



Slovenian Chairmanship

**FIFTH DAY OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF
THE ECONOMIC FORUM**

Fourteenth Plenary Meeting

1. Date: Friday, 27 May 2005

Opened: 9.20 a.m.

Closed: 11 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. B. Frlec

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 13: OSCE AS A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE AND
CO-OPERATION

(a) PRESENTATION OF CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SESSIONS

The Chairperson presented conclusions and policy recommendations from the sessions (EF.DEL/74/05).

(b) DISCUSSION

Russian Federation, Germany, Chairperson, United States of America, Armenia, United Kingdom, Turkey, Luxembourg-European Union (European Commission), Egypt (Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation), Algeria (Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation), France, Tajikistan, Belarus, Malta

Contributions by: Legal Information Centre for Human Rights (Estonia), OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Georgetown University, International Organization for Migration, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 27 May 2005 at 11.30 a.m., in the plenary hall

Fifteenth Plenary Meeting

1. Date: Friday, 27 May 2005

Opened: 11.35 a.m.

Closed: 12.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. B. Frlec

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 14: CLOSING (open to the press)

(a) CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CO-ORDINATOR OF OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

(b) CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ECONOMIC FORUM

The Chairperson read out his concluding remarks on the Meeting (EF.DEL/75/05), which are annexed to the Journal.

(c) DISCUSSION

Luxembourg-European Union, United States of America

The Chairperson formally closed the Thirteenth Meeting of the Economic Forum.

4. Next meeting of the Economic Forum:

2006, in Prague

Chair: Belgium



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Economic Forum (Senior Council)**

13-EF(SC).JOUR/5
27 May 2005
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

Fifth Day of the Thirteenth Meeting
13-EF(SC) Journal No. 5, