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České předsednictví
v Radě EU

Czech Presidency
of the Council of the EU

Présidence tchèque
du Conseil de l'UE

2009

17th Economic and Environmental Forum
Athens, 20th May 2009
EU Closing Statement

The European Union thanks the Greek Chairmanship, the Secretary General of the OSCE, the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE staff for having organized the second part of the Economic and Environmental Forum. In particular, we would like to thank our Greek hosts for their warm hospitality.

Madame Chair, the OSCE has an important role to play in facilitating dialogue between participating States in the area of migration. In particular, the EU believes that the OSCE could concentrate its efforts on those aspects of migration where it can have added value in comparison to other international organizations, such as the relationship between migration and stability and security within the OSCE region. In this regard, an issue to further explore may be the potential security implications of the economic crisis and its effects on migration.

The EU is aware of the multifaceted nature of the migration phenomenon and maintains an integrated and comprehensive approach to it. As we have seen throughout this year's interesting Forum process, migration impacts considerably on other policy areas and challenges of mutual concern, such as development policies, labor and gender policies and regional cooperation. The links to areas such as the promotion of democracy and human rights are immediate and therefore crucial in our

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joint efforts to make migration and mobility positive forces for development.

The EU thanks speakers for highlighting the link between environmental and climate change and migration. Environmental events, including those induced by climate change can be one of the factors which trigger migratory flows. As the impact of environmental and climate change on migration is complex, the EU welcomes an intensified research effort in this field.

The EU welcomes the fact that several concrete proposals have been put forward during this Forum. Within the framework of the OSCE the EU will continue to engage constructively in considering these suggestions in the field of security implications of migration.

In this connection we thank the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship for tabling its topic of the next Economic and Environmental Forum. We are pleased with the ongoing discussion with Kazakhstan on the proposed theme for the next year's Forum. Within this context, we value especially the focus on areas such as rule of law, good governance, transparency, fight against corruption and border issues which are aimed at effective contribution to the security of the OSCE region.

Madam Chair, this meeting marks the end of the conference cycle of the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum. However, our work on the issue of security implications of migration should be one of the core themes of the second dimension on which we should continue to work in the years to come.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and

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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 ICELAND and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ARMENIA align themselves with this statement.

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