

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1191/19
31 October 2019

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. VLADIMIR ZHEGLOV,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1245th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 October 2019

**In response to the report by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and
Environmental Activities**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, distinguished Ambassador Vuk Žugić, and thank him for summing up his work during the period covered by his report.

We share the view that it is easier to prevent conflicts than it is to deal with their consequences. As the eminent Soviet diplomat and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Mr. Andrey Gromyko, said, it is better to have ten years of negotiations than one day of war. This concept was also reflected in the 2003 Maastricht Strategy, which states that economic co-operation among the participating States and the international and regional organizations to which they belong is a key element in enhancing stability and preventing conflicts in the OSCE area.

The economic and environmental dimension remains one of the pillars of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. To that end, we support Ambassador Žugić's initiative of organizing a commemorative event next year to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1990 Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe. We believe the time has come to revive the spirit of co-operation and reaffirm the Organization's commitment to the principles that were set out in the Concluding Document of that landmark conference.

We note the Office's contribution to the successful holding of the 27th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum as well as the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting. The fruitful discussions provided a solid basis for consideration of the draft Bratislava Ministerial Council decisions prepared by the Slovak Chairmanship on promoting energy co-operation and digital innovation. We look forward to constructive and depoliticized work with all the OSCE participating States to achieve consensus.

We consider the Office's promotion of digitalization and the creation of the OSCE e-learning platform to be important. These efforts are in keeping with the logic of the Milan Ministerial Declaration on the Digital Economy as a Driver for Promoting Co-operation, Security and Growth and the Ministerial Council decision on human capital development in the digital era. We hope that the launch of such a

platform will contribute to a more active exchange of experience and best practices of States in the field of digitalization and strengthen co-operation so as to maximize the benefits of digital transformation.

We support the activities of the Economic and Environmental Co-ordinator in the sphere of good governance and combating corruption, especially in view of the future Albanian OSCE Chairmanship's choice of countering corruption as the main theme of the 28th Economic and Environmental Forum. We look forward to the speedy adoption of the agenda and modalities for this key event in the second dimension in the interests of the timely preparation of its first preparatory meeting. We expect new conceptual contributions from the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption, Professor Paola Severino.

In light of the priorities of the Slovak Chairmanship, we support the Office's work in the field of energy, increasing energy efficiency and cleaner use of fossil energy sources, and enhancing the sustainability of energy systems. We note the launch of the extrabudgetary project to establish a virtual training centre on the protection of critical energy networks. At present, the preparation of the material from relevant Russian agencies is being finalized and will be made available as a non-material contribution to the implementation of this initiative.

Strengthening economic connectivity remains an important area of work. The development of transport corridors is one of the key prerequisites for improving economic co-operation and maintaining stability and security in the OSCE area. We are in favour of continuing dialogue on economic connectivity through the alignment of integration processes with a view to establishing the Greater Eurasian Partnership.

In conclusion, we should like to wish distinguished Ambassador Žugić and his team every success in their future work. As in the past, you can count on our support.

Thank you for your attention.