

RC.DEL/308/10
26 October 2010

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

Delegation of France

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE AT THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE

Vienna, 19 October 2010

Economic and environmental dimension (EED) Session 2: The OSCE's role, including its field presences, in fostering stability and security and enhancing co-operation and integration in the area of its responsibility through co-operation with other international, regional, subregional organizations and initiatives as well as NGOs and the business community; the way forward

Mr. Chairperson,

We naturally subscribe fully to the statement made by the delegation of the European Union, including the condolences offered to the Russian Federation in connection with the tragedy that occurred this very morning in Grozny. In addition, France and Poland would like subsequently to make a statement relating more specifically to the early warning role of our Organization with regard to economic and environmental threats.

As it is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor during this Viennese part of the Review Conference, allow me to express my gratitude to the Kazakh Chairmanship, the Belarusian Chairmanship of the Economic and Environmental Committee and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for the organization of this session concerned with the role of the OSCE in promoting stability and security.

In the informal discussions held as part of the Corfu Process, several participating States distributed a food-for-thought paper with the symbol PC.DEL/186/10/Rev.4. The proposal that this paper makes is based on the fact that the OSCE, as a regional security organization, can offer real value added, thanks, in particular, to its comprehensive approach to security. The Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit and the 2003 Maastricht Strategy, moreover, expressly recognize the important role of the economic and environmental dimension in the concept of comprehensive security, as well as its role in early warning, conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation. It is becoming clear, in this connection, that economic tensions, the growing competition for natural resources and environmental degradation can seriously threaten stability and security in our region. As has been suggested during the Corfu discussions, the OSCE could make greater use of its expertise and know-how to play an early warning role with regard to economic and environmental threats and contribute towards combating these threats, with the support of the participating States and other international organizations. We therefore propose that the

analytical capacities of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities should be strengthened in order to allow it, in keeping with its mandate and the terms of the Istanbul Summit Declaration, to identify and inventory threats existing in this dimension and report thereon to the participating States. For this purpose, the Office could, for example, use the data collected by economic and environmental officers during field missions, and data from other international organizations (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Organisation for European Co-operation and Development, etc.), in order to provide an in-depth analysis of these threats. We hope that guidance along these lines can be confirmed by the Heads of State or Government and be the subject of an explicit mandate in the Summit document.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.