

PC.DEL/1412/15  
23 October 2015

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ANDREY RUDENKO, DEPUTY PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE  
1072nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 October 2015

**In response to the report by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Activities, Mr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Yigitgüden,

We thank you for your detailed report on the main activities of the Office headed by you.

We commend the Office's contribution to the successful holding of the Economic and Environmental Forum and note the extremely useful assistance provided by the Co-ordinator's team to the fruitful work of the Economic and Environmental Committee and its thematic meetings.

The latest OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting concluded its work the day before yesterday, during which the topics of combating corruption and good governance in the environmental sphere were discussed. The detailed exchange of views confirmed that the OSCE has sufficient instruments to work in these areas that are of importance to all participating States.

We welcome the fact that environmental good governance and combating corruption remain among the priorities in the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA). In that connection, we take the position that the specialist United Nations institutions should play the lead role in this process.

We appreciate the Office's activities regarding migration management. The substantive cross-dimensional discussion that took place during the joint meeting of the three Permanent Council committees on the problems posed by the wave of migration engulfing Europe confirmed the relevance of the Office's work in this area. We trust that it will continue to take part in the preparation and holding of specialist regional events on this issue.

One of the OSCE's important assets is the economic and environmental project work carried out by its field presences at the request of the host countries. We note the positive

trend of improved co-operation between the OCEEA and mission staff responsible for economic and environmental projects, as well as their regular participation in second dimension events. At the same time, questions remain regarding the transparency of missions' project activities carried out using extrabudgetary funds. Co-operation between missions is not always in place, even within a single region.

There is untapped potential for greater involvement of business communities and academic circles in the Office's activities.

We supported the proposal by the incoming German Chairmanship to devote the 2016 Economic and Environmental Forum to strengthening stability and security through co-operation on good governance. The proposed discussion of business links and the investment climate, combating corruption, good migration governance and sustainable economic development will provide an opportunity to cover a wide range of questions of significance to all participating States. We believe that the development of substantive dialogue within the OSCE with the assistance of Mr. Yigitgüden's team will help to consolidate collective efforts by participating States to solve these problems.

At the same time, the global financial and economic crisis and its consequences for the social and economic situation of a significant proportion of the population of our countries, including problems such as rising unemployment, cuts in welfare payments, increasing poverty and a deterioration in the quality of education remain off the OCEEA's radar for now.

We believe that the Office should develop its work with account taken of the strategic tasks facing all participating States to increase the unifying potential of co-operation in the social and economic sphere. I am referring to assistance in establishing a common economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok, intensifying co-operation between integration associations in the OSCE area, removing obstacles to the development of trade and investment links, a transition in the future to free movement of goods, services, capital and labour, and common harmonized regulations for the conduct of business.

We trust that these thoughts will be taken into account when determining the Office's work plans for the future.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Mr. Yigitgüden and his team continued success in their important work.

Thank you for your attention.