

Prohlášení

Statement

Déclaration

Vienna 28 May 2009

Permanent Council No. 762

EU Statement in response to the presentation of the 2010 Programme Outline by the Secretary General

The European Union would like to thank the Secretary General for his presentation of the 2010 Programme Outline, as well as the Secretariat and the Fund Managers for drafting the document under discussion.

We would like to outline in general terms areas which we consider as our priorities and also to touch upon some general issues that concerns the 2010 Programme Outline exercise. Each individual Fund will be addressed on its own merits and in detail during the discussions in the PrepCom.

The PC.DEC/553 introduced the Programme Outline (PO) as an important planning tool on the basis of which the participating States should establish the programme priorities for the preparation of the OSCE's Unified Budget. Last year, the EU supported the idea of merging the Programme Outline discussion with the one on Programme Budget Performance Report, in order to streamline the whole budgetary process and to make the discussion more relevant in terms of providing guidance for the preparation of the Unified Budget proposal. The EU encourages the Chairmanship further to pursue the goal of reaching consensus on this issue and calls upon all participating States to show the necessary flexibility to this end.

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Mister Chair,

The EU is fully aware of the impact of the financial and economic crisis on budgets of participating States, a concern that affects us all and therefore cannot be neglected. However, we believe the Programme Outline discussion on the work of the OSCE in 2010 should remain focused primarily on priorities. Against the background that the OSCE's capacity and resources are likely to remain limited, we should also therefore consider what activities have been successfully concluded or are no longer a priority.

The financial aspects will be discussed in the course of budgetary discussions in the autumn. However, the EU encourages the Fund Managers at the outset to set realistic objectives and strive for more efficiency and prudent budgetary planning focusing on areas where OSCE activities can bring real added value. Moreover, the EU reiterates its long-term focus on the operational rather than administrative activities of the Organisation. In this vein, all OSCE executive structures should be encouraged to engage even more in the field. The EU will also support greater flexibility for Institutions and field operations as it is important for their efficient functioning, and encourage less complicated management procedures.

Our primary goal is to enhance the OSCE's effectiveness as an organisation able to address and respond to security challenges in all three dimensions in the 21st century. The OSCE is and should remain a vibrant and dynamic forum for comprehensive discussions on European security with due focus on implementation of our commitments to co-

operation, security and stability. Crisis management in all forms and the promotion of respect for human rights across the OSCE area should remain at the core of the OSCE's confidence and security building work, together with the resolution of protracted conflicts in all their aspects, which is long overdue.

Border management, policing and combating terrorism, as well as programmes in the areas of SALW and conventional ammunition are all supported by the EU, as they aim to enhance confidence and security within and around the OSCE area. The OSCE should also consider its capability to respond to new threats, e.g. in the area of cyber security.

The EU supports the important confidence building potential of the economic and environmental dimension *inter alia* in the resolution of protracted conflicts or the improvement of management of scarce resources such as water in the OSCE area. However, the EU has frequently drawn attention to the fact that some activities in this dimension lack clear security implications or go far beyond the core competencies of the OSCE. Such activities should be discontinued and the OSCE should streamline its second dimension activities and focus primarily on the development of legal and institutional frameworks in order to strengthen the rule of law and good governance to combat corruption and to promote confidence-building regional cooperation.

In this vein, the EU is actively engaged in the ongoing discussion on the future of the EED and hopes for streamlined and more relevant set of activities that will allow the participating States to fulfil their commitments in this dimension as defined in the Maastricht Strategy. The EU prefers a more strategic and long-term rather than a short-term approach in this

area. The EU also supports discussions on the security implications of climate change and energy security.

