

Original: ENGLISH

United States Mission to the OSCE



**Response to Report by Coordinator of
Economic and Environmental Affairs,
Goran Svilanović**

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 11, 2010

Mr. Svilanovic, thank you for your report and the 2010 Action Plan. The Action Plan provides us with an opportunity to take stock of the OSCE's activities in the Second Dimension and to think strategically about what this organization will do over the next year. Your report also provides useful context as we soon turn our attention to the second dimension in the Corfu meetings, and we look forward to your contribution at that meeting. As many participating States have pointed out, there are numerous opportunities for cooperation and collaboration as we confront economic and environmental challenges within the OSCE.

We agree with your emphasis on contributing to security and stability in the OSCE region by enhancing international cooperation. The United States believes energy security, good governance, including combating corruption, money laundering and terrorist finance, and environmental and resource management issues that have significant trans-boundary implications are all general topics with close links to security which should remain firmly on the second dimension agenda.

One aspect of the OSCE's added value is its ability to serve as a clearinghouse and dissemination mechanism for good practices that can be replicated in various parts of the region. We commend your mention of a number of such publications or projects that you expect to be produced this year, including a joint OSCE/UNECE handbook on best practices at border crossings, and joint OSCE/IOM projects on labor migration management training and harmonizing migration data collection.

With regards to energy, the OSCE, given its breadth of geography and focus on multi-dimensional aspects of security, can play a valuable role in establishing common understandings and principles, enhancing transparency, ensuring that infrastructure is adequately protected, and reducing the risk of disruptive incidents of all kinds. We look forward to a vigorous discussion of how this organization can contribute to enhancing energy security throughout the region.

We also continue to believe that the OSCE can make contributions to stabilizing Afghanistan. Second dimension topics such as border management capacity building, trade and transport facilitation initiatives, and good governance projects are among the most obvious lines of work that we could readily extend to this partner state and neighbor.

In the areas of good governance, we continue to see these activities as among the OSCE's core lines of work in the second dimension, and we look forward to working closely with your office and other OSCE structures on these issues to maximize the OSCE's impact.

The discussions on implementing the recommendations from last year's CiO report on the future orientation of the second dimension are ongoing, and we welcome these discussions as an opportunity to further prioritize and streamline our work in the second dimension. For the coming year, we think we should be able to move ahead with synchronizing the EEF and the CiO calendars and with reducing the number of meetings devoted to a single-theme in the EEF.

Mr. Svilanovic, thank you and your staff again for your report and for your contributions to the OSCE's activities. The United States reiterates its support for the work of the Office of Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities, and we look forward to another productive year of collaboration.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.