

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1046
Vienna, 26 March 2015**

**EU statement in Response to the Report by the Coordinator
of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Dr. Halil
Yurdakul Yiğitgüden**

The European Union warmly welcomes the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Dr. Yiğitgüden, to the Permanent Council and thanks him for outlining the plans of his Office for this year.

We have studied carefully the draft work plan of your Office and are broadly supportive of it. In this context, we would like to thank you for following up on the EEC Meeting of 25 February and responding to our questions, and for attaching to the work plan a tentative calendar of OCEEA events in 2015.

We welcome your intention to ensure increased efficiency and prioritisation of your Office's activities, and to focus on security-related economic and environmental issues, and those issues where the OSCE can provide added value. It is essential for the OSCE to create synergies with other specialised international and regional organisations, and thus avoid duplication of efforts – the Environmental and Security (ENVSEC) initiative established in 2003 should be mentioned in this context as a good example.

Cooperation and coordination with other international and regional organisations, as well as good "in-house" cooperation with other departments of the Secretariat and with the OSCE institutions is, in our view, a necessity and the right approach given the limited human and financial resources. We welcome that you have highlighted the necessity to cooperate and coordinate closely with the OSCE field presences. We attach great importance to their active involvement and feedback concerning second dimension activities and encourage your Office to continue liaising with

Economic and Environmental Officers. We strongly support their participation in our discussions in Vienna.

We highly appreciate the attention you intend to devote to the area of good governance. We welcome that your anti-corruption work is planned in partnership with other specialised actors, such as the UNODC, World Bank, OECD etc. We look forward to the upcoming Thematic Committee meeting on 'Anti-corruption and Anti-money Laundering', the report by the IGOF on Anti-Corruption and the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting focused on good governance issues, all of which will hopefully generate further ideas on how to strengthen the OSCE's role and visibility in the area of good governance, transparency and the fight against corruption. In relation to this, we highly appreciate your office's cooperation with the IGOF on Anti-Corruption.

We fully support your efforts to apply a good governance approach to many of your activities, including in the environmental field. Multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships among governments, civil society, media and the private sector represent an important element in this regard. We value the work done so far in the area of environmental good governance through the support of Aarhus centres, as well as through the implementation of the Civic Action for Security and Environment, CASE.

We commend your work in the area of environment and security, including through the ENVSEC initiative. We welcome your work, as ENVSEC Regional Desk Office for South Caucasus, on promoting good examples of confidence building through environmental cooperation.

We highly appreciate your continuing focus on Climate Change, and in particular the security implications of climate change.

We welcome the attention paid to water management, in line with the Chairmanship's priorities, in your activities planned for this year. In particular, we

welcome your work within the framework of ENVSEC on promoting good water governance and strengthening trans-boundary water cooperation. We believe that the discussions in the framework of the 2015 EEF offer another opportunity to further explore this important aspect of security-related environmental activities. We look forward to the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the EEF where we will discuss the link between Disaster Risk Reduction and Water Governance. We believe that it is necessary for the OSCE to focus on the security aspects of water governance, and hope that the forthcoming preparatory meetings of the EEF this year will provide an answer as to how this can be done in practical terms.

On energy security, we appreciate your intention to build upon activities undertaken in the past years, while taking into account the two decisions adopted in Kyiv and the need to concentrate activities where the OSCE can provide added value.

We look forward to engaging in the implementation of the two Ministerial Council decisions related to DRR and the Prevention of Corruption that were adopted in Basel last year.

Finally, we wish you and your able team a successful year and assure you of our support.

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

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania 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.