



## EUROPEAN UNION

# Second Preparatory Meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum 23 – 24 May 2022, Łódź

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### EU Closing Statement

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1. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Polish Chairmanship, as well as the OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and his team, for organising this meeting under difficult circumstances. We would also like to express our thanks to the speakers, who offered interesting perspectives from the private sector, academia and civil society, to the moderators for stimulating our debates and to all participants for their insightful contributions.
2. This meeting granted us a valuable opportunity to learn from different viewpoints about building greener, more resilient and more inclusive economies and societies. We discussed the long-lasting impact of environmental damage on populations, but also opportunities that we must now seize to recover from crises and conflicts and rebuild towards green, sustainable and inclusive economies.
3. We have listened with interest to the panel discussion, which highlighted efforts to accelerate the energy transition and ways to ensure energy security, including through the increased use of renewables and diversification of energy suppliers. We continue to attach particular importance to strengthening the resilience of critical energy networks, increasing energy efficiency and

harnessing renewable energy as an effective means of enhancing energy security in OSCE participating States.

4. As Russia heads into the fourth month of its invasion of Ukraine, we also appreciated hearing many voices underlining the importance of addressing and alleviating the economic and environmental damage caused by Russian armed forces in Ukraine, the consequences of which have been felt far beyond Ukraine's borders. Increased water pollution and radioactive material in the atmosphere could affect the wider region. The disruption of Ukrainian exports of agricultural products poses risks to food security, including in the OSCE area. Urgent action is therefore needed. The OSCE must be at the forefront of such efforts and we support the OSCE in this regard.
5. As we stressed during the discussions, the European Union clearly identifies sustainable and inclusive economic development and environmental protection as cornerstones of our future security and prosperity. We therefore hope that the discussions from these past two days will serve as a basis to identify targeted actions that will ensure a sustainable recovery within the OSCE area, including in Ukraine. We are looking forward to our continued engagement with participating States on this topic and to identifying how the OSCE can add value and contribute to our common stability and security in this regard. Our dialogue will continue at Second Dimension Committee meetings in Vienna and at the upcoming Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague. In addition, we support the Secretary General's plan to reschedule the previously planned High-Level Conference on Climate Change to continue the process initiated by the relevant Ministerial Council decision adopted in Stockholm.
6. In conclusion, let me reaffirm the EU's readiness to continue engaging constructively in discussions on economic and environmental issues that have an impact on the security situation in the OSCE area.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.