



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**The 19<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum  
Concluding Meeting**

**“Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the  
fields of development of sustainable energy and transport”**

**Opening Remarks**

**Secretary General Lamberto Zannier  
Prague, 14 September 2011**

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Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,

It is a privilege to address the opening plenary session of this 19<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. I would like, at the outset, to thank the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for organizing this meeting, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic for once again extending such warm hospitality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The goal of this meeting is to assess the OSCE’s potential to advance international co-operation in the fields of sustainable energy and transport. Looking at the impressive agenda, and the successful outcomes of the preparatory meetings, I am confident that this Forum will provide critical input for the Vilnius Ministerial Council. I also anticipate that this meeting will generate ideas for concrete activities to be carried out by the OSCE Secretariat and the field operations.

It is gratifying to see gathered around the same table not only high-level delegates and experts from OSCE participating and Partner States, but also representatives of international

and regional organizations, businesses, civil society and academia. This diverse participation underscores the unique strength of the OSCE as a platform for conducting inclusive dialogue, generating ideas and exchanging experiences and best practices. We all gain by forging partnerships and by working in synergy with other organizations.

One of the most effective examples of such co-operation is the partnership between the OSCE and the UNECE. For this reason, I would like to give a warm welcome to the Forum, to Ambassador Jan Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the UNECE, who also happens to be one of my predecessors as OSCE Secretary General, and who therefore knows the OSCE like few others.

Allow me to thank the UNECE for its report on the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of energy efficiency, to be presented in the next session. I am convinced this document will inspire our further work in this area.

I am pleased to note that a joint OSCE-UNECE publication entitled “*Best Practices at Border Crossings: a trade and transport facilitation perspective*” will be launched this fall. We are also looking forward to developing our co-operation with other organizations, such as IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency), UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), the Energy Charter and relevant regional organizations. Joint activities along the lines of those already in place with UNECE could be envisaged as follow-up to this Forum.

Distinguished Participants,

Sustainable energy and transport solutions are essential to modern life. They are essential in light of the need to address global climate change, and they are essential in the context of economic uncertainty and highly volatile prices for fossil fuels,

Yet such policies are not easy to develop, or to put into practice. They must take into account the intricate links between economic development, trade, social and environmental issues, climate change, and security concerns. And they cannot succeed at the national level alone. A comprehensive and inclusive approach is crucial to our common success. Only together can

we make progress towards the identification and implementation of mutually beneficial solutions.

This is where I believe the OSCE can add value to this discussion. For the OSCE, addressing sustainable energy and transport means promoting co-operation – among states, across regions and between governments, international organizations, private industry and civil society.

The OSCE can facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices, and it can contribute to strengthening local institutional capacities.

Let me give you just a few examples of existing OSCE-supported activities.

- The *OSCE Centre in Astana* has worked with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) National Commission of Kazakhstan and with civil society organizations to promote the implementation of EITI principles and tools at the national level.
  - The *OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine*, at the request of the Ministry of Municipal Economy, has implemented an energy-saving pilot project in Ukraine's Poltava region.
  - The *OSCE Office in Yerevan* supported the development of renewable energy by promoting the application of the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanisms in the Syunik region.
  - And, finally, the *OSCE Office in Baku* has contributed to the improvement of the legal and regulatory framework for renewable energy in Azerbaijan.

This is just a small sample of the kind of practical contribution the OSCE can make, which I hope can inspire the development of more ambitious and more creative ideas.

Before concluding, I wish once again to thank the Lithuanian Chairmanship for the drive and inspiration provided throughout this year's Forum process. I look forward to a stimulating discussion here in Prague, and to the next important event that will complement the Forum

cycle, the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting due to take place from the 17 to 19 October in Vienna. I wish you every success over the next three days.

Thank you for your attention.