



## EUROPEAN UNION

### 20<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

Prague, 14 September 2012

### EU Closing Statement

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1. Mr. Chairperson, the OSCE participating States acknowledged in the Maastricht Strategy the critical importance of good governance and committed themselves to work on a national basis, with support of relevant international institutions, to strengthen good governance in all its aspects and to develop methods of cooperation to assist each other in achieving it.
2. The EU and its Member States welcome the fact that several concrete proposals have been put forward during this Forum. We appreciate further the Chairmanship's FFT paper on Strengthening OSCE Commitments on Promoting Good Governance and Transparency. Within the framework of the OSCE we will continue to engage constructively in considering these suggestions.
3. We thank the distinguished speakers during the whole Forum process for highlighting the cross-dimensional nature of good governance. It is obvious that many of the elements necessary for good governance are human rights related. Good governance requires public participation in decision-making. It requires transparency and accountability of states and the respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. The OSCE participating States should also bear in mind and acknowledge the existing international and regional initiatives and standards related to good governance, transparency and combating money laundering, terrorist financing and corruption as UNCAC, FATF, and instruments of other international organizations as OECD, World Bank, Council of Europe and the EU. We should endorse them and focus on their effective implementation in the OSCE area.
5. We have carefully listened to numerous presentations on fight against corruption and money laundering. Promoting good governance and transparency has been an integral part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and an important component of its work in the EED. In this context the significant role of civil society, private sector and free media in promoting good governance and ensuring transparency was emphasised and should therefore be highlighted in the Forum follow-up.
6. We reiterate our readiness to be actively engaged in the preparation of a possible Ministerial Council decision on Promoting Security and Stability through Good Governance to be adopted at the Dublin Ministerial Council.
7. We have heard several times that good governance activities, transparency and fight against corruption are of high political importance but they cannot flourish unless they are rooted in political will. The OSCE participating States should therefore use the momentum generated by the Forum deliberations to reiterate and reinforce their commitments related to good governance, transparency and combating corruption.
8. The discussions we have had in Prague, Dublin and Vienna confirmed our belief that promoting good governance is an issue relevant to our future discussions on various topics within the scope of EED. We would therefore welcome discussing future EED topics from a good governance perspective and in this manner ensuring continuity in the work of the Second Dimension.

9. Finally, we would like to thank the Czech authorities for hosting the 20th EEF and for their warm welcome here in Prague. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Irish Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator for their efforts in organising this Forum.

The acceding country CROATIA\*, the candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND\*\* and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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\* Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

\*\* Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.