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**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**OSCE Review Conference**  
**Vienna, 25 October 2010**

**“Promoting co-operation on security aspects of the environment by, inter alia, sustainable use and management of natural resources and preventing pollution, land degradation, ecological risks, natural and man-made disasters”**

**EU Statement**

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Mr Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

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

As stated in several occasions, the EU considers the Economic and Environmental Dimension (EED) integral to the OSCE concept of comprehensive security.

Scarcity of, and limited access to natural resources, as well as environmental degradation can hamper socio-economic development and increase political tensions.

Environmental threats, including risks of natural and manmade disasters, should be identified in a timely fashion and tackled by the common efforts of the participating States.

The EU believes that this Organisation should carefully look at the possible challenges, threats or implications for our security and stability of a number of

ongoing or emerging phenomena such as climate change, environmental degradation, access to scarce resources and energy security, and to understand the interlinkages between these drivers of insecurity. Only by taking a comprehensive and holistic approach will the EU and OSCE fully understand the nature of the risks. In this respect, one of our priorities for the years to come should be the reinforcement of the confidence-building and early warning potential of the dimension, inter alia in conflict areas or regarding management of scarce resources.

The role of the Secretariat and of the Field Missions is in this sense crucial. The Coordinator and his office should work even more closely both with the field operations and with other OSCE structures, including the CPC, in order to coordinate further their respective activities, to continue developing confidence-building mechanisms through economic and environmental cooperation. Furthermore cross dimensional issues such as good governance, anti-corruption and rule of law in the economic and environmental spheres should be taken into account when developing confidence building measures. The EU would like the office of the CoEEA to provide supporting documents and reports to the participating States, on areas of activity directly linked to security.

The mandates given to the OCEEA by the participating States such as the Lisbon Document of 1996, the Charter for European Security of 1999 and the 2003 Maastricht strategy are still valid and we look forward to their full implementation.

The importance that the EU attaches to access and management of natural resources, in particular water, as well as to the potential security implications of climate change is well known. We believe that these two issues together with the reinforcement of the confidence-building potential of the EED should be priority

areas for the future streamlined work of the OCEEA and should be reflected in both the Summit Declaration and the Action Plan.

Water Management and Land Degradation have been the focus of our activities during the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE. Access and management of water resources are critical in ensuring political stability, economic development and environmental sustainability. Transboundary water management has the potential for enhancing political dialogue, building confidence and promoting regional cooperation. At the same time proper transboundary water management is essential for addressing water scarcity and pollution, while maximizing the economic potential of water resources.

In 2007 a Ministerial Decision was adopted. Water is crucial to life, but the EU has the impression that within the OSCE region limited progress has been achieved in strengthening dialogue and co-operation on water issues, and on the ratification and implementation of existing international environmental legal instruments related to water management. The EU believes that a renewed effort is needed.

On the possible security implications of climate change we reiterate our belief that the OSCE – given its comprehensive approach to security – has a role to play by complementing and respecting the leading role of the UN. The UN is the main forum responsible for climate change, not least regarding negotiations on future global action, but, as recognized in the Madrid Declaration of 2007 and by the UN General Assembly, the OSCE has a complementary role to play in addressing this challenge in its specific region.

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, AZERBAIJAN, 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.