policies and strategies for appropriate arrangements for the prevention of, and response to, industrial accidents, their consequences and their transboundary impact on man and the environment. (Sofia 1989)
- They give special emphasis to the reduction of the risk of accidents, thereby reducing or preventing their adverse transboundary effects; to increasing preparedness for controlling and coping with emergencies in a transboundary context; and to the examination of key elements for clean-up, restoration and liability. (Sofia 1989)
- They stress the importance of international co-operation, recognize the value of existing bilateral and multilateral agreements and take into account the work already done or currently under way by various international organizations, in particular the Process for Responding to Technological Accidents (APELL) developed by UNEP and the Code of Conduct on Accidental Pollution of Transboundary Inland Waters of the ECE and the

work done by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and by the European Community (EC). (Sofia 1989)

- As a common objective they recognize the importance of establishing regional or subregional mechanisms for response, assistance and exchange of information in environmental emergencies. They emphasize the need for effective measures with a view to:
 - limiting the frequency and severity of accidents caused by all industrial activities through better measures of prevention;
 - preventing adverse effects from accidents through better land-use planning; and
 - mitigating the consequences of accidents by developing adequate emergency plans. (Sofia 1989)
- In order to achieve these goals the participating States recommend:
 - that the ECE elaborate an international convention, code of practice or other appropriate legal instrument which should be based essentially upon the objectives and principles mentioned below, avoiding redundancy and duplication of efforts and building upon work already under way in international organizations, and taking into account work achieved or in progress in other international fora, without prejudice to any existing or future bilateral or multilateral agreements, with due regard to the legislation and practices of participating States, recognizing that such legal instruments should provide for a high level of protection and safety, and develop, inter alia, a precise definition of the industrial activities to be covered;
 - that the development of all appropriate measures of prevention, preparedness and response shall recognize the combined responsibilities of industry and competent authorities. In meeting them
 - (i) full responsibility for safe industrial operation and for taking all appropriate measures to prevent accidents rests with the operator of the installation. This means that, inter alia, the operator must implement the most appropriate technologies and measures to prevent accidents including on-site emergency planning, ensure appropriate training facilities and managerial structures, to assess risks and provide the public authorities with the necessary information on their assessment;
 - (ii) the public authorities will, with due regard to national legislation and practices, take some combination of, amongst others, the following measures: setting safety objectives on the basis of a risk evaluation of the installation; applying a licensing system to certain installations; ensuring that, under land-use policies, a safe distance between the installation and the surrounding population is preserved;
 - preparing off-site emergency plans;
 - that consultation and exchange of information on the prevention and control of industrial accidents and their transboundary effects be facilitated, inter alia, by:
 - (i) notifying each other of their initial points of contact for industrial accidents covering, as appropriate, regional and local authorities;
 - (ii) establishing early warning systems and co-ordination on a bilateral and multilateral basis in order to ensure immediate notification, to the competent authorities of the State likely to be affected, of the type and extent of an accident, and of its possible effects on man and the environment;
 - that the potentially affected public be given adequate information, inter alia, on risks, safety measures, correct behaviour and protection measures and, whenever possible and appropriate, the opportunity to participate, by providing their views and concerns when decisions are being made by public authorities on prevention, preparedness and emergency planning;

- the development of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for, and conditions of, mutual assistance, co-operation and co-ordination including emergency response for the implementation of measures to control the effects of industrial accidents including inter alia, as appropriate, provision for privileges, immunities and facilities for the expeditious performance of assistance functions;
 - the enhancement of scientific and technological co-operation, including the exchange of information on best available technologies, for improved environmental protection, industrial safety and emergency response, including criteria for the monitoring and assessment of transboundary damage, and the promotion of research into less dangerous processes in order to limit environmental hazards;
 - co-operation for the further development of on-site and off-site training;
 - that the "polluter-pays" principle be applied to physical and juridical persons;
 - the consideration of further appropriate ways and means of elaborating principles and guidelines on the nature and scope of liability;
 - that disputes be settled peacefully in accordance with procedures to be established in conformity with international law. (Sofia 1989)
- The participating States agree on the need to define principles for a sustainable use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes as well as to elaborate arrangements to protect them from pollution. For this aim the participating States recommend that the ECE elaborate a framework convention, whereby existing bilateral and multilateral agreements on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes, as well as ongoing activities and completed work in other fora, such as the ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the United Nations International Law Commission, should be taken into account. Such a framework convention should contain, in particular, the following elements:
 - Basic principles, such as :
 - Pollution of transboundary watercourses and international lakes, contributing also to the pollution of seas, will be prevented or reduced with the aim of sustainable management, conservation of water resources and environmental protection.
 - Effective prevention and pollution control measures will be applied at the source wherever possible.
 - Regular consultations on issues of mutual interest and implementation of pollution abatement measures will be promoted.
 - Warning and alarm systems and contingency plans will be introduced.
 - With the aim of prevention, environmental impact assessment and other means of assessment will be developed, adopted and subsequently implemented.
 - Water quality will be monitored and assessed and discharges of pollutants will be registered.
 - methods of analysis, monitoring and assessment, including registration of discharges, will be harmonized.
 - For transboundary watercourses and international lakes, parties will establish emission limits based, to the extent possible, on the best available technologies specifically applicable to individual sectors or industries or to specific substances; for municipal waste water, at least biological treatment will be introduced; use of no-waste and low-waste technologies will be promoted.
 - Parties will apply water quality objectives; the ecosystems approach will be promoted.
 - Discharges will be subject to prior licensing by the competent authority; the approved discharges must be monitored and controlled.

- General water management policies covering transboundary waters including ecological and other impacts of water construction works and water regulation will be implemented.
 - The "polluter-pays" principle will be applied to physical and juridical persons.
 - Responsibility and liability issues will be examined.
 - Disputes will be settled peacefully in accordance with procedures to be established in conformity with international law.
 - Scientific and technological information - including best available technologies - will be exchanged where necessary to achieve the goals of the framework convention in accordance with national laws, regulations and practice.
 - A reporting system concerning the implementation of the framework convention will be established. (Sofia 1989)
- The States bordering transboundary watercourses and international lakes will conclude, where they do not yet exist, specific agreements on the establishment of bilateral or multilateral commissions or other forms of co-operation where appropriate. Their tasks to be described in the framework convention will be inter alia without prejudice to comparable existing agreements, the following:
 - to carry out investigations on the components of the catchment areas of the water bodies concerned and to identify priority uses of waters;
 - to carry out joint measuring programmes concerning water quality and quantity;
 - to draw up inventories and exchange information on significant discharges;
 - to set emission limits for waste water and evaluate the effectiveness of control programmes;
 - to set water quality objectives; to introduce the minimum obligation of maintaining at least the existing water quality;
 - to develop concerted action programmes for the reduction of pollution loads discharged both from point-sources (municipal; industrial) and from diffuse sources (particularly agriculture);
 - to establish alarm and warning procedures;
 - to provide for consultations on existing and planned uses of water that are likely to have significant adverse transboundary effects, including water construction works and water regulation;
 - to promote co-operation on the exchange of information and on the exchange of best available technologies in accordance with national laws, regulations and practice as well as to encourage co-operation in scientific research programmes. (Sofia 1989)
- In cases where a coastal State is directly and significantly affected by pollution from transboundary watercourses, the riparian States can, if they all so agree, invite that coastal State to be involved in the activities of the commission or, where appropriate, in other forms of co-operation. (Sofia 1989)
- States are encouraged to enter such specific agreements (e.g. the Danube, the Elbe) parallel to the elaboration of a framework convention. (Sofia 1989)
- **The participating States express their concern about the illegal international transport and disposal of toxic and hazardous wastes. They will co-operate to prevent the illegal movement and disposal of such wastes and to prohibit their export to and import by countries that do not have the technical means to process and dispose of them in an environmentally sound manner, in the context of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and**

