



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 964 Vienna, 5 September 2013

EU statement in response to the presentations by the Chairpersons of the three Committees

The European Union and its Member States thank the Chair of the Security Committee, H.E. Ambassador Tacan Ildem, the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee, H.E. Ambassador Ol'ga Algayerova, and the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee, H.E. Ambassador Vuk Žugić, for their substantial presentations. We believe the debates in the Committees contribute to a more consultative process in the OSCE by making it more participatory, interactive and transparent. This informs our debates, conclusions and decisions in the Permanent Council, and contributes also to our discussions towards the upcoming Ministerial Council meeting in Kyiv.

Regarding the Security Committee, the thematic meetings, which were organised by the Chair of the Committee, such as the ones on UNSC Resolution 1325, on Afghanistan, on terrorist financing through the use of NGOs, and on cyber security, have been very pertinent, interesting and thought provoking, and a number of speakers from the EU and its Member States have contributed to them. We are looking forward to the coming meetings and discussions under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Ildem.

When implementing the OSCE's transnational threats (TNTs) related decisions, in particular last year's important decisions on combating the threat of illicit drugs, on police related activities, and on the fight against terrorism, as well as the 2005 Borders Concept, we underline that, where appropriate, work has to be done in close cooperation with other international actors active in the fight against TNTs. There is also a continued need to ensure a cross-dimensional approach in addressing TNTs with full respect for the implementation of human dimension commitments. The Security Committee has an important role in overseeing the OSCE's activities on TNTs and in particular the implementation of the decisions taken in this field.

We need to continue to give special attention and support to the Informal Working Group set up to develop a first set of CBMs for cyber security. Recent developments have shown that there is an ever increasing need to agree to CBMs in this field. Some encouraging work has been done in the informal working group. We look forward to a resumption of this working group after the summer recess with a view to adopting as soon as possible a first set of CBMs and call on all partners to work together in a constructive and results-oriented spirit.

Regarding the Economic and Environmental Committee, we welcome the fact that Ambassador Algayerova has continued the practice of organising Committee meetings with a thematic focus. We consider such meetings particularly useful, in so far as they generate targeted discussions on topical issues pertaining to the entire scope of our work in the second dimension, in particular with a linkage to this year's overarching theme, as proclaimed by the Ukrainian Chairmanship.

We would also like to express our appreciation for a selection of topics, which ensures continuity in the work of the Committee by building on achievements of the past, and with a view to feeding into important upcoming events in the second dimension, such as next week's concluding meeting of the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) in Prague; and the 2013 EEDIM and the High-level International Conference on "Energy Security and Sustainability: the OSCE perspective", both taking place next month.

In this context, we are particularly pleased with the deliberations in the framework of the thematic meeting on the implementation of Dublin's Declaration on Good Governance, which took place in June. Lastly, we welcome the thematic meeting, which took place in March on Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection; we consider this topic relevant to this year's EEF theme, since it is related to energy security issues and touches upon environmental aspects of energy-related activities.

Regarding the human dimension, we reiterate our appreciation and support for the standing agenda in the Human Dimension Committee, including the item on voluntary reporting by participating States. We welcome this initiative and we would like to assure the Permanent Council that Member States of the European Union will continue to make such presentations to the Committee, and call on all participating States to do likewise. We also appreciate the fact that the standing

agenda allowed for more substantive discussions as well as an increased interaction with OSCE Institutions and executive structures.

We reiterate our belief that an intensified exchange with civil society representatives would help sustain the dynamic in the Human Dimension Committee and encourage the current and future Chairs to take this suggestion forward.

We appreciate the thematic discussions that took place in the Committee this year, in particular on freedom of media, freedom of assembly and association, gender equality, national human rights institutions, combating torture and trafficking in human beings, including the recommendations made during these discussions.

We commend the efforts of the Chair of the Committee to take the review of human dimension events forward. We believe that improvements can be made to make events more effective and attractive. But any changes should have the effect of strengthening the Human Dimension and the review of the implementation of our shared commitments. We support the proposal to reactivate the informal working group on review of the human dimension events established during the Irish Chairmanship last year. We believe that it should build on the work already done and stand ready to engage actively in future discussions in this regard.

An overarching theme for the OSCE this year continues to be the Helsinki + 40 process. In this regard, we would like to ask the Chairs of the three Committees how, in their opinion, the expertise of the Committees could best be utilised.

In conclusion, the EU wishes to thank the three Chairs for their commitment to the work of the Committees. We reiterate our support for the work carried out by the three Chairs. We assure you that we will continue to cooperate fully with you in your future endeavours. We wish you every success.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA* and MONTENEGRO*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO, align themselves with this statement.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.