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## CORFU PROCESS

Vienna Informal Meeting at Ambassadors' Level  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2009

### CHAIR'S PERCEPTION PAPER

#### COMMON CHALLENGES IN THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

"Deepening economic and social disparities, lack of the rule of law, weak governance, corruption, widespread poverty and high unemployment are among the factors that contribute to global threats such as terrorism, violent extremism, transnational organized crime, and also to illegal economic activities, including money-laundering, trafficking of all kinds, and illegal immigration. Inter-State and intra-State conflicts, in their turn, impede regional economic cooperation and development and undermine the security, inter alia, of communications and energy transport routes" (2003 OSCE Maastricht Strategy for the Economic and Environmental Dimension).

The seventh session of the Corfu Process was dedicated to the Economic and Environmental Dimension, its common challenges and perspectives for the future. The issues of International Migration, Energy Security, Climate Change, the evolution of the Second Dimension, strengthening the regional co-operation and other environmental considerations, such as environmental degradation, soil contamination and water management, as well as transport were discussed. Good governance in all activities was referred to as an absolute prerequisite for stability and security.

The discussion showed that the participating States agree that Economic and Environmental issues are a crucial component of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security and an integral part of the dialogue in the framework of the Corfu Process.

The interrelationship between economic and environmental issues and stability and security, as well as the critical influence of issues traditionally attributed to the second dimension, on issues of the other two dimensions, was widely recognized. In this respect, addressing problems in the second dimension is part of the broader OSCE mandate for conflict prevention.

The presentation by the keynote speaker, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Goran Svilanovic, identified common challenges in the Economic and Environmental Dimension, as well as ways for the OSCE to address them.

The discussion indicated that all participating States consented that the 2003 Maastricht Strategy for the Economic and Environmental Dimension continues to be the basic reference

for our discussion. It calls for a common response to economic and environmental challenges and threats to security. As was pointed out several times, the OSCE's special niche on economic and environmental challenges lies in the cross-dimensional approach to security and its broad geographical representation.

The discussion indicated that there are some basic parameters of common understanding:

1. The visibility of the EED should be further enhanced and the potential of EED in developing conflict prevention and early warning activities needs to be further explored. Several delegations advocated for a stronger role for the Second Dimension in enhancing its confidence-building capacity. The OSCE's early warning mechanisms should be reinforced, since they are considered "underused" and "underdeveloped", despite the fact that they lie on the OSCE's core mandate.

2. The important role the OSCE Field Presences play in implementing the OSCE mandates and commitments has also been highlighted. Moreover, the significance of the projects carried out by the Field Missions in the economic and environmental areas has been pointed out. A good working relationship between the OSCE executive structures and the Field Presences is absolutely mandatory for achieving effective results. Therefore, any efforts to further strengthen this relationship should be supported and encouraged.

3. As far as the future orientation of the Second Dimension is concerned, the discussion demonstrated that there is emerging consensus on the need to streamline and strengthen the work and the role of the EED on the basis of the recommendations of the relevant Chairmanship Report. In addition, a number of delegations requested a follow-up on this Report in order to implement some of its recommendations. In this context, the need for continuity was brought up several times.

4. Strengthening regional co-operation between p-S, and cooperation of the OSCE with other relevant sub-regional, regional and international organizations were particularly highlighted in the fields of migration, energy security and environmental degradation, with a view to making the best use of their comparative advantages and avoiding duplication.

5. International Migration has become part of the international agenda for political dialogue and cooperation between states. The discussion indicated that the OSCE should continue to provide a regional platform. Migration management and security issues are of special concern to our participating States and our Partners for Co-operation, as it can lead to social tensions and inter-State frictions. Participating States underlined the fact that legal migration should be facilitated, whereas illegal migration should be countered. Furthermore, we should maximize the positive effects of migration, while mitigating the negative ones. Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect of human dignity were underscored as prerequisites for a comprehensive migration policy. Our commitment to developing stronger human and institutional capacities in managing migration is also reflected in our support afforded to the development of practical training materials on more effective, comprehensive and gender-just migration management for policy-makers in the OSCE region.

6. It also has become clear that Energy Security has emerged as a key issue for stability and sustainable economic development in the OSCE region. Energy security remains a top priority and OSCE could play a greater role in assisting Participating States in the protection of critical energy infrastructure, serving as a "clearing house" for information sharing and exchange of

best practices, and developing early warning mechanisms in the energy field. OSCE can provide a unique platform for participating States and other key stakeholders to discuss both issues related to the security of supply as well as security of demand of energy. OSCE can also provide a unique platform for dialogue between producer, consumer and transit countries accommodating their interests in a balanced manner. Recognizing that the OSCE is a political and not technical organization, its role as a “watchdog” in this evolving debate on energy security was also mentioned.

7. The majority of the PS pointed out the linkage between climate change and migration, poverty, social tensions and other security-related phenomena. Both the long-term and short-term implications were mentioned, thus, climate change has been characterized as a possible “threat multiplier”, exacerbating already existing tensions. From this perspective, they stressed that OSCE could play a complementary role to the efforts of the international community in tackling the security implications of climate change.

Other environmental considerations such as soil contamination, environmental degradation, deforestation, water management and scarcity, as well as transport were raised as important topics that should be further addressed in the future discussions.

Issues to be taken forward:

- Examining the necessity and possibility to adopt early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms on security challenges deriving from topics of the second dimension;
- Examining the role of the OSCE as “clearing house” for information sharing and exchange of best practices, in the field of Energy Security in the OSCE area;
- Examining the complementary role of the OSCE in addressing the security implications of climate change;
- Examining ways to further assist pS to develop stronger human and institutional capacities in managing migration and address the security implications stemming from Migration, in a cross-dimensional manner;
- Promoting better coordination of the Field Operations and OSCE executive structures in the implementation of second dimension projects;
- Promoting the evolution and future direction of the Second Dimension.