Their Disposal. With regard to international transport of radioactive waste they will take into account the IAEA Code of Practice on International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste. (Helsinki 1992)

- The participating States urge the implementation of principles regarding the exchange of information on the state of the environment, consultation, early warning and assistance in environmental emergencies contained in the OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response, and in the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. (Helsinki 1992)
- They encourage the designation of national environmental arrangements, such as task forces, which could co-ordinate the dissemination of relevant information on expertise and equipment to countries facing emergencies, to the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance, and to other relevant international organizations. These arrangements will take into account the ECE Conventions on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, as well as other relevant agreements. (Helsinki 1992)
- They would welcome the designation by the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance of one of its staff as liaison officer for the CSCE region, and recommend that the Centre be connected to the CSCE communications network, which could serve as a supplementary information system in emergency situations, taking into account the fact that the Centre will be subject to evaluation by the UNEP Governing Council in June 1993. (Helsinki 1992)
- [The CSCE Parliamentary Assembly] warns against the transfer of hazardous wastes and export of environmentally harmful technologies and products from other countries. (PA-Declaration Helsinki 1993)
- The participating States note the ongoing development of transfrontier co-operation on issues of mutual interest in the arctic region. They encourage the eight arctic nations to take steps to effectively implement the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (EPS) and ensure the continued co-ordination of its programmes. (Budapest 1994)
- [Unresolved environmental problems] are among negative factors influencing subregional and transborder co-operation in Central and Eastern Europe. (3-EF 1995)
- Include specific reference to socio-economic and environmental questions in the conclusion of future agreements on good-neighbourly relations, as called for by both the Budapest Document and the Final Conference on the Pact on Stability in Paris. (3-EF 1995)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly]
 - Recognizing that security in the OSCE region as a whole and, more particularly, security in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS region can be substantially affected negatively through economic, social and environmental developments that undermine public support for democratic government and exacerbate ethnic rivalries and tensions;

- Recognizing the linkages between the state of the environment and social well-being resulting from the effect of environmental degradation on human health;
 - Calling upon the governments of countries under reform processes, while planning constructions of new industrial objects, to take into consideration the possible environmental damage they may cause to neighbouring countries, and prevent such situations since they negatively affect interrelations between neighbouring countries;
 - Aware that transboundary pollution and the unequal distribution of natural resources can be a source of tension, or even conflict, between neighbouring countries;
 - Recognizing the exceptional value of combining the efforts of all OSCE participating States to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster – the largest technological catastrophe of the twentieth century, the tenth anniversary of which passed this year;
 - Convinced for this reason of the need, in conjunction with economic reforms, to preserve and improve the environments of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and of the CIS countries;
 - Stressing that economic and ecological stability in each of the OSCE participating States should be the concern of all countries in the OSCE region and can be strengthened only by their common efforts;
 - Urges governments to approve policies aimed at integrating economic, social and environmental goals so as to achieve environmentally sustainable development and to guard against, reduce and eventually eliminate the marginalization of population groups on ethnic or regional grounds. (PA-Declaration Stockholm 1996)
- Environmental problems could not be regarded as purely domestic problems, [...] the environment should be an integral part of foreign policy and [...] some transboundary environmental problems called for a different approach in the field of diplomacy. (Tashkent 1996)
 - Monitoring and assessment at both the national and the transboundary level require a strategy and equipment. Also, the existing systems involve much duplication and parallelism. In the transboundary context, there is a need for an effective system of information exchange between States and for controlling transboundary water flows and pollution. (Tashkent 1996)
 - [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly] calls, on the basis of the conclusions of the Monaco Parliamentary Conference, for the urgent promotion of sub-regional co-operation and transboundary exchanges, particularly in the field of environmental issues, which are of an increasingly transnational nature. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998)
 - The impact on the natural environment [is] confronting the OSCE participating States with new challenges. Since transboundary problems are involved here, common strategies are needed to solve them.
 - Overcoming environmental problems and preserving natural resources presupposes environmentally conscious and resource-saving economic activity. The Parliamentary Assembly reaffirms the objectives formulated at the environmental summit of Rio de Janeiro. In particular, it advocates continued efforts to improve environmental quality and to reduce the environmental impacts emanating from the territory of the OSCE participating States. It calls upon the governments of the participating States to help bring about a breakthrough everywhere for the polluter-pays principle, the principle of clear cost apportionment and the use of instruments which do not distort market mechanisms in order to internalise environmental costs. It refers in this context to the potential for skilled jobs in the field of environmental technology which could develop as a consequence of

increased efforts in the environmental policy sector. In addition, it welcomes the increasing importance international financial institutions attach to the environmental sector and encourages them to continue on this course. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998, Resolution on an Economic Charter for the OSCE)

- Transboundary environmental problems indeed constitute real economically-based dangers, as well as for security and co-operation in Europe. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998, Resolution on an Economic Charter for the OSCE)
- It is recognised that, while energy and environmental issues could lead to problems in relations among neighbouring countries, every effort should be made to favour a co-operative approach. No single country should act in isolation, but actions should rather be made in a regional context. In particular, when planning new energy projects, the environmental impact on neighbouring countries should be considered; serious differences should be discussed between those concerned, at an early stage. (Istanbul 1998)
- The OSCE should be ready to identify and address domestic and transboundary environmental issues that may result in significant human and economic costs, and, inter alia, to foster regional or multilateral responses, acting, as appropriate, as a co-ordinating force by identifying key actors and agencies, providing political impetus, monitoring progress, and mediating as needed. Key issues that could be addressed in such a framework include: the allocation of shared natural resources; transboundary pollution, energy supply security, mass migration in response to environmental catastrophe, and regionally sustainable development plans. (Oslo 1998, Progress Report)
- Without addressing these environmental challenges there are areas for potential conflict. Immediate concerns that should be addressed are: transboundary pollution should be prevented (especially related to maritime shipping, construction of oil terminals along coastal regions). (Warnemünde 1999)
- The Baltic Sea Region provides a very good example of successful transboundary cooperation for solving environment challenges. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Transboundary environmental problems are understood by various actors to include business and industry, energy, maritime shipping, transport and agricultural sectors and therefore to require a coordinated approach among all players. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Another large problem of the region is urban and rural waste water discharges. For example, it has been estimated that approximately 30 percent of the population in the Baltic region lack waste water treatment. There are also problems with concentration of hazardous substances such as the storage of nuclear spent fuel, cleanup of contaminated military sites and providing solid waste depositories. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Concerning the task of diminishing harmful emissions from industry, energy production, and communities to water and atmosphere it was considered important:
 - To increase joint international efforts to protect the Baltic Sea from transboundary and air carried pollution.
 - To pay increased attention to the protection of the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea by promoting effectively the development of management of discharges into the Gulf of Finland from St. Petersburg and management of possible environmental consequences

from an increase of maritime traffic in the Gulf of Finland as well as to limit the airborne pollution in the Gulf.

- To address effectively the problem of water pollution from non-point sources, particularly from agriculture and transport.
 - To promote within existing possibilities the modernisation of such industries and energy production that are sources of significantly harmful amounts of SO₂ and NO_x emissions in the Baltic Sea Region.
 - To promote effectively the development of the water and sewage sector in Northwest Russia and the pre-accession water supply and waste water treatment projects in the Baltic Countries.
 - To promote effective measures to diminish harmful emissions to the atmosphere from traffic and transport. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Transboundary cooperation [is of importance] since environmental problems do not stop at national borders and cooperation as a confidence building measure. (Sarajevo 1999)

9. Water

a.) General

- The participating States will make use of every suitable opportunity to co-operate in the field of environment and, in particular, within the areas described below as examples: [...]
- *Water pollution control and fresh water utilization:* Prevention and control of water pollution, in particular of transboundary rivers and international lakes; techniques for the improvement of the quality of water and further development of ways and means for industrial and municipal sewage effluent purification; methods of assessment of fresh water resources and the improvement of their utilization, in particular by developing methods of production which are less polluting and lead to less consumption of fresh water. (Helsinki 1975)
- In order to protect and improve freshwater resources and to reduce significantly the pollution of seas and coastal areas, transboundary watercourses and international lakes from all sources of pollution, the participating States will develop and intensify national efforts as well as bilateral and multilateral co-operation. They recommend the elaboration of a framework convention or specific conventions to improve the protection of transboundary watercourses and international lakes. They will reduce significantly discharges of toxic, persistent and potentially hazardous substances. Furthermore they will devote special attention to the development of appropriate alternatives to sea disposal in order to decrease progressively and substantially the dumping of harmful wastes and the incineration of noxious liquid wastes at sea, with a view to the early termination of such methods. (Vienna 1989)
- The participating States agree on the need to define principles for a sustainable use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes as well as to elaborate arrangements to protect them from pollution. For this aim the participating States recommend that the ECE elaborate a framework convention, whereby existing bilateral and multilateral agreements on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes, as well as ongoing activities and completed work in other fora, such as the ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the United Nations International Law Commission, should be taken into account. Such a framework convention should contain, in particular, the following elements:
 - Basic principles, such as :
 - Pollution of transboundary watercourses and international lakes, contributing also to the pollution of seas, will be prevented or reduced with the aim of sustainable management, conservation of water resources and environmental protection.
 - Effective prevention and pollution control measures will be applied at the source wherever possible.
 - Regular consultations on issues of mutual interest and implementation of pollution abatement measures will be promoted.
 - Warning and alarm systems and contingency plans will be introduced.
 - With the aim of prevention, environmental impact assessment and other means of assessment will be developed, adopted and subsequently implemented.
 - Water quality will be monitored and assessed and discharges of pollutants will be registered.
 - methods of analysis, monitoring and assessment, including registration of discharges, will be harmonized.

- For transboundary watercourses and international lakes, parties will establish emission limits based, to the extent possible, on the best available technologies specifically applicable to individual sectors or industries or to specific substances; for municipal waste water, at least biological treatment will be introduced; use of no-waste and low-waste technologies will be promoted.
 - Parties will apply water quality objectives; the ecosystems approach will be promoted.
 - Discharges will be subject to prior licensing by the competent authority; the approved discharges must be monitored and controlled.
 - General water management policies covering transboundary waters including ecological and other impacts of water construction works and water regulation will be implemented.
 - The "polluter-pays" principle will be applied to physical and juridical persons.
 - Responsibility and liability issues will be examined.
 - Disputes will be settled peacefully in accordance with procedures to be established in conformity with international law.
 - Scientific and technological information - including best available technologies - will be exchanged where necessary to achieve the goals of the framework convention in accordance with national laws, regulations and practice.
 - A reporting system concerning the implementation of the framework convention will be established. (Sofia 1989)
- The States bordering transboundary watercourses and international lakes will conclude, where they do not yet exist, specific agreements on the establishment of bilateral or multilateral commissions or other forms of co-operation where appropriate. Their tasks to be described in the framework convention will be inter alia without prejudice to comparable existing agreements, the following:
 - to carry out investigations on the components of the catchment areas of the water bodies concerned and to identify priority uses of waters;
 - to carry out joint measuring programmes concerning water quality and quantity;
 - to draw up inventories and exchange information on significant discharges;
 - to set emission limits for waste water and evaluate the effectiveness of control programmes;
 - to set water quality objectives; to introduce the minimum obligation of maintaining at least the existing water quality;
 - to develop concerted action programmes for the reduction of pollution loads discharged both from point-sources (municipal; industrial) and from diffuse sources (particularly agriculture);
 - to establish alarm and warning procedures;
 - to provide for consultations on existing and planned uses of water that are likely to have significant adverse transboundary effects, including water construction works and water regulation;
 - to promote co-operation on the exchange of information and on the exchange of best available technologies in accordance with national laws, regulations and practice as well as to encourage co-operation in scientific research programmes. (Sofia 1989)
 - In cases where a coastal State is directly and significantly affected by pollution from transboundary watercourses, the riparian States can, if they all so agree, invite that coastal State to be involved in the activities of the commission or, where appropriate, in other forms of co-operation. (Sofia 1989)

