



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MICHAEL W. BANACH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,
AT THE 832nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 OCTOBER 2010

**RE: REPORT BY THE CO-ORDINATOR OF
OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

Thank you, Mister Chairperson.

1. The Delegation of the Holy See joins the previous speakers in warmly welcoming back to the Permanent Council the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Goran Svilanović, and thanks him for his report outlining the priorities for his Office in the coming year.

His presence at the Permanent Council, on the heels of the Vienna part of the OSCE Review Conference dedicated to first and second dimension matters, attests to the importance and centrality of the economic and environmental activities of the OSCE in its pursuit of a comprehensive security framework. In fact, my Delegation is of the view that in dealing with economic and environmental issues our Organization should dedicate adequate attention to the implementation of the commitments undertaken by the CSCE/OSCE over the last thirty-five years. At the same time, there are also new challenges which cannot be ignored.

2. Mr. Svilanović has reminded us of the focus of the activities of his Office. These include promoting good governance, combating corruption and its related phenomena, fostering effective migration policies and promoting sustainable development by calling attention to environmental security issues. As we mentioned on several occasions during the recent Review Conference, these are issues that my Delegation believes need to be addressed.

In this vein, Pope Benedict XVI recently asked: *“Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change, desertification, the deterioration and loss of productivity in vast agricultural areas, the pollution of*

rivers and aquifers, the loss of biodiversity, the increase of natural catastrophes and the deforestation of equatorial and tropical regions? Can we disregard the growing phenomenon of “environmental refugees”, people who are forced by the degradation of their natural habitat to forsake it – and often their possessions as well – in order to face the dangers and uncertainties of forced displacement? Can we remain impassive in the face of actual and potential conflicts involving access to natural resources? All these are issues with a profound impact on the exercise of human rights, such as the right to life, food, health and development” (Message for the World Day of Peace 2010, n. 4).

3. It will come as no surprise that my Delegation attaches great importance to the topic of migration. Migrants are now a felt priority by the international community. In the opinion of the Holy See, two important topics in contemporary migration could receive greater attention in the formulation of policies: the victims of migration flows and the priority that migrants as human persons have over the economy. The whole system of protection and of human rights cannot be relegated to a secondary supporting role; instead, it must serve, as intended, to give assurances that the dignity of all human persons must take precedence. In this time of economic and financial upheaval, there is a growing consensus on the importance of paying more attention to migrants themselves and not only to their economic role as temporary workforce or permanent settlers. In this context, the rights of migrants must be a primary consideration.

4. In the second “basket”, energy security also deserves our attention. Energy means development and development means power – the power to do good and to promote human rights.

5. Even well-functioning structures can be improved. The Holy See appreciates the efforts recently undertaken to enhance the effectiveness of the OSCE’s Economic and Environmental Dimension. We will continue to participate in the discussions by making our specific contribution to the work in this area.

6. In conclusion, I would like to assure the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities of the co-operation of the Delegation of the Holy See and renew the wish for every success as he continues to carry out the mandate entrusted to him by the participating States.

Thank you, Mister Chairperson!