



EUROPEAN UNION

Second Preparatory Meeting of the 30th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum 14 – 15 February 2022, Vienna

EU Closing Statement

1. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Polish Chairmanship, and the OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and his team, for organising this meeting. We would also like to thank all speakers for their interesting presentations, the moderators for stimulating our debates and all participants for their contributions.
2. This meeting has provided a valuable opportunity to learn about different perspectives to guide and build greener, more resilient and more inclusive economies and societies in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis. We discussed opportunities and challenges of investing in a long-term resilient and sustainable recovery, but also the benefits of developing efficient, integrated and sustainable transport networks. We have listened with interest to the panel discussion highlighting the role of transparency and good governance in fostering sustainable economic growth and the role of the private sector and civil society in this regard. We have also heard many voices underlining the importance of quality education, training, vocational and professional training to improve and adapt skills, knowledge and competences of our workers and strengthen competitiveness and social fairness of our economies.

3. Taking into account the devastating economic and social disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, our discussions over the last two days have also illustrated that dialogue and co-operation among participating States is needed more than ever in order to effectively address these challenges and ensure a sustainable and inclusive recovery. In this regard, we believe that our debates have offered food for thought and an opportunity to exchange ideas and practices on promoting stability and security through innovative drivers of economic recovery.
4. The dialogue in the past two days stressed above all that the disruption caused by the pandemic presents us with a valuable opportunity to build a better, more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future for the next generation. Despite the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, in the EU, we have succeeded in flipping the narrative and look ahead to our recovery plan as a chance to emerge stronger from the pandemic, transform our economies and create new opportunities and jobs. Setting off on our path to recovery, we are particularly committed to supporting the twin green and digital transitions.
5. We hope that the discussions from these past two days will serve as a basis to identify a common approach to ensure a sustainable economic recovery through targeted actions. We are looking forward to our continued dialogue and engagement with all participating States on this topic and to identifying how the OSCE can add value and contribute to our common stability and security in this regard.
6. In conclusion, let me reaffirm the EU's readiness to continue engaging constructively in discussions on economic and environmental issues that have an impact on the security situation in the OSCE area.

The Candidate Countries TURKEY, REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, SAN MARINO and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