- States are encouraged to enter such specific agreements (e.g. the Danube, the Elbe) parallel to the elaboration of a framework convention. (Sofia 1989)
- It is important to look at a whole River Basin Catchment Area (ecological boundaries) when designing management approaches. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Good management of scarce freshwater resources is of utmost importance to security in the OSCE area. Participants felt that the existing conventions should be signed, ratified and effectively implemented. Agreements dealing with all aspects of water resource management should be elaborated and provide important instruments for preventing potential conflict. Key conditions for successful water-sharing regimes are political will, equity and effective control of the management and monitoring activities by affected parties. It was agreed that new efforts must be made in order to deal with unsolved problems. No society can achieve sustainable development without appropriate water resources. Preservation of existing resources is not enough. Upstream countries and downstream countries must work closely together on the basis of the international agreed principles in order to find viable solutions. Building on existing international instruments, the OSCE could give political impetus to and promote, in appropriate forums, further consensus building on general principles and rules to apply to transboundary water resource situations. (7-EF 1999)
- Integrated regional water resource systems, like the Aral Sea basin, require regional co-operation instruments where challenges of irrigation, energy and environmental concerns are interconnected. States [should] develop and use actively the relevant forums and instruments. The OSCE, with its comprehensive agenda, should play an important role in encouraging countries with scarce water resources and/or transboundary water management issues to engage international and local organizations, NGOs, and private sector organizations dealing with the issue, in concerted efforts towards a constructive political co-operation process. (7-EF 1999)
- Water management is one source of tension in the region. Framework agreements [are needed] to strengthen co-ordination including the setting up of a dispute settlement mechanism to reconcile competitive interests of the countries concerned. [There is a] need to strengthen existing regional organizations the functioning of which would be enhanced by improved information flows and greater public participation. (8-EF 2000)

b.) Central Asia

- Clean water plays [a central role] in the context of civilization survival . (Tashkent 995)
- Various ways of rationalizing the use of water were highlighted. Those included pricing and introducing a system of fines and incentives depending on user performance. It was emphasized that environmental problems transcend national boundaries and call for co-operation and interaction between and among States and international organizations. (Tashkent 1995)
- Water management problems [need to be prioritized]. (Tashkent 1995)
- Ideas were articulated regarding the need for compensations for harm/benefit from action of upstream or downstream water users. (Tashkent 1995)

- Effects of hazardous agent build-up in the soil and water of the region include. salination, desertification, wildlife extinction and, as a result, health and social problems. (Tashkent 1995)
- Various tools to rectify the situation were discussed, namely biocontrol of pests, rational water use etc. (Tashkent 1995)
- It was concluded that the demographic situation and living conditions of the affected population must be improved and that an inter-State agreement on the use and protection of water, earth and biological resources in the Aral Sea region was needed. As regards water sharing, it was concluded that there was a need for an inter-State agreement on water quality and the amounts of water to be used for different purposes and for one on water quality and the amounts of water to be led into the Aral Sea. (Tashkent 1996).
- The existence of an overlap between environmental concerns and political conflicts calls for conflict prevention and disputes management at the global, regional and bilateral levels. Recommendations relevant for regional environmental security prepared by UN/ECE and based on the provisions of chapter 38 of UNCED's Agenda 21 may be applicable in the Aril Sea region. These recommendations concern: the transboundary aspects of changing production and consumption patterns; the integration of environmental policy into decision-making; protection of the atmosphere and the quality of freshwater resources; the safe management of toxic chemicals; the sound management of waste; and the protection of coastal areas. A regional approach to the protection of transboundary waters would promote environmental security through:
 - the prevention and resolution of conflicts and disputes among States;
 - the harmonization of regulatory objectives and standards;
 - the prevention and control of transboundary water pollution;
 - avoidance of the inequitable imposition of costs and distortions in competition and trading patterns;
 - reductions in the pollution of the near-shore environment by land-based sources;
 - mutual assistance in reducing water pollution;
 - and the dissemination of information to the public. (Tashkent 1996)
- These issues need to receive special attention in regional sustainable development programmes and agreements. There are several sub-regions of Eurasia where environmental issues may cause political conflict, or where political or military conflict has resulted in environmental damage. The Aral Sea region is an extremely sensitive area where political and serious environmental issues overlap. (Tashkent 1996)
- Many individuals and groups badly hit by environmental degradation urgently need relief; this is especially so in rural areas, where there are serious problems of sanitation. (Tashkent 1996)
- Natural resources management needs to become ecosystem management conducted in accordance with modern principles. Although some countries have started to introduce modern costing and pricing for water, the charges for water resources are still not adequate and water for irrigation is still free of charge. The pricing of water should promote the introduction of water-saving technologies like dripping irrigation. (Tashkent 1996)

- Monitoring and assessment at both the national and the transboundary level require a strategy and equipment. Also, the existing systems involve much duplication and parallelism. In the transboundary context, there is a need for an effective system of information exchange between States and for controlling transboundary water flows and pollution. (Tashkent 1996)
- The laws and regulations of the former Soviet Union are still formally in place, but they are often violated because of a lack of economic justification and enforcement. What is needed is better co-operation and less fragmentation within national administrations and a policy of transboundary environmental quality management – for example, by joint bodies responsible for water basin management. Capacity-building and the training of experts and decision-makers are of key importance in this regard. National advisory bodies on environmental quality control would be useful. (Tashkent 1996)
- The importance of improving environmental monitoring and data systems and of addressing the economic implications of water and land use before finalization of the convention was emphasized. (Tashkent 1996)
- Initiatives [for regional co-operation in Central Asia] could contribute to resolving tensions arising from environmental and economic sources. (Vienna-Istanbul 1999).
- Cultivating and maintaining social and political dialogue [is of importance]. Some well-known environmental disasters in this region, such as the Aral Sea, might not have occurred had such a dialogue existed during the Soviet era. (Tashkent 1999)
- In Central Asia [exist a] strong link between the two factors [water and energy], with water traded for energy supplies between countries. (8-EF 2000)
- International organizations, notably the OSCE, might have [a role] in promoting international water co-operation in Central Asia:
 - Encouraging the countries to support the EU's TACIS (Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States) programme, which had produced two framework agreements that were ready for signature, on institutional structures and information exchange; supporting work on finalizing the other three proposed agreements, on use of water in present conditions, joint planning and ecology/water quality;
 - A forum for regional participants to meet and discuss issues relating to energy and water. This could explore mutual areas of interest, and enhance participation in global processes such as the World Water Forum, the global energy negotiations of the CSD and the climate change negotiations;
 - Encouraging the countries of the region to join the relevant United Nations conventions or develop their own legal frameworks on the basis of these conventions;
 - Improved donor co-ordination and information exchange;
 - An independent, up-to-date assessment of the problems in the region and practical suggestions for ways to improve co-operation;
 - A dispute settlement mechanism;
 - Increasing the capacity of local institutions, leading to a greater understanding of international environmental conventions and practice, the development and implementation of local legislation, information flows, negotiating skills and consensus building;

