



## Closing Remarks by Ambassador Vytautas Naudužas

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

### 19<sup>TH</sup> OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

“Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport”

#### **SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING**

#### **(DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT)**

4-5 April 2011, Druskininkai, Lithuania,

Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start my closing remarks by expressing, on behalf of the Lithuanian Chairmanship, my thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this meeting, Mr. Goran Svilanovic the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and his Office, the Moderators, Panelists and Speakers of our sessions, the Rapporteurs, all those who actively participated in the debates, representatives of Governments, International Organizations, NGOs, etc.

Transport related issues have been in the focus of past Economic and Environmental Forum meetings. In the spirit of continuity, the Lithuanian Chairmanship wants to further contribute to defining the OSCE role in this important field, to strengthening co-operation with partner organizations, to streamlining the OSCE approach and activities in a number of transport related areas and to bring into discussion additional elements, in particular the linkage between transport and environment.

I do believe that our meeting in Druskininkai has been instrumental in this regard. Let me turn to some agenda items we have been discussing over the last two days.

Many speakers have emphasized the link between transport, environment, safety and security. We have also heard about various initiatives aiming at maximizing the economic efficiency of transport while minimizing its impact on the environment. In this regard I would like to highlight the recently issued European Commission White Paper - *Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area - Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system*, which includes concrete initiatives for the next decade to build a competitive transport system that will increase mobility, remove major barriers in key areas and fuel growth and employment

Indeed, in order to meet the challenges on efficient and sustainable transportation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we need a strategic perspective, long term planning, a comprehensive approach and multi-stakeholder co-operation. Our action should be consistent and persistent, at local, national, regional and international level.

During our meeting we also exchanged views on co-ordination and simplification of border crossing and customs clearance procedures. The Lithuanian Chairmanship is pleased to learn that the joint OSCE/UNECE initiative for the development of a Handbook of best practices at border crossings, stemming from the recommendations of past Economic and Environmental Forums, is making good progress and that the publication will be launched soon. We are looking forward to that, as well as to further capacity building activities in the area of transport facilitation.

Improving logistics, co-ordination and integration of transport networks covering various transport modes, was yet another important topic discussed. This is very much in line with one of the key priorities of the Lithuanian Chairmanship in the Economic and Environmental Dimension, namely strengthening regional and sub-regional co-operation. Lithuania also considers that increased attention should be dedicated to the development of ‘Green Corridors’ allowing for long-distance freight transport routes using advanced technology and co-modality in order to achieve higher levels of energy efficiency and reduce environmental consequences.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appreciated the spirit of genuine dialogue that characterized our debates over the last two days, the openness in sharing information and exchanges best practices.

Let me once more express the commitment of the Lithuanian Chairmanship for ensuring a substantial follow-up to this Economic and Environmental Forum. To that end we should all engage in a process of analyzing and assessing the conclusions and recommendations of this meeting, as well as of the previous one, in Vienna, in February. We should identify priorities and the way forward. In this regard the Chairmanship counts very much on the strong support from the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. We also count on the active contribution from Delegations, in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee in Vienna. We would also welcome input from other stakeholders. I am confident that such a co-operative and inclusive approach will generate in the end positive results.

In the end, let me thank all of you for coming to Lithuania. I am looking forward to meeting you again, at the Concluding Meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, on 14-16 September, In Prague.

I thank you for your attention.