OSCE Vienna Review Conference Vienne, October 19 2010

ENGLISH only

« The OSCE's role, including its field presences, in fostering stability and security and enhancing co-operation and integration in the area of its responsibility through co-operation with other international, regional, sub-regional organizations and initiatives as well as NGOs and the business community »

Statement of Poland

Mr Chairman,

First of all, allow me to thank the Kazakh Chairmanship, the Belarusian Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the Lithuanian Chair of the EED sessions for their hard work in organizing this very important conference.

Of course, Poland fully subscribes to the EU statement, but let me just join my French colleague in adding some comments concerning the joint FFT paper, presented within the framework of the Corfu process, on developing early-warning capacity in the second dimension and using the activities of the EED to build confidence among participating States.

The 2003 Maastricht Strategy acknowledged the firm conviction of the '56' that more effective cooperation by all the OSCE participating States on an equitable, mutually beneficial and non-discriminatory basis to counteract threats and challenges caused by economic and environmental factors, can make a crucial contribution to security, stability, democracy and prosperity in the OSCE region. Yesterday's opening session of the Vienna part of the Review Conference again emphasized the security aspect of the economic and environmental dimension as well as pointed out the need to further develop the confidence-building activities of the EED.

In order to enable the OSCE to react properly to emerging crises of economic and environmental nature, a roster of independent experts in the fields of scarce resources and environmental degradation could be used. This has been done successfully in the past, e.g. in assessing impact of fires on the environment in Georgia in 2008 and Nagorno Karabagh in 2006. The OSCE already has at its disposal the REACT system, which has been there for the last 10 years without its real potential being adequately used. We could explore the idea of revising and updating it to help improve the OSCE's capacity to deal with this kind of challenges.

We cannot forget that the economic and environmental threats go beyond borders and cannot be successfully tackled only at national basis. That is why we should focus on projects with a regional and sub-regional perspective. Transboundary and regional cooperation on economic and environmental issues proves a good catalyst for enhancing dialogue and building confidence, while concrete initiatives can be turned into CBMs. Projects carried out within the ENVSEC framework could be further encouraged.

We could also make better use of the presence of the Economic and Environmental Officers in the field as they can be helpful in assessing local challenges and warning of emerging crises on the ground. More exchange between them and our delegations in Vienna would be extremely beneficial.

Thank you Mr. Chairman