

Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

14th Economic Forum
Prague, 22 May 2006

EU STATEMENT AT THE REVIEW SESSION

1. The European Union attaches great importance to the review of commitments in the Economic and Environmental dimension and thanks Mr. Capel Ferrer and the UNECE Secretariat for the interesting presentation and the comprehensive review report provided to us on the occasion of the Economic Forum.
2. The European Union reiterates its belief that the review of OSCE commitments is a benchmark in the implementation of the Maastricht Strategy. We see today's review session and the valuable contribution of the UNECE as a confirmation of the good track undertaken since last year. The European Union will contribute to further strengthening and guiding the activities of the Economic and Environmental dimension.
3. We welcome the good cooperation between the OSCE and the UNECE formalised in 2004 at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia with the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between our two organisations.
4. The progress made on the ongoing joint OSCE/UNECE "Pilot Project" demonstrates the opportunities that we have to further deepen the cooperation with the UNECE. We look forward to the results of the Pilot Project and to discussing the joint OSCE-UNECE action plan which will be presented by the end of the year.
5. As pointed out, the OSCE could play an important role in the promotion of the wider acceptance and implementation of international legal instruments and in the support of regional cooperation in the transport sector. In line with our belief that this Forum should be a result-oriented meeting, we welcome the concrete suggestions put forward by the UNECE and we stand ready to engage in a constructive dialogue in the months ahead.
6. We are convinced that today's review session and its conclusions can raise the profile of our organisation and we are also confident that the outcome of today's discussions will contribute to the further improvement of the review sessions for the years to come.

The Accessing Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

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