



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

### **The Secretariat**

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

**Batumi, 5 November 2009**

### **Seminar on the promotion of good governance and fighting corruption in the area of transport infrastructure development in the South Caucasus**

#### **Opening Remarks**

by Mr. Alexey Stukalo

Deputy Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Dear Mr. Minister,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Georgia for hosting this Seminar in the beautiful city of Batumi. Our special thanks go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara for their big support.

I would also like to stress once again the role of two countries which have generously contributed to the funding of this event: Belgium and France.

Strengthening good governance and fighting corruption are common and important tasks for all OSCE participating States. We welcome the concrete anti-corruption efforts undertaken in Georgia and other countries of South Caucasus. We believe the countries of the region, and this is one of the main purposes of our Seminar, can exchange positive experiences in this field, learn from international organizations and relevant experience of some EU countries and discuss how to improve this work further.

The Seminar is designed to pay a particular attention to promoting good governance and anti-corruption measures in transport infrastructure development. This includes the

theme of improving public procurement. According to recent estimates, public procurement of goods and services amounts on average to between 15 and 25 percent of a country's Gross Domestic Product, and in some countries even more.

The issue of promoting good governance in transport has been discussed in the OSCE framework for a number of years, especially since December 2006 when its 56 participating States adopted a Ministerial Council Decision on the Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE (MC.DEC11/06).

This Decision provides us with a broad mandate for continued activities in the transport sector. Among them there are the following provisions:

- It emphasizes the OSCE's role in supporting the adoption and correct implementation of relevant international legal instruments, conventions, standards and norms (which are produced by various partner organizations).
- It stresses the need for enhanced co-operation and exchanges of best practices among OSCE participating States in the transport field.
- And, number three, it highlights the need to promote good governance and public-private partnerships in the transport sector and tasks the OSCE Secretariat to implement activities in this sphere.

When developing these activities, we build further on previous work that we have already done. In 2004, for instance, the OSCE developed a **Handbook on Best Practices in Combating Corruption** which among others contained a substantial chapter on 'public procurement' issues. My colleague Mr. Roel Janssens will further elaborate on that in the next Session. We have also a long tradition of co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and we have conducted together various national and regional workshops and seminars on the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption (for example, in each of the three South Caucasus countries).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Participants,

Let me now very briefly outline the agenda of the Seminar and the structure of our joint work over the next one day and a half.

First, we would like to provide a comprehensive overview of the main international legal frameworks in the fight against corruption. We are going to learn more about the important work of Transparency International and we will also be introduced to the main provisions of the UN Convention Against Corruption and the OSCE approach and possible role.

Session II will offer the opportunity to you as representatives of relevant agencies in the region to give substantial presentations on your Governments' current policy mechanisms and legislative frameworks in the fight against corruption, particularly in the area of transport infrastructure development of course.

The following session will feature senior private and public sector representatives of EU countries as well as academia who will outline various legislation, techniques and methodologies for tackling corruption and creating a higher degree of transparency, predictability and accountability in public sector management.

Our work tomorrow will consist of trying to identify a number of region specific recommendations. In the afternoon we will then be invited by our hosts on a study tour to the Port of Batumi.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I look very much forward to a vivid exchange of views and ideas over the next two days and to a constructive and result oriented dialogue on these important issues.

Thank you for your attention.