- Enhancing NGO capacity, including support for a conference in Uzbekistan from 11 to 14 May on market and water resources, and a planned OSCE seminar in Almaty which would coincide with a meeting of Environment Ministers of Europe and the CIS;
 - Increasing OSCE involvement in water issues, including increased expertise in Vienna and the field and increased contacts with other key players, to allow a more informed debate with technical experts involved in existing initiatives;
 - Education and training in areas such as consumer awareness and water use efficiency;
 - A database of information on national institutions and existing work in the area;
 - Supporting the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), to increase NGO governmental interchange;
 - Improved co-operation between local organizations. (8-EF 2000)
- A useful way of addressing tensions (over water management) could be to strengthen the institutions for regional co-operation, on which discussions were already taking place. The OSCE should lend its support to this process. [...] While international efforts might initially concentrate on the five countries of the region, in the long term other participants such as China, Afghanistan and Iran might need to be included. (8-EF 2000)
 - The Caspian Sea [is] a major problem, where the issue was not one of water distribution, but of environmental degradation. (8-EF 2000)
 - Issues relevant to the River Danube were raised, and an offer was made to exchange information on regional co-operation mechanisms concerning the Danube with Central Asian organizations. (8-EF 2000)
 - The issue of water management in Central Asia [is complex and] involves broad political implications beyond the mere technical aspects. The international community and donors could not solve the problem but rather could help the Central Asian partners to move towards making progress. The OSCE in setting priorities for action had to carefully consider the demands and necessities of its Central Asian partners. A light structure for information exchange, co-operation and co-ordination and a culture of co-operation, including bottom-up and top-down approaches, [should be developed]. [...] High-level OSCE officials could raise the issue at the appropriate levels. The OSCE missions and field offices had an enormous potential for concrete action in the field but needed to receive adequate levels of support from the Secretariat. The OSCE could also address the more political implications of the water management issue, which was rather difficult for other actors. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
 - The existing single sector institutional structures are no longer adequate in a situation where the five [Central Asian] countries are striving to develop their national identity and each is in a different state of transition. Water management issues cannot be addressed in isolation from other sectors. They are interlinked and often interdependent and need to be addressed through a multisectoral approach. This is essential if an acceptable balance between water use for upstream hydropower generation and for downstream irrigation is to be achieved. This multisectoral approach must be adopted at the donor level, the regional level, and the national level and must be reflected in the respective institutions at each level. However, in order to be able to adopt a multisectoral approach, the current institutional arrangements must change. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
 - All necessary data related to regional water use, allocation and management decision-making must be made available and accessible to the relevant parties. The Interstate

Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC), the existing regional institution, is mandated to cover all aspects of water use but it has competence only in the water sector. It cannot therefore deal with multisectoral issues. To deliver its mandate it must develop the staffing and competence to deal with the range of multisectoral issues associated with regional water management. There are two regional framework agreements, currently in the final phases of negotiation, which provide preliminary frameworks for a single, multisectoral regional institution and for regional data-sharing respectively. If agreed, these two framework agreements would mark a milestone in progress toward regional co-operation in water use, allocation and management between the five States. A prerequisite for good co-operation and co-ordination is political will. This must be expressed officially and transformed into practical action. Agreement and signing of these two framework agreements at the highest level is now sought. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)

- To support the multisectoral approach at the regional level, multisectoral co-ordinating points of contact or bodies should be established in each of the countries. These bodies should have the political mandate and competence to synthesize the different positions and conflicting interests of the various sectors, agencies and civil society and to act as an interlocutor representing the various sectoral interests in regional-level discussions and negotiations and in discussions with donors. Such a focal point would facilitate:
 - (i) co-ordination and co-operation among national agencies and between regional and national agencies,
 - (ii) negotiation and implementation of annual bilateral and multilateral agreements, and
 - (iii) provide guidance to the ongoing and forthcoming activities aimed at improvement of national and regional water management. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- Donors need to recognize and acknowledge co-operation between the five States where it exists and to look for tangible indicators of regional co-operation. Some in the international community have tended to regard the signing of the two above-mentioned framework agreements as The indicator of regional co-operation, overlooking other positive efforts. However, slow progress toward signing of these frameworks should not be assumed to indicate a lack of willingness to engage in regional co-operation. The outside community should distinguish between the willingness of the five States to co-operate, versus ability to co-operate in a climate of severe economic constraints, of breakdown of water-flow management control infrastructure and different legal and institutional frameworks in the countries. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- The donors need to:
 - Look for mutually reinforcing activities which add value and develop synergies between each other's projects;
 - Work with the Central Asian States to develop projects which respond to the recipient's priorities and which meet the objectives of both donor and recipient;
 - Agree on a common objective of striving toward being more inclusive and multisectoral in project design;
 - Make information about activities, ongoing and anticipated, available and accessible to a wide range of stakeholders;
 - Ensure lessons are learnt from the recent donor activities and communicate and co-ordinate more effectively. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)
- OSCE needs to be clear about its role in addressing Central Asia water management issues. This needs to be communicated to its partners, especially those within the region, to ensure it is understood what types of activities are appropriate for OSCE and to avoid

false expectations. OSCE should engage itself in situations where there is security relevance, to avoid overlap with other organizations. The recommendation to adopt a multisectoral approach at all levels requires a change in the decision-making framework which determines water usage. It is therefore a political process and one where OSCE can play a catalytic role. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)

- Specific support might be offered by OSCE in the following areas:
 - Development of a multisectoral forum or function at the national level in each of the five Central Asian States to act as focal points to synthesize the different sectoral interests as previously noted.
 - Development of a forum and/or process for information exchange between donors to facilitate co-ordination of their programmes and activities in the region;
 - Development of a process/mechanism to ensure information s made available in a form accessible to the various stakeholders/users.
 - Support to multisectoral consensus-building as essential components of the negotiations framework and process, between the different sectors' interests and between the five Central Asian States.
 - Development of local competencies in negotiating skills through capacity-building;
 - Analysis of the economic, social and environmental consequences of the various possible options for revised water-resource allocation and management, as a basis for informed decision-making.
 - Development of public awareness raising of the issues including their appreciation of the difficult trade-offs involved.
 - Development of education programmes in water conservation and efficient water use aimed at a range of users, and including specifically the wider public.
 - High-level political support to the negotiations process.
 - A review of the various options for OSCE involvement should be undertaken to identify priority activities. These activities should provide added value, be practically feasible within OSCE's resources, and should make use of OSCE's comparative advantage in the political. (Vienna-Seminar 2000)

c.) Mediterranean

- The representatives of the participating States of the CSCE [...] decided to recommend to their Governments [...]
 - the strengthening, through the MAP, of actions aimed at better harmonization of national legislation on the protection of Mediterranean waters from pollution, in implementation in particular of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols signed by the parties to the Convention.
 - The improvement of methodologies within the appropriate framework for evaluating economic damage caused by pollution in the Mediterranean and for determining means to protect the Mediterranean environment.
 - Co-operation in concrete actions aimed at ensuring compliance with standards laid down in the MARPOL Convention 73/78, for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea resulting from maritime traffic. (Venice 1984)

d.) Baltics

- Without addressing these environmental challenges there are areas for potential conflict. Immediate concerns that should be addressed are: 1) it is urgent to bring about cooperative solutions to provide fair water allocation, distribution and pricing. (Warnemünde 1999)
- Concerning the task of diminishing harmful emissions from industry, energy production, and communities to water and atmosphere it was considered important:
 - To increase joint international efforts to protect the Baltic Sea from transboundary and air carried pollution.
 - To pay increased attention to the protection of the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea by promoting effectively the development of management of discharges into the Gulf of Finland from St. Petersburg and management of possible environmental consequences from an increase of maritime traffic in the Gulf of Finland as well as to limit the airborne pollution in the Gulf.
 - To address effectively the problem of water pollution from non-point sources, particularly from agriculture and transport.
 - To promote effectively the development of the water and sewage sector in Northwest Russia and the pre-accession water supply and waste water treatment projects in the Baltic Countries. (Warnemünde 1999)

