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Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**First Preparatory Conference of the 18th
Economic and Environmental Forum
Astana 12-13 October 2009**

EU Speaking Points

The EU would like to thank the incoming Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship and the OCEEA for organizing this first preparatory conference of the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum. We look forward to interesting discussions on the promotion of good governance at border crossings and on various security aspects of transportation in the OSCE region. We recognize the specific importance that this general topic has for the Central Asian region and for other landlocked countries of the OSCE area.

As has been stated on several occasions, the EU appreciated the Kazakh approach of elaborating this Forum theme by means of open and extensive consultations with all interested delegations in Vienna. We encourage Kazakhstan to continue to make use of such a constructive approach across all three OSCE dimensions in the months ahead as well as throughout its Chairmanship year.

To strengthen the continuity in the activities of the Economic and Environmental Dimension is highly important for the EU. Therefore,

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we welcome the intention of the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship to follow the Greek model of organizing thematic Committee meetings in Vienna in order to continue to work on other important economic and environmental issues in parallel to the Forum process. From an EU perspective, the security aspects of migration, energy security, the security implications of climate change as well as environment and security are among the topics which should continuously be discussed in this way.

Throughout the Forum process, the EU will have a clear focus on the security aspects of the Forum theme and will pay special attention to what we believe are the key elements: border issues, good governance, rule of law, transparency, the fight against corruption and the impact of transportation on environment and security. We stand ready to contribute to a constructive, open-minded and fruitful dialogue in all four phases of the Forum discussions.