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## Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 776  
Vienna 15 October 2009**

### **EU statement in response to the report by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Goran Svilanović**

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The European Union warmly welcomes the Coordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities Mr. Svilanović and thanks him for his report.

Madam Chair, as outlined by Mr. Svilanović, this year activities in the EED have been concentrated on the security aspects of migration, energy and climate change, as well as on the Future Orientation of the Second Dimension. Bearing also in mind the ongoing Corfu process discussions, we believe that those areas should be among the core themes of the OCEEA's activities in the next years and should be reflected in the 2010 Action Plan as well as in a pooling and shifting of resources of the 2010 OCEEA budget.

At the same time the EU reiterates its position on the necessity for the Office of the Coordinator of focusing, also through supporting documents and reports to the participating States, on areas of activity directly linked to security, with the aim of avoiding duplication

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with the role and work of other relevant fora and international organizations.

Building on the outcomes of the Bratislava Conference, and of the thematic committee meeting devoted to energy security, the EU looks forward to identifying a relevant role for the OSCE to play, in which it can bring added value with a view to its specific mandate. We see merit in the OSCE continuing to provide a forum for discussions and facilitating communication among participating States on issues like security of delivery; prevention of disruptions, good governance within the energy sector; and the status of transit. Energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, diversification and the interlinkage with the climate change challenge are topics of particular relevance in this exchange of views on energy security. In this context, we believe that any OSCE involvement in these issues should not duplicate the roles of other actors, the Energy Charter Treaty in particular. The EU would be interested in Mr. Svilanović's view on the role of his Office and other OSCE structures in the Euroatlantic and Eurasian energy security dialogue.

The EU also attaches major importance to the issue of the possible security implications of climate change in an OSCE context. We agree that the main forum responsible for climate change is the UN. However, the EU continues to believe that the OSCE has a role to play in addressing the possible security implications of climate change. This is not only because of its comprehensive approach to security, but also because it has the broad regional framework necessary to play an appropriate role on such regional challenges. In the Madrid Declaration of 2007, the OSCE participating States recognized that the OSCE has a complementary role to play within its mandate in addressing this challenge in its specific region.

We are grateful to the Greek Chairmanship for having organised, with the support of the OCEEA, and the Romanian government for having hosted last week the conference on “The security implications of climate change in the OSCE region”. Building upon the Bucharest Conference results and prior work in the OSCE, we hope that this year, consensus can be reached on a Ministerial decision on this subject.

Madam Chair, the EU finds the Chairmanship’s report on the future orientation of the second dimension to be of great value. We encourage the present and incoming OSCE Chairmanships to work together, with the assistance of the OCEEA, in order to act on the recommendations of the report.

The EU reiterates its appreciation of the Greek Chairmanship’s attention, in addition to the focus on the EEF process and its theme, to other topics relevant to the second dimension in line with the OCEEA’s Action plan. The organisation of thematic Economic and Environmental committee meetings has provided useful continuity in the work of the second dimension. We are confident that the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship, with the assistance of the OCEEA, will follow the Greek model and focus on key economic and environmental issues.

Madam Chair, the EU is ready to build on this year’s discussions by taking into consideration the complementary role the OSCE could play. We look forward to discussions in the Ministerial Council and would like to express our support for your efforts to ensure that the economic and environmental dimension remains an integral part of

the comprehensive approach to security of the OSCE and of any future Dialogue on European Security. We trust that the Coordinator and his Office can play an important role in this sense also by developing mechanisms for early warning and CBMs through economic and environmental cooperation.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Mr. Svilanović and his team for their dedicated work and wish them the best of success in their future activities.

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

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