

Ambassador of Ireland's contribution to Session 7 of the Economic and Environmental Dimension

Tuesday, 26 October, 2010.

Mr Chairman,

Ireland fully supports the statement of the European Union.

The last two years have seen the Economic and Environmental Dimension receive increased attention and the dimension has been the focus of increased levels of activity within the Organisation.

Much of the credit for this renewed momentum can be given to the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Goran Svilanovic and the Chairs of the Economic and Environmental Committee the Ambassador of Belarus, Alyaksandr Sychov and his predecessor, the Ambassador of Romania, Mr Cornel Feruta.

The special events on energy security hosted by the Slovak and Lithuanian Governments have also played a key role, as has the Verbeek Report.

The challenge now is to build on this momentum and Ireland will fully support the Kazakh and Lithuanian Chairs in doing so.

The key challenge now is to put the Economic and Environmental Dimension on a new footing which assures continuity, relevance and effectiveness. Early actions on agreeing a new Calendar of Economic and Environmental Dimension events would be a very clear signal of our intention to give this dimension its proper weight within the OSCE.

Ireland will work with the incoming Lithuania Chair when developing its own Chairmanship Programme for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. At this stage we see much merit in having economic and environmental governance as the core theme of our Chair.

Thank you.