



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 987  
Vienna, 6 March 2014**

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**EU Statement in Response to the Report by the  
Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental  
Activities, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yiğitgüden**

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The European Union warmly welcomes the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Dr. Yiğitgüden to the Permanent Council and thanks him for outlining the plans of his Office for this year.

We have studied carefully the draft work plan of your Office presented at the last Economic and Environmental Committee meeting and are broadly supportive of it. In this context, we would like to thank you for responding to our additional questions which provided us with some useful details regarding your activities.

We welcome your intention to ensure increased efficiency and prioritisation of your Office's activities, and to focus on security-related economic and environmental issues, and those issues where the OSCE can provide added value. It is essential for the OSCE to create synergies with other specialised international and regional organisations, and thus avoid duplication of efforts – the Environmental and Security (ENVSEC) initiative established in 2003 should be mentioned in this context as a good example.

Cooperation and coordination with other international and regional organisations, as well as good "in-house" cooperation with other departments of the Secretariat and with the OSCE institutions is, in our view, a necessity and the right approach given the limited human and financial resources. We

welcome that you have highlighted the necessity to cooperate and coordinate closely with the OSCE field presences. We attach high importance to their active involvement and feedback concerning second dimension activities and encourage your Office to continue liaising with Economic and Environmental Officers. We strongly support their participation in our discussions in Vienna.

We highly appreciate the attention you intend to devote to the promotion of good governance and transparency, combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. As you rightly point out in your work plan, the 2012 Dublin Declaration provides the OSCE with a comprehensive mandate to promote well governed, transparent and non-corrupt economies, and in turn growth, stability and security. We look forward to the Thematic Committee meeting and the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting focused on good governance issues which will hopefully generate further ideas on how to strengthen the OSCE's role and visibility in the area of good governance, transparency and the fight against corruption. We welcome the fact that your anti-corruption work is planned in partnership with other specialised actors, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Customs Organisation, OECD and others.

We fully support your efforts to apply a good governance approach to many of your activities, including in the environmental field. Multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships among governments, civil society, media and the private sector represent an important element in this regard. We value the work done so far in the area of environmental good governance through the ten-year support of Aarhus centres, as well as through the implementation of the Civic Action for Security and Environment, CASE.

We commend your work in the area of environment and security. We particularly welcome your intention to focus in 2014, as ENVSEC Regional Desk for South Caucasus, on promoting good examples of confidence building through environmental cooperation. We believe that the discussions in the

framework of the 2014 Economic and Environmental Forum offer another opportunity to further explore this important aspect of security-related environmental activities.

We welcome your emphasis on sustainable water management in line with the Chairmanship's priorities, with a special focus on trans-boundary water cooperation. We look forward to the thematic Committee meeting, as well as to the planned OSCE security day on "Enhancing Security through Water Diplomacy: The Role of the OSCE".

We would also appreciate more emphasis on the implementation of the Vilnius Decision 10/11 on "Promoting Equal Opportunity for Women in the Economic Sphere" and we note with satisfaction your office's cooperation with the gender section in this regard.

Finally, we also look forward to engaging in the implementation of the two Ministerial Council decisions related to energy and environment, and protection of energy networks that were adopted in Kyiv last year.

In conclusion, we wish you and your able team a successful year and assure you of our support.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, MONACO and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* 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 the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.