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EUROPEAN UNION

Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting Vienna, 17 November 2026

From commitment to impact – advancing the OSCE's role in promoting cross-border connectivity

EU Closing Statement

1. We would like to once again thank the Swiss Chairpersonship and the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities for having organised this valuable meeting yesterday and today. This year's EEDIM provided a timely opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the field of connectivity. The Talks4Trust event later today for which we thank the Swiss Chairpersonship for organising it, will very well complement this.

2. We also would like to reiterate our thanks to Ambassador Župevc and commend the dedication and efforts of the Slovenian Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee in advancing dialogue and cooperation in the Second Dimension this year.

3. We furthermore like to thank all panellists for sharing their experience and best practices. As also highlighted by the speakers, we should continue to promote efficient, secure and sustainable transport corridors, simpler customs procedures, digitalisation and the harmonisation of trade regulations. These measures can reduce trade costs, improve cross-border cooperation and strengthen regional economic integration. In this regard, we welcome further discussions on the critical linkages between connectivity and security in the OSCE region.

4. The discussions also underscored that connectivity requires more than infrastructure: it also calls for reliable institutions, transparent rules and a predictable business environment. Equally important is that delivering sustainable connectivity requires close cooperation between governments, international organisations, financial institutions and the private sector. Through its commitments on good governance, anti-corruption, transparency and trade facilitation, the OSCE can support participating States in addressing these barriers, improving public administration and strengthening confidence among businesses and investors. We express our support for the OCEEA's valuable work in this area.

5. The EU stresses the need to address the security risks arising from the devastating economic and environmental impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which continues to severely affect Ukraine's citizens, economy, and environment, with long-term repercussions across the OSCE area and beyond. In this context, the EU supports the OSCE's ongoing engagement, including through the SPU. We underline the need to assess the damage and remain committed to addressing it within Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction framework.

6. In light of common threats to security, the EU remains committed to advancing the agenda of the Economic and Environmental Dimension, in order to achieve comprehensive security in line with OSCE principles and commitments. It is of crucial importance to maintain a balanced focus on both economic and horizontal priorities such as climate and environmental sustainability, while ensuring the inclusion of relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector, OSCE field operations, civil society, and academia in our discussions. We also attach great importance to the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls and the inclusion of a youth perspective in programmes and activities related to the Second Dimension.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.