

Speaking Points EEF

Ambassador Clemens Koja

Session II: The way to Hamburg

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First, we would like to thank the Czech Republic for hosting another economic and environmental Forum meeting and the German Chairmanship as well as the Office of the Co-ordinator for organising this Event. We fully support the German Chairmanship in its efforts to strengthen the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE as the fruitful discussions at the first two Preparatory Meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum as well as at the CiO Business Conference produced ample food for thought in the fields of good governance and connectivity. In all these meetings it was particularly stimulating to hear the reports of some of our field missions; they are our main agencies for increasing capacities in all areas of good governance.

Consequently, Austria attaches great importance to both these priorities of the German Chairmanship. In this respect, we are very pleased to be in good company with the Czech Republic, as we heard from Special Envoy Stefan Füle, and with our Turkish and Swiss colleagues and others.

The German initiative to work on connectivity has already been successful in reinvigorating the Economic and Environmental Dimension, which has been underutilized for the last decade. It is our belief that the adoption of a Ministerial Council Decision in Hamburg in the fields of good governance and connectivity would represent a further important step in this regard, which we therefore fully support. As for the food-for-thought paper on a possible Ministerial Council Decision, the four elements proposed therein fully reflect the OSCE's added value.

Firstly, enhancing good governance represents, of course, a core function of the OSCE. Both private and public sectors must fight together against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism and must ensure a sound investment climate. Moreover we strongly support the discussion on good governance in supply chains and adherence to social, labour and environmental standards. Promoting connectivity through transport and trade facilitation, on the other hand, is crucial for further enhancement of cooperation among participating states and contributes to more security and stability within the OSCE region.

In this regard we should refocus on the underutilized potential of our field missions. Instead, we need to reverse the trend of cutting personnel and funds and reinvigorate particularly the organizational capacity of the secretariat and field missions to assist PS!

With a view to our incoming Chairmanship, we aim at continuing and building upon the great achievements of the German Chairmanship in these areas, for which we

would like to express our sincere gratitude, and look very much forward to discussing these ideas in greater detail in the preparation of the Ministerial Council.