



United States Mission to the OSCE

Special Session III: Regional and Sub-Regional Cooperation

On Sustainable Energy and Transport

As delivered by Charles Hornbostel
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Thank you, Ambassador Naudužas.

We thank our distinguished panelists for this engaging discussion on regional and sub-regional cooperation on achieving sustainable energy and transport in the OSCE region. Given the limited resources but wide purview of our organization, cooperation with other international organizations, both regional and global, is not only crucial to the sustainability of our efforts, but also mutually beneficial.

Regional cooperation is a key factor for successful implementation. Challenges and levels of cooperation vary greatly from sub-region to sub-region, and thus there must be a like-minded approach to implementing best practices related both to security and sustainability and to anti-corruption and good governance. There can be no real change without full participation by, and inclusion of all, of the actors; this work will require close collaboration among governments, business and civil society.

The OSCE can and should do more to leverage the work of other organizations that are succeeding in critical areas embodied in OSCE commitments, such as the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Regional Cooperation Council, which we have heard about in the Permanent Council earlier this year, and have just heard even more about in this session. As a further example, we heard an excellent presentation from the World Customs Organization yesterday. We note that the WCO has developed and revised its Compendium of Integrity Best Practices, with the goal of “shar[ing] the experience in developing integrity within Customs with other Members who may wish to follow the best examples.” As we are no doubt aware, 53 OSCE participating States are also members of the WCO, and one of the oft-mentioned strengths of the OSCE is its platform for sharing of best practices. We should therefore seek opportunities to tap further into the expertise of organizations like the WCO with experience in fostering integrity in customs into our work, particularly at the field level.

We would like to add to the ideas we have heard thus far about cooperation between the OSCE and other organizations, as food for thought. We encourage the OSCE to explore the possibility of further collaboration with the UNECE and WHO partnership on transportation, through the Transportation Health and Environment Pan-European Partnership, which has the delightful acronym “THE PEP.” THE PEP, established in 2002, brings together key players from the three sectors on an equal footing. The partnership pools capacities and skills from Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and North America, translating national policy into local action. It offers a platform for countries to share information and know-how and benefit from experience. By integrating transport, health and environment policies, THE PEP contributes

to a greener economy and safeguards health and the environment. Noting the fruitful cooperation between the OSCE and the UNECE on Environment and Security through the ENVSEC Partnership, we believe a partnership with THE PEP would offer similar benefits.

Finally, I'd like to say a word about the OSCE's role in energy security. As an American, I don't have to tell this body that we value action. Nevertheless, good actions begin with good ideas, and good ideas can only come from talking, to each other and to other actors. Like the wind, just because an organization is not immediately visible doesn't mean it isn't exerting a force.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.