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**EUROPEAN UNION**

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**EU Statement in response to the Report by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

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The European Union warmly welcomes the Coordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities Dr. Yigitguden to the Permanent Council. We thank him for his report as well as for his work since the assumption of his duties earlier this year.

We value the role of the Economic and Environmental Dimension in addressing challenges and threats to security stemming from the economic and environmental sphere, as an integral part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. At the same time, we believe that the Second Dimension possesses an unutilised potential in the areas of confidence building and conflict prevention and we are therefore in favour of exploring this potential further.

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Maastricht Strategy, which constitutes the backbone of our EED commitments. While much of this document remains relevant today and it continues to provide us with strategic guidance in our discussions, we acknowledge that there is a need to update the Strategy so as to better reflect current needs. We believe that it is necessary to make sure that the strategic focus of the Second Dimension is in areas where the OSCE can add the most value, while increasing the EED's effectiveness and focusing on implementation.

Today's presentation gave us an overview of the activities carried out this year within the Second Dimension. The Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, 21st Economic and Environmental Forum, as well as

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the various thematic Economic and Environmental Committee Meetings have provided us with a useful insight into many important topics within the Second Dimension: good governance and anti-corruption, migration, public participation in environmental decision-making, and critical energy infrastructure protection to name but a few.

Good governance and transparency are top priorities for the EU and we consider these principles to be crucial across all three dimensions. Last year we reaffirmed our commitments in this area by adopting the Dublin Declaration on Good Governance. We should keep this momentum going, building on and strengthening our efforts in promoting good governance and combatting corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The EU also attaches great importance to the empowerment of civil society. In this regard, we highly value the work produced in this area by the Aarhus Centres as well as the CASE (Civic Action for Security and Environment) Small Grants Programme, which allow for the greater involvement of civil society, and thus the strengthening of environmental good governance which the Aarhus Convention promotes.

We see value in establishing and maintaining international and regional partnerships with other organisations active in the Second Dimension. In this context, we welcome the co-operation between the OSCE and the ENVSEC partners as well as the European Environment Agency in the environmental sphere and the areas of climate change and security, also taking into account the 2015 UN Conference on Climate Change.

The European Union pledges to engage constructively in deliberations in the run-up to the Ministerial Council. We aim to achieve tangible results by reaching consensus on the adoption of a ministerial decision in Kyiv.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Dr. Yigitguden and his team for their work and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

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The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO, align themselves with this statement.

\* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

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