

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**Economic and Environmental Forum
Prague, 26th May 2010**

EU Closing Statement at the final segment of the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum

The European Union thanks the Kazakh Chairmanship, the Secretary General of the OSCE, the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE staff for having organised the second part of the Economic and Environmental Forum. We would also like to thank our Czech hosts for their warm hospitality.

The European Union has greatly appreciated the presentations of the speakers. They have highlighted the strategic importance of transport development to enhance regional economic cooperation and stability. Efficient and secure transport requires good public and corporate governance and strong institutions at all levels. These are essential foundations for a sound economy, to reduce poverty and inequality, to increase social integration and to provide opportunities for all. The EU is willing to share its experience in this field with interested partners.

We would especially like to thank the UNECE for their excellent reporting and for reviewing our common OSCE commitments. We have seen again that cooperation between the UNECE and the OSCE in the economic and environmental field is of central importance. We

would have welcomed, nevertheless, more focus on the review of the implementation of OSCE commitments, against the background of the OSCE acquis of political documents, including the Ministerial Decisions taken in Brussels in 2006, and in Helsinki in 2008.

As the review session and the number of interventions confirmed, the OSCE can play a role in the promotion of the wider acceptance and implementation of existing international legal instruments and the exchange of best practices.

We have also seen that good governance at border crossings remains a challenge to transport security and trade; tools such as the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept can make a useful contribution in this regard.

The EU reiterates that useful work can be done in deepening regional and sub-regional cooperation and in assisting landlocked countries and regions in overcoming their transport-related problems, for example with regard to Central Asia, including Afghanistan.

The EU recalls the importance of developing environment-sensitive transport networks, as set out in the OSCE 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. The OSCE, in cooperation with other international Organisations, can contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into transport policies, through the involvement, for example, of Aarhus Centres.

The EU takes note of the proposals put forward during this Forum, including the proposal for a joint OSCE-UNECE seminar on inland transport security. The EU looks forward to engaging in the process of identifying areas in the field of transport where the OSCE can provide added value.

The EU supports the synchronization of the Chairmanship's year with the Forum cycle and also looks forward to the discussion on the Lithuanian Chairmanship's theme for next year's Forum.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the European Union would like to thank the Kazakh Chairmanship, the Office of the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and his staff, as well as the Prague Office, for the organisation of the Forum. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the Czech hosts, whose warm hospitality helped us to work efficiently during the last three days.