



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1072 Vienna, 22 October 2015

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#### **EU Statement in Response to the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**

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The European Union warmly welcomes the coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, to the Permanent Council.

Mr. Coordinator, we have listened with interest to your report – which follows the annual Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting. We attach particular importance to your work of good governance and the fight against corruption.

During the EEDIM, the 2012 Dublin declaration was praised as a benchmark for the OSCE's work in good governance. The adoption of the 2014 Basel Ministerial Council Decision was also acknowledged as an important step. Much still needs to be done in this field. We encourage you, Mr Coordinator, your able staff and participating States to consider how to further strengthen the OSCE's performance in this very important area. We support the Coordinator's efforts to apply a good governance approach to many of his activities, including in the environmental field. Multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships among governments, civil society, media and the private sector are important. We value the work done so far through the support of Aarhus centres, as well as through the implementation of the Civic Action for Security and Environment.

We support the Coordinator's work in the area of environment and security, including through the ENVSEC initiative. We believe that ENVSEC promotes good examples of confidence building through environmental cooperation.

We also appreciate the activities of the OCEEA on water and security, especially in the context of transboundary and regional cooperation. Water issues can be a

catalyst for closer regional cooperation and integration. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Economic Environmental Forum provided us with a good opportunity to explore this important issue. We are pleased that the Chairmanship will put forward a draft decision on water governance for adoption at the Belgrade Ministerial Council.

We appreciate the continued focus by the OCEEA on the security implications of climate change. We particularly praise the support the OSCE provided in the development of the recently endorsed Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. We also welcome the next Security Days conference on 28 October “Climate change and security: unpredictable impacts, unprecedented risks”, which we trust will help identify new activities for the OSCE linked to the security implications of climate change.

The European Union recognises the role that the OSCE can play in supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction, in close cooperation with the OSCE field operations. The risks associated with natural disasters are growing. We support further activities of the OCEEA focusing on issues related to disaster risk reduction, based on the Ministerial decision from 2014 and on protection of energy networks from natural disasters, based on the Ministerial decision from 2013.

We consider close cooperation and coordination with the OSCE field presences a priority. We attach great importance to their active involvement and feedback concerning second dimension activities and encourage the OCEEA to continue liaising with Economic and Environmental Officers. We also strongly support their participation in our discussions here in Vienna.

Finally, we welcome that both economic and environmental activities of the Office of the Coordinator are conducted in close cooperation and collaboration with other relevant OSCE executive structures and specialised international actors such as the OECD, the UN Economic Commission for Europe and through ENVSEC.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you, Mr Coordinator, and your dedicated staff for your hard work and wish you every success in the future.

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, GEORGIA, ANDORRA 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.