10. Nuclear Safety and Energy & Environment

- The task of scientific research in the field of energy is to supply during the next decade a reliable scientific basis for planning and use of all basic resources of energy. Such a basis should include forecasts of the environmental effects of the various types of energy, and in particular improved assessments of the effects on the global and regional climate. [...] The working body recommends governments to use international co-operation for the fulfilling of this task. (Hamburg 1980)
- The urgent need to increase utilization of low-quality fossil energy resources - coal, brown coal, oil shale and tar sand, lignite, peat, etc. - as well as at the same time to tighten the environmental requirements, make it necessary to develop ever more advanced combustion methods, in spite of the need for an intensified interest in more efficient and cleaner combustion methods, as well as in the use of synthetic liquid and gaseous fuel from coal, oil shale and tar sands, and considering that several large demonstration projects exist, synthetic fuel production is still on a rather narrow basis. Both fundamental and applied research are needed on a broad front before synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels are capable of substituting for natural hydrocarbons on a commercial scale. (Hamburg 1980)
- The problem of energy supply for the majority of participating countries cannot be solved without using nuclear energy for producing electricity and heat. The economic efficiency of nuclear fission technology has been established, the reliability has been shown to be good, and the environmental aspects are becoming well understood. All aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle will require continuing efforts to assure its full reliability and safety, in order to ensure public acceptability. (Hamburg 1980)
- Apart from the scientific and technical problems, however, there are also a number of other open questions pertaining to the wider application of solar energy. Among those questions are economic, infrastructural, environmental, legal and administrative considerations. It is important that these problems are treated together with the scientific problems within a common framework in order to ensure a balanced and optimal use of solar energy. (Hamburg 1980)
- The participating States consider that they should extend and deepen their co-operation in the field of energy and raw material saving techniques. To that end they favour the marketing of energy conservation and raw material saving technologies and will promote increased energy efficiency. The participating States will also co-operate bilaterally and multilaterally in the field of hydrocarbon technologies, solid fuels and renewable energies and processes for the separation of waste components and their recycling and upgrading. They will also co-operate, e.g. through the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the field of nuclear energy and of the safety of nuclear installations in accordance with their energy policies. (Bonn 1990)
- **The participating States stress the need to ensure effectively the safety of all nuclear installations, in order to protect the population and the environment. They will co-operate in the appropriate international fora on defining and establishing nuclear safety objectives. (Helsinki 1992)**
- **They recommend the widest possible adherence to the IAEA Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear**

Accident or Radiological Emergency and express their support for active work on the early elaboration of an international convention on nuclear safety in the framework of IAEA. The participating States welcome the International Nuclear Events Scale (INES) and Incident Reporting System. (Helsinki 1992)

- **They will work to support the technical co-operation programmes of IAEA aimed at enhancing nuclear safety. They will support other international efforts in this direction aimed at, inter alia, upgrading the safety of nuclear installations where technically feasible, and where not feasible by developing and implementing plans, as soon as practically possible, to substitute them with facilities using environmentally sound energy production processes and through the improvement of energy efficiency. (Helsinki 1992)**
- **With regard to international transport of radioactive waste they will take into account the IAEA Code of Practice on International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste. (Helsinki 1992)**
- [The CSCE parliamentary assembly] advocates an active environmental policy, including internationally recognised safety standards at nuclear power facilities since in the current situation of radical change and crisis in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the danger exists that short-term production and employment objectives will be conceded priority over protection of the natural environment. (PA-Declaration Helsinki 1993)
- [The CSCE parliamentary assembly]
 - Calls upon the reforming countries [...] to implement internationally recognized safety standards at nuclear power facilities.
 - Urges Western countries, in recognition of the international implications of environmental degradation, resulting in particular from nuclear installations, to co-operate with and assist the countries of Eastern Europe in addressing these environmental problems - to which the European Union has decided to devote particular efforts - paying special attention to eliminating the consequences of the planetary radiation catastrophe of Chernobyl, it being understood, however, that environmental aspects and the rights of indigenous peoples are duly taken into account by countries receiving Western assistance.
 - Aware of the disastrous consequences for Europe and the gene pool of mankind of the Chernobyl tragedy and of the further operation of the Chernobyl atomic plant, recommends that the Western countries of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly create new constructive mechanisms of economic and scientific-technical co-operation and also of financial assistance and compensation to the Ukraine for the cost of closing the Chernobyl atomic plant and of solving the urgent ecological and medical problems connected with it. (PA-Declaration Vienna 1994)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly]
 - Concerned over the condition of nuclear reactors with obsolete design and technologies, and their obvious risks for the population, in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, as well as in countries in Western Europe;
 - Welcoming the decision taken at the meeting of the G8 in Denver to provide financial aid to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant;
 - Urges Western countries and international financial institutions to meet to discuss and seek appropriate financial means and technological support to close down or repair outdated and dangerous nuclear reactors in Central and Eastern Europe, in the Baltic

States, in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union which constitute an increasingly serious environmental threat and to replace nuclear power plants, to the extent possible using renewable energy sources in combination with energy saving and efficiency measures;

- Recognizes the absolute priority of the safety factor in the use of nuclear energy and of the full implementation of agreements in this area, and stresses the need for further significant progress in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, especially in strengthening institutions with executive power and control, increasing the reliability of reactors and improving safety standards;
 - Calls on OSCE participating States, relevant organizations and financial institutions to intensify their efforts to render effective assistance towards eliminating the consequences of the the Chernobyl accident and warning of other technological catastrophes in the OSCE region. (PA-Declaration Warsaw 1997)
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- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly underlines] that environmental obligations should guide and condition the behaviour of the participating States with regard to their energy and, most particularly, their nuclear programmes and that they should consider the concerns and welfare of their inhabitants as well as those of neighbouring countries. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998)
 - Energy development, power production and balancing energy needs with environmental protection should be pursued within a co-operative framework. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998)
 - The role of the government [regarding] the challenges and opportunities inherent in energy developments in the OSCE area relates primarily to the quality and security of adequate supplies, as well as standards for environmental protection. (6-EF 1998)
 - OSCE countries share common interests in the energy sector, such as ensuring the security of energy supplies (including diversification of supplies and markets, free energy trade and transit), competitiveness and efficiency, together with reconciling energy developments with environmental obligations. Further progress in this domain will be crucial for future prosperity, peace, security and stability in the OSCE area and beyond. (6-EF 1998)
 - The common interest basis could be broadened through intensive co-operation at the regional and sub-regional levels and through collaboration in individual projects. Regional approaches were recommended, particularly in addressing specific environmental concerns. (6-EF1998)
 - Co-operation should also stimulate energy sector reforms, taking into account sound economic, financial and environmental criteria, such as diversification of energy supplies, the need for market-related energy prices, the promotion of energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy resources. (6-EF 1998)
 - In the OSCE area, even greater attention should be paid to the environmental aspects of energy production and consumption. Environmental concerns have to be increasingly incorporated in energy policies, *inter alia*, through the promotion of energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources. The results already obtained in the field of energy and the environment clearly demonstrate that further progress in environmental protection is feasible. The Kyoto Protocol may open up new and promising channels of

co-operation between economies in transition and developed market economies. In particular, the opportunities offered by the Kyoto Protocol were described as an insurance policy against the potentially devastating and irreversible impacts of global warming. (6-EF 1998)

