



## EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Review Conference  
Vienna, 19 October 2010**

**“From Bonn to Maastricht and beyond: Adapting the OSCE  
economic and environmental dimension to changing challenges”**

### **EU Statement**

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Mr Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The European Union would like to seize this opportunity to express its strong engagement in the Review Process of the Economic and Environmental Dimension (EED) which starts today. Reviewing our commitments and expectations is one of the main aspects of this exercise. But we also believe that an effort is needed by us all to look forward and give the EED clear and precise guidance. The CiO Food-for-Thought paper “From Bonn to Astana via Maastricht” as well as the concrete ideas put forward by EU Member States for the consideration of partners in the framework of the Corfu Process could represent a starting point for our future reflections.

Since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act tremendous progress has been achieved in the social, economic and environmental development and cooperation of the countries of the OSCE region. Nevertheless, we believe that the expectations raised, in particular by the Bonn Document

of 1990, have not been fully met. Good governance is still a challenge for all of us, as recently demonstrated for instance by the financial crisis.

Economic and environmental challenges, if not well managed, could constitute an increased risk to our security. Identifying and mapping existing and potential challenges and risks to security and stability is an important task that has a clear early warning function. With this goal in mind, the EU supports the OSCE's work in the areas of security aspects of climate change, land degradation, water scarcity, reduced access to natural resources and related forced migration. The EU is convinced that the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE is an integral element of OSCE's early warning and conflict prevention activities.

Furthermore, the EU supports OSCE's cross-dimensional work in promoting good governance, transparency, rule of law and combating corruption and is convinced that the OSCE can play an important and useful role in these issues. The EU will elaborate on these priorities under each relevant session of the Review Conference.

The EU strongly believes that by developing closer cooperation and dialogue between States, the OSCE promotes mutual trust and builds confidence, both essential conditions for preventing and resolving conflicts. The EU therefore thinks that it is very desirable to take forward the recommendation relating to the confidence building role of the 2<sup>nd</sup> dimension that can be found in the CiO's report on the future orientation of the EED of the OSCE (Verbeek report). Comprehensive implementation of the Verbeek report's recommendations also remains a priority for the EU.

The concept of the OSCE as a Platform for Co-operative Security, agreed upon at the Istanbul Summit, makes clear that the OSCE should provide for a flexible coordinating framework, through which various organisations can reinforce each other, drawing on their particular strengths. This does not mean that the OSCE always has to play the leading role in international cooperation. Adding value and seeking synergies to what is already being undertaken outside the OSCE are crucial elements of the platform concept. And in this respect an important task was given to the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities namely that it should identify fields where the OSCE can add value to the work of other organisations working to promote greater economic and environmental cooperation.

Against this background, the EU's answer to the question on where the OSCE can add value is clear. All OSCE activities in the EED should be more closely linked to the core mandate of this organisation: peace and stability of, and within the OSCE region.

This of course is not new. This concept is part of the documents agreed at the Lisbon and Istanbul Summits, and in the Maastricht Strategy. As early as 1999 the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities was tasked to produce, under the authority of the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General and in close cooperation with the relevant OSCE field operations, regular reports on economic and environmental risks to security in the OSCE region for discussion in the Permanent Council. As was stated by the Istanbul Summit Declaration, these reports should include questions of promoting public awareness of the relationship between economic and environmental problems and security and the relationship between our Organization and others concerned with the

promotion of economic and environmental security within the OSCE area.

One may, therefore conclude, that the main role of the OSCE in the 2<sup>nd</sup> dimension has become clearer. One may also conclude that its role has become more difficult, because the developments in the 2<sup>nd</sup> dimension have led to new threats and challenges, and more often of a transnational character.

We should use this Review Conference to see how to better implement our commitments in the 2<sup>nd</sup> dimension and identify actions necessary to deal effectively with risks and challenges to security, including by updating the existing commitments in order to allow the organization to respond to new threats to security. We believe that this Review Conference could prepare the ground for ambitious but at the same time realistic decisions to be taken with respect to the future role and direction of the OSCE in the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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