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AT THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 19 October 2010

**EED session 1: From Bonn to Maastricht and beyond –
Adapting the OSCE economic and environmental dimension
to changing challenges**

Mr. Chairperson,
Ambassador Höynck,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to be here with you in Vienna, the headquarters of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and to take part in this OSCE Review Conference.

This event is taking place in the run-up to the Summit, which in many ways will define the role and place of the OSCE in the new evolving European security architecture. It offers a unique opportunity for analysing and evaluating what we have done in the past few years, what we have achieved, what we have still not managed to achieve, and what could be changed or improved.

I realize, of course, that attention at the Review Conference should focus mainly on the period since the Istanbul Summit in 1999. At the same time, it is impossible to ignore the founding documents of the CSCE/OSCE, which to a large extent define the principles, orientations and methods of our work together.

The 1990 Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe, which is 20 years old this year, is a case in point with respect to the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension.

It is for this reason that we suggested with our German colleagues that this session of the economic and environmental segment of the Conference should be devoted to the Bonn Document and to consideration of how it has affected the development of our countries and of the OSCE economic and environmental dimension in the past and how it might do so in the future.

Like other founding CSCE documents adopted at that time, the Bonn Document made a huge contribution to the establishment of a new basis for inter-State relations and also to the

approaches to the internal development of our countries and societies after the Cold War. In many ways it reflected the spirit of the times, an era of profound and rapid changes, and helped to define the new reality.

In preparation for today's statement, I reread this in every sense major strategic document, which was written, incidentally, with a typewriter and not on a computer. It is quite striking how many of the provisions and "prescriptions" in the Bonn Document have been implemented in one form or another, in many cases by people who have possibly not even heard of it. It should not be forgotten that much of what is self-evident for us today was revolutionary at the time.

A fundamental aspect of the Bonn Document had to do with the market economy and assistance to various participating States in their transition to it, including development of trade, attracting investments, privatization and strengthening the private sector, and also their integration in the global economy. It formalized the basic principles of our co-operation and outlined its main orientations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is possible that some of the topics touched on in the Bonn Document are not as relevant any more today. It is quite surprising to note, however, to what extent others are only now becoming the object of animated and complex dialogue in the international arena and within the OSCE – the problem of energy security, for example.

The Republic of Belarus, which, like Germany in its present form, did not yet exist when the Bonn Document was adopted, has been making progress in implementing the principles and provisions contained in it. As the former Minister for Economic Affairs of Belarus for quite an extended period of time, I should like to mention that the process of reform and adaptation has been complex, gradual and at times extremely painful. There have been difficult years and critical moments. We have spent enormous amounts of money dealing with the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster and are still doing so. We have been endeavouring to ensure stable and sustainable economic development of the country so as to guarantee a gradual improvement in the standard of living and well-being of our citizens and, particularly in environmental terms, for future generations as well. It is possible that the speed and nature of the reforms have not be as radical as those of some of our partners, but on the whole we are satisfied with the result. In many ways this has been achieved thanks to the support of our partners in the OSCE.

Distinguished Conference participants,

The progress achieved by our countries, even if it has not been at the same level, was documented in 2003 in Maastricht, which marked another milestone in the development of the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension.

The Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted there reflected the OSCE's new approach to – or even, I would venture, its view of – the economic and environmental aspects of security.

It should be recognized that having played an important role in reconciling the various opinions and approaches by participating States to the strategy for development, the OSCE

has gradually handed over leadership in economic and environmental affairs to other more specialized organizations. Being essentially a forum for political dialogue and not having the corresponding financial or human resources or the necessary expertise, it has not been possible for it to become a key player in the fostering of development and sectoral co-operation. As a result the OSCE's attention has quite naturally shifted little by little to more specific threats and challenges to security of an economic and environmental nature.

Thus, the Maastricht strategy states in particular that “problems of governance, such as ineffective institutions and a weak civil society, lack of transparency and accountability in the public and private sectors, deficient economic and environmental legislation and inadequate implementation of economic and environmental laws, rules and regulations, absence of national and individual security and inadequate treatment of vulnerable groups, poor public management and unsustainable use of natural resources, corruption and lack of respect for business ethics and corporate governance, deprive participating States of the capacity to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to address economic and environmental challenges and threats to security and stability effectively”. In the past few years the efforts of the OSCE's executive structures have been focused on confronting these very threats and challenges.

Among the main thematic priorities to have emerged are transport, migration, energy, good governance and the environment.

Distinguished colleagues,

From the very start of our Organization's work, economic and environmental issues have been an integral part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security. We are all agreed today that security and stability can be assured only by way of an integrated approach that takes full account of economic and environmental factors.

However, I think you will agree with me that the economic and environmental situation in the OSCE region and the Organization's activities in this regard are ambivalent. On the one hand, we have managed to achieve a lot together, particularly thanks to the co-operation within the OSCE. At the same time, the threats and challenges to security have not dwindled. The financial and economic crisis has clearly indicated the vulnerability of our economies, and the environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico or the recent tragedy in Hungary highlight the fragility of our ecosystems and the frightening scale and effect of man-made disasters.

We are all faced today with the urgent task of modernizing and improving the compatibility of our economies, identifying a new generation of breakthrough technologies, further liberalizing economic relations and dealing with the problem of climate change. It will also be important to develop integrated economic relations and associations in the OSCE area, which in my opinion is the most effective response to the challenges of globalization.

The OSCE could play the role of a political catalyst in our work together in these areas, although it is possible that its economic and environmental activities will require new approaches, vision and instruments in line with the new reality.

In this regard the Kazakh “Maastricht plus” initiative is extremely interesting and merits very close consideration, all the more so in view of the various specific proposals

advanced during the Corfu Process, notably concerning the creation of an early warning mechanism for energy conflicts and crises, and confidence-building measures in the economic and environmental sector.

In conclusion, I should like merely to comment that in the Bonn Document the participating States talked of the “fundamental role of the CSCE in the future of Europe”. I am confident that the forthcoming Summit in Astana will confirm this view. Through our joint efforts we can make it a reality and ensure that the OSCE area is truly safe and prosperous. To do this we will need co-operation, solidarity and dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.