- A variety of means and policies can help to bring about a more sustainable situation such as appropriate pricing, reduction in subsidies and tax instruments, which all help to internalise the external effects, in other words to have the users pay for the total cost to society of energy consumption and not just a part of it. Higher energy efficiency, together with the use of renewable energy sources, is essential for achieving the objective of reducing green house gas emissions and fulfilling the targets of the Kyoto Protocol. Countries that have not yet ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change were urged to do so. New technologies will help to bring about higher energy (and material) efficiency (up to 4-10 times higher efficiency) but can also make a vital contribution to exploiting renewable energy resources (the potential of wind energy in the Black Sea region was cited as an example). (Istanbul 1998)
- The importance of the ratification of the Energy Charter Treaty in all signatory countries was underlined. (Istanbul 1998)
- Some participants thought that the Black Sea region should be freed from nuclear energy, only if all countries agree to do so; but others stressed that the energy gap could not be made up for in the short term and/or at a reasonable cost without recourse to nuclear power. The links between the local, regional and global levels for analysis and decision making with respect to long term choices were stressed, as well as the need for governments in countries undergoing political and economic reforms to reconcile short term needs with long term strategies [...]. It was stressed that absolute priority should be attached to the application of internationally recognised safety standards and reference was made to the relevant international conventions; all countries should abide fully by the IAEA Conventions on Nuclear Safety and Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Radioactive Waste Management. Economic, in addition to safety considerations, should also be taken into account when assessing the option of nuclear energy. In particular the life cycle cost (including decommissioning and fuel handling) has to be the basis for evaluation as a means to internalise the total social cost of this energy form as much as possible, as it should be done with all other energy forms. The planning of the future should be made using the information of the future and in an integrated way, but long term planning is always linked with uncertainty. (Istanbul 1998)
- In the presentations given during the sessions the following points were highlighted:
 - Until 2020 renewable technologies will need support by governments in order to be competitive. After that it is presumed that renewable technologies will share 50 % of the supply by 2060, leading to a decrease in CO₂ emissions.
 - Taxation and indexation of fuels should reflect their level of pollution.
 - By subsidizing non-fossil use in electricity generation, governments can trigger a process whereby renewable technologies could be able to compete with more established technologies.
 - In promoting green policies the government has to set up laws to regulate the introduction of renewable technologies in the electricity generation industry. This is to secure a market with viable prices, and also to include a vast set of renewable technologies in such a way that the improvements in one technology outweigh the cost of the other.

- Introduction of renewable power sources could be most viable if located within a small or regional area to facilitate distribution, hence, this is a reason where regional activities should be encouraged such as the Manchester 2020 Project. (Malta 1999)
- A number of suggestion were made by the participants on various aspects of climate change, the implementation of energy-friendly policies, and increasing cooperation:
 - In addressing climate change issues, developed countries have to aid the developing countries to address immediately the questions of emissions either through 'Joint Implementation' or 'transfer of technology'. Hence, aiding the developing countries in choosing the right technologies and skipping various steps that the developed countries had to make in their own development ("leap-frogging"). There arose also the question of the extent to which developing countries should share the burden in climate change issues.
 - Cooperation within state ministries and between governments and Non Governmental Organizations should be encouraged in drafting environment-friendly energy policies.
 - If the state contemplates using environmental taxes on consumers, a) at least a portion of this revenue should be dedicated to improvement and the use of renewable technologies (various participants encouraged the Energy Charter Secretariat to include this as part of the commitment of the signatories of the Charter); and b) environmental taxes should try to be as close as possible to meeting the following criteria: leave the economy competitive, be environmentally optimal, and not be too expensive.
 - Education is a very important factor in raising the awareness of climate change of the public as well as decision makers. The policy makers need to be shown that an energy-friendly policy is not one which deals only with harsh measures to consumers but also one whereby jobs are created through the same processes and measures that put into effect the policy.
 - To alleviate the financial burden of renewable energy implementation, Mediterranean states should work to set up a Mediterranean Renewable Energy Trust, either with the help of the World Bank or with the participation of Banks established in the area. (Malta 1999)
- Climate change is a fact and that it can pose a security threat through displacement of - people, sea level rise, and desertification. Hence measures have to be devised to prevent and mitigate the impact of climate change before any further aggravation. (Malta 1999)
- Energy and environment is an essential part of the development of regional co-operation processes. It was considered particularly important:
 - To guarantee high environmental standards in all countries participating in the developing energy networks, not least in order to avoid distortion of markets due to negligence of environmental investments.
 - To attach attention to environmental protection (incl. EIA procedures) in the sites of oil and gas prospecting and production, not forgetting the social dimension of production and transport and their impact on indigenous peoples.
 - To pay attention to alternative energy sources and energy savings benefits to the environment, and to create perspective to the closing of such nuclear power stations that create unacceptable risks to the environment.
 - To have as a priority for the OSCE. to fight against the consequence of the Chernobyl accident . to pay attention to the reduction of CO₂ emissions as one of the main objectives in the energy sector development, and to promote sustainable joint implementation procedures.
 - To give an opportunity to the environmental sector to have an important role in the preparation of the Conference of the Energy Ministers of the Baltic Sea Region in October 1999. (Warnemünde 1999)

- Secure supplies of energy are a prerequisite for long-term stability and security. The OSCE participating States share common interests in the energy sector, such as ensuring secure energy supplies (including diversification of supplies and markets, properly regulated energy trade and transit), competitiveness and efficiency, together with reconciling energy developments with environmental obligations. They reiterated their commitment to move towards more sustainable energy policies, in particular by increasing energy efficiency, and promoting renewable energies. They saw a capacity of the OSCE to enhance dialogue on this issue. The OSCE has the potential for facilitating the sharing of best practices in this field, and encouraging transfer of technology and development of stable framework conditions for commercial investments. (7-EF 1999)
- The close interrelationship between energy development, energy distribution and use, and environmental concerns was underlined. Participating States agree that they must take due account of these concerns in all phases when developing their energy sources, including new and renewable energy supply, and when consuming energy. Public participation in decision making as well as transparency were emphasized as key issues. (7-EF 1999)
- [Concerning] security-related risks in the field of energy and environment, nuclear safety, including safe transfer of nuclear material and disposal of nuclear waste, [is significant]. International co-operation should aim at reaching the highest possible nuclear safety standards. (7-EF 1999)
- Public participation and the role of civil society is crucial. Those participating States that have not acceded to and ratified the Århus Convention (the UN/ECE Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters) were encouraged to do so, thus confirming their commitment to public participation. All signatories are urged to ensure effective implementation of all its provisions. It was recommended that the core principles of the Århus Convention should be incorporated in the main body of the forthcoming Charter on European Security and to include these principles in the Declaration of the Summit meeting in Istanbul in November 1999, together with a call for early ratification or accession as well as effective implementation. Countries in other regions should equally be encouraged to copy the principles of the Convention or to apply for accession to the Convention as soon as possible. (7-EF 1999)
- [The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is] alarmed at the serious risks posed by outdated nuclear power stations, stockpiles of chemical and nuclear weapons and radioactive waste as well as by the lack of sufficient control over nuclear materials. (PA-Declaration St. Petersburg 1999)
- In Central Asia [exists a] strong link between the two factors [water and energy], with water traded for energy supplies between countries. (8-EF 2000)
- Ministers welcomed the decision of Ukraine on the timely fulfillment of its commitment to shut down the Chernobyl power plant and appreciated the continued efforts of the international community to assist Ukraine to overcome the economic consequences resulting from this decision. (Vienna 2000)

