



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

24th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

“Strengthening stability and security through co-operation on good governance”

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING

Berlin, 19 - 20 May 2016

Closing Statement

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Madame Chair,
Ambassadors,
Dear Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the conclusion of the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 24th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the interesting, stimulating and thought provoking two days we have had. We would like to thank the Chairmanship, all speakers and moderators and of course delegations.

A clear message can be taken from this meeting: connectivity with its good economic and migration governance aspects is key for promoting peace, strengthening cooperation and ultimately stimulating inclusive economic growth.

Mr. Frey and Ms. Weidenfeld have just summarized the main messages from the economic and migration governance sessions. I will not go into the details of the ideas that have been put forward. These ideas represent useful food-for-thought for our deliberations in the coming months, in view of the Concluding Meeting of the EEF in Prague and of the Ministerial Council in Hamburg.

As Mr. Erler stated, and I quote “good governance is a key, maybe the key, to improved economic relations in our common space. And economic cooperation is not only a goal in itself, but also an essential contribution to the prevention of conflicts between and within participating States and thereby to security and stability in the whole OSCE area”. Transport and trade have an important role to play as key contributing factors to economic growth, in integrating markets, and as mentioned today, in building bridges among markets, nations and peoples worldwide.

But, the prevention of conflicts and the promotion of stability and security, for which the OSCE has been mandated since its beginning, can only be achieved with a strong and active involvement of all actors. Actors that should genuinely promote and actively be part of more

transparent inclusive, and fair societies. This is what Prof. Eigen called the “magic triangle” which includes the State, the business community, and the civil society. It is with the “magic triangle” that we, OCEEA, want to strengthen our cooperation towards a more stable, secure, and prosperous OSCE area.

This is not an easy task. Strengthening this “triangular cooperation” implies also strengthening mutual understanding, overcoming mental barriers and looking for areas of common interest where synergies and partnerships can be built for a better global governance. In this regard, the efforts put by the German Chairmanship in actively involving representatives of civil society and the business sector should be praised. It represents a clear guiding principle for my Office in the implementation of our activities aimed at supporting participating States in complying with their good governance commitments. I am happy to note that this pattern will also be followed next year by the incoming Austrian Chairmanship.

Madame Chairperson,

The OCEEA has a number of activities we have planned, together with our partner organizations, that can be adapted and reshaped in order to better involve the private sector and civil society.

I am specifically thinking about the support that we will provide to participating States in implementing their anti-corruption commitments, in particular those related to the **UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)**. A 2-year project on “*Fostering a participatory approach towards preventing corruption in Central Asia*” is ready to receive the necessary funds and start its implementation.

We have recently published a **Handbook on Combating Corruption** and we will use this publication at training and capacity building events, where the business community and civil society could also be involved. In this regard, we will be happy to explore ways to improve our cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce on conflict of interests in the private and public sectors.

As mentioned by Mr. Simonneau, the costs of corruption are enormous and good governance is fundamental in the investment choices. But, as highlighted yesterday in Session III, good governance policies are “just words on papers”. What is needed is “enforcement” and “enforcement” is done by “people”. Ultimately promoting “good governance” means promoting “ethical standards” and “due diligence”, including avoiding “conflicts of interest”. These are all areas where both the private and public sectors have a clear role to play and a clear responsibility to bear. The OCEEA has in this regard started a project on **Money in Politics** together with ODIHR and field operations in Southeast Europe. This fall we will organize a regional workshop in Vienna with the aim to identify trends and share best practices in combatting political corruption in the areas of political party financing, public officials’ assets and income disclosure, abuse of state resources, public procurement, and money laundering in order to share regional best practices and explore how the OSCE can better support participating States.

Finally, let me mention that, as clearly demonstrated by today’s last two sessions, there is a strong need to work together to make migration a key factor for economic development and growth. There is, in particular, a strong need to address dysfunctional labour migration policies that do not allow the most suitable allocation of human resources and skills where they are needed. My Office will continue to support the dialogue on **good migration governance**, and as a follow-up to the Security Days in Rome in March, we will organize an **Expert meeting in Vienna** on 17 June to explore areas for an enhanced role the OSCE can play in this important policy field. In particular, the meeting aims at promoting a peer-review

process, collecting inputs from think tanks, practitioners and experts as well as international organizations mandated to work on migration-related issues. We will greatly value the participation of delegations of participating States and Partners for Cooperation, including experts from Capitals.

Finally, allow me to mention that my Office, in cooperation with the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is implementing an extra-budgetary project on “**Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains through Government Practices and Measures**” aiming at contributing to the promotion of labour and social standards in supply chains, the overall fight against corruption and the introduction of sound financial management and economic governance.

Madame Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to thank the German Chairmanship, the moderators, the speakers and the rapporteurs, the interpreters, the conference service staff, as well as the colleagues from my Office for their joint contribution to the success of this event. I also want to thank all participants for their active contribution, and to wish you a safe trip back home.