The EU continues to attach very high priority to human dimension of the OSCE. The commitments in this dimension should be preserved and actively promoted in the whole OSCE area. Support for democratisation, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and elections are the core activities undertaken in the human dimension. The EU regrets that too little emphasis is dedicated to these activities in the introductory chapter "Overview of thematic activities implemented by OSCE executive structures" in the 2010 Programme Outline document. We trust that it does not imply any shift in the focus of the OSCE's activities. There are many outstanding challenges in the areas mentioned above as well as in other areas – for example the fight against trafficking in human beings, combating all forms of intolerance and discrimination, including with regard to Roma and Sinti, and gender mainstreaming – that deserve our attention and should remain on the agenda of all OSCE executive structures.

Mister Chair,

The EU agrees that certain important aspects of the OSCE work are of a cross-dimensional nature. This underlines the need for better co-ordination and co-operation among all OSCE executive structures to address issues such as combating trafficking, countering terrorism, border management, policing, migration, tolerance and non-discrimination, or gender mainstreaming.

The EU supports an effective and efficient Secretariat that provides necessary support to all other OSCE executive structures to fulfil their mandates. The co-ordination function of the Secretariat is vital to the successful work of this Organisation as a whole. However, we still have concerns about the lack of co-ordination among the OSCE structures; not only between programmatic units and field operations and Institutions, but also among the Secretariat's units. Duplication should be avoided not only within the OSCE itself but also with other international actors in the field, which is a responsibility of the Fund Managers. The Secretariat should set an example in striving for more transparency, accountability and effectiveness while preserving flexibility of the OSCE structures.

ODIHR enjoys the long-term support of the EU. It should preserve its autonomous character and its broad scope of work. However, coordination and cooperation especially with the Secretariat and field operations could be improved. The EU also reaffirms its full support to the valuable activities of HCNM and RFoM. We encourage participating States to make a full use of their expertise and assistance.

The OSCE field operations are of a special value to the EU as they should assist countries in transition to functioning democracies. We encourage all host countries to make a full use of their expertise and assistance. With progress in some areas, consolidation and restructuring of some OSCE presences may be possible. Nevertheless, any consolidation should be based on an in-depth discussion of priorities and analysis of the fulfilment of the respective field operation's mandate.

South Eastern Europe is under particular surveillance of the EU that has repeatedly reconfirmed the European perspective of the countries of this

region. The EU sees a valuable role for the Organisation to play in this region and it supports the OSCE's continuing involvement including through field presences, in taking forward the reform process in synergy with other international organisations present in the region. The EU will scrutinise the proposed programmatic activities taking into account the results achieved in fulfilment of the mandate by each field operation. A needs-based approach will identify requirements, but these should then be matched to available capacities, an approach that will be applied to all field operations.

The South Caucasus region, suffering from protracted conflicts, requires the continuous attention of the OSCE. The EU has always supported the OSCE's presences in the region and its activities aiming at the resolution of protracted conflicts and promoting democratic reforms. To our regret, no consensus has been found yet on a mandate for a future OSCE presence in Georgia. The EU will continue to support actively the efforts of the Greek Chairmanship to restore a meaningful OSCE presence in Georgia soon.

The EU supports the assistance provided by the OSCE to all countries in the Eastern European region to meet their commitments in all three dimensions. Further promotion of democratic reforms and their consolidation should remain a considerable part of the OSCE's agenda there. The EU also supports the OSCE's crucial contribution to achieving a lasting, comprehensive and political settlement to the protracted conflict in the Republic of Moldova in all its aspects, including through the Mission's work in the economic sphere.

The EU has been an active supporter over recent years of the OSCE's increased engagement in Central Asia across all three dimensions. There remains much work to be done in promoting regional co-operation, democratisation and respect for human rights. The EU has also been increasing its focus on this region, recognising its importance for the security and stability in Europe and its strategic location in the neighbourhood of Afghanistan. This country is facing serious security challenges which may impact on Central Asian countries as well as the whole OSCE region. The OSCE should consider further strengthening its co-operation with Afghanistan, including enhancing border security and support for countering terrorism and preventing radicalisation, combating trafficking in illicit drugs and human beings, and ensuring respect for human rights and regional co-operation.

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, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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