11. Environment & Economy

- Experience has shown that economic development and technological progress must be compatible with the protection of the environment and the preservation of historical and cultural values; that damage to the environment is best avoided by preventive measures; [...] the ecological balance must be preserved in the exploitation and management of natural resources. (Helsinki 1975)
- The participating States underline that the integration of environmental protection in other policies and in the economic decision-making process is an essential condition both for the creation of sustainable economic development and for a prudent use of natural resources. In this respect, the use of economic and fiscal instruments in addition to regulatory instruments is important in order to implement, at national level, the "polluter-pays" principle, as well as the precautionary approach. (Helsinki 1992)
- Due to the growing interdependence of the national economies, it is more and more important to create the basic conditions for the reinforcement of European security, through the achievement of non-inflationary and environmentally-friendly economic growth, full employment and the dismantling of protectionist obstacles to the movement of capital, goods, people and ideas among CSCE participating states. (PA-Declaration Budapest 1992)
- Economic and environmental policies cannot be made and implemented in isolation as sustainable economic growth is not possible without environmental considerations being brought into economic policy making. Such environmental consideration should be implemented by both economic and regulatory instruments. (1-EF 1993)
- The ecological crisis was in many countries in transition [...] as grave as the economic crisis. Problems are [...] particularly serious in the areas of nuclear energy, air and water pollution and hazardous waste. [There is] need for financial and technical assistance as well as foreign investment and joint ventures. [...] Anticipatory measures are preferable to reactive response. (1-EF 1993)
- The process of structural change in the economies of transition offers a unique opportunity to improve the environmental situation. This opportunity should be fully used and supplemented inter alia by an appropriate tax system and implementation of the polluter pays principle. (1-EF 1993)
- Sound economic development must be based on a sound environment. Since European countries facing difficult economic problems might be tempted to downgrade environmental problems, [...] financial institutions should examine the possibility of co-operating with these countries for environmental investments. (2-EF 1994)
- Environmental protection could help to promote the tourist potential of many countries, justifying investments in areas which have been difficult to penetrate for almost 50 years. The benefits would of course be favourable: entrance of regular flows of hard currency and reduction of isolation. (2-EF 1994)
- Creating a sound environment in all of Europe should be a major consideration in the transition process. (2-EF 1994)

- The Parliamentary Assembly
 - Urges governments to approve policies aimed at integrating economic with environmental goals for the attainment of environmentally sustainable development;
 - Urges governments to make conservation their major policy thrust in their management and exploitation of fisheries;
 - Urges governments to phase out gradually unsustainable subsidies and to develop economic instruments that will enhance the value of natural resources for the benefit of future generations;
 - Calls upon the governments of these countries to adopt legislation which promotes a sustainable and environmentally sound development;
 - Calls upon reforming countries to integrate the environment in the economic restructuring process and hopes that the Sofia Conference will bring about improved coordination of aid to these countries. (PA-Declaration Ottawa 1995)
- [There is a need] for a system approach encompassing the whole production pricing disposal cycle . (Tashkent 1995).
- There is a trend to see development first, and seek healthier environment later. (Tashkent 1995)
- The impact of major investment projects needs to be assessed properly, and there needs to be a modern system of licensing and fines. However, economic incentives for the introduction of clean production techniques are what is most needed in order to reduce pollution. (Tashkent 1996)
- "Agreement on an economic policy of the member states of the OSCE based on common principles":
 - Confidence in a reliable market economy that is socially and environmentally responsible and committed to strong economic growth, monetary stability, a high level of employment, balanced public budgets, and balanced foreign trade. The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE calls upon the governments of the participating States, when setting the economic framework conditions, to direct their economic policies both towards achieving these objectives and creating the structural prerequisites necessary for this. This includes environmental standards, [...] It calls upon the international economic Organizations to support the participating States in the process of achieving these objectives. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998, Resolution on an Economic Charter for the OSCE)
- The Parliamentary Assembly encourages governments to support efforts leading towards provisions for social and environmental standards. (PA-Declaration Copenhagen 1998, Resolution on an Economic Charter for the OSCE)
- Economic instruments such as taxes and fees but also economic incentives are intended to modify behaviour which Leads to environmental degradation. These resources collected through taxes and fees are not being used for activities promoting the protection of the environment. It was suggested to concentrate not only on alternatives to shipping such as the further improvement of road and rail infrastructure and pipelines in the region but also on measures that do not require heavy investments such as the provision of pilots across the Straits. The further improvement and application of contingency plans could be a useful tool in the mitigation of risks to human beings and the environment. The existing

amount of dangerous transport movements pose a major risk to the city of Istanbul and its inhabitants. (Istanbul 1998)

- Taxation and indexation of fuels should reflect their level of pollution. (Malta 1999)
- By subsidizing non-fossil use in electricity generation, governments can trigger a process whereby renewable technologies could be able to compete with more established technologies. (Malta 1999)
- If the state contemplates using environmental taxes on consumers, a) at least a portion of this revenue should be dedicated to improvement and the use of renewable technologies (various participants encouraged the Energy Charter Secretariat to include this as part of the commitment of the signatories of the Charter); and b) environmental taxes should try to be as close as possible to meeting the following criteria: leave the economy competitive, be environmentally optimal, and not be too expensive. (Malta 1999)
- The application of best environmental practices [...] requires that financial support is available only for environmentally sound industries and activities. Designing effective methods for environmental fees and taxes to be imposed at the municipal level needs to be further explored. (Warnemünde 1999)
- It is important to provide contractual agreements with industry to ensure sustainable development and environmental protection/enforcement. (Warnemünde 1999)
- It was regarded as urgent to integrate environmental concerns with economic prosperity. (Warnemünde 1999)
- [The Parliamentary Assembly]
 - Recognizes]the growing international consensus that a sound political and institutional framework is essential for achieving sustainable economic and social development as well as ecological responsibility;
 - [Notes] that the key elements of sustainable development are economic efficiency, social welfare and ecological responsibility, and that these form a “magic triangle” which inextricably links protection of resources, an efficient allocation of resources and the organization of society in a dynamic balance. (PA-Declaration Bucharest 2000)