

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



ENGLISH only
Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
INTERVENTION BY YVES BEAULIEU, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
ON THE REPORT OF THE FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE SECOND
DIMENSION
771ST MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
30 JULY 2009**

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

- To begin with, we would like to express our great appreciation to Mr. Alexander Verbeek and commend him for this very practical and comprehensive report on the future orientation of the Economic and Environmental dimension. The Verbeek Report provides us with a number of useful and precise recommendations and ideas in order to improve our work in this dimension. There are several ideas in this report which we can easily offer our support to.
- First, major thematic changes every year represent a serious challenge to a relevant, efficient and value-added OSCE work. Therefore, a focus on a limited number of core themes for a certain number of years would be most welcome. Such an approach would support medium and long term capacity and institution building, including expertise transfer activities. This would also represent a better investment of OSCE time and resources and better build on the OSCE's expertise and value-added.
- In this context, we would also support that each incoming Chairmanship select its annual Economic and Environmental Forum theme within the scope of the core themes.
- Second, we support revisiting the status and the title of the Coordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities with a view to make it more comparable to its counterparts within the OSCE and in other International Organizations.
- Third, it could be beneficial to have "Chef de Files" and Deputy "Chef de Files" from delegations to act as catalysts and facilitators for dialogue on each core theme.
- Fourth, we support an increased focus on cooperation and security aspects, notably confidence building measures, dialogue on the security implications, conflict prevention and early warning, and activities supporting peace and stability within the OSCE region.

- Fifth, it would be very useful to synchronize the cycle and calendar of Economic and Environmental dimension meetings with the Chairmanship year. More precisely, we would very much welcome the idea to change the fall preparatory conference into a meeting that would serve as a lead-up and a preparation to the Ministerial Council and also be an opportunity to review the work accomplished in this dimension. As such, this event would be an excellent occasion for the Coordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities to present an annual report. We also believe a new role or use should be found for the winter or spring preparatory conference, notably to avoid repetition as both segments of the Forum already provide enough coverage and discussions on a specific theme.
- To conclude, we hope that we can all move forward with many recommendations contained in the Verbeek Report and improve the work accomplished within the auspices of the Economic and Environmental dimension. This is especially important considering the need to reflect the Economic and Environmental dimension in the recently launched Corfu Process.

Again we would like to thank Mr. Verbeek for his efforts and wish him best of success in his new posting.

Merci Madame la Présidente.