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**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement**

**In Response to Ambassador Vuk Zugic, Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities  
as delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian, Permanent Representative of Armenia, at the 1177th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
March 01, 2018**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to welcome and thank Ambassador Vuk Zugic for outlining activities and plans of his Office.

The Delegation of Armenia values the work of the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities as the leading executive structure in promoting the implementation of the OSCE commitments related to the economic and environmental dimension of security. In times of growing contradictions across two other OSCE dimensions, Economic and Environmental Dimension may provide de-politicized framework for trust and confidence building both in conflict and non-conflict situation.

In this regard, inclusive participation of all concerned participating states is a key to success of any undertaking in the second dimension whether it is economic connectivity, water management or cross-border cooperation.

Throughout years of cooperation the OCEEA accumulated important expertise in dealing with complex issues including in the conflict environment. The assessment missions, led by the OCEEA in conflict areas, and their recommendations have diffused tensions, stopped blame games and provided avenues for cooperation among all relevant stakeholders on the ground. Thus this experience and expertise is essential in facilitating the implementation of Vilnius Decision on Conflict Cycle which clearly maintains that the OSCE executive structures and participating states should make greater use of confidence –building measures, including those involving civil society representatives across the economic dimension of security in all phases of the conflict.

We support the focus of the OCEEA on good governance and combating corruption. In this regard, we would appreciate more attention on the issue of bribery of foreign and international public officials, which is an important commitment of Dublin Ministerial Council Declaration on Good Governance.

Armenia looks forward to the continued cooperation with the OCEEA through either Armenia Cooperation Program or ENVSEC initiative. We would welcome strong engagement of the OCEEA with Aarhus centers which are present almost in all provinces of Armenia

Last but not least, Armenia values continuation of the ENVSEC initiative. We hope that ongoing review of the structure, operational modalities would serve its purpose, and thus the initiative would remain an efficient tool of cross-border cooperation and partnership

In conclusion, we would like to wish every success to the Coordinator and express our full support to his activities.

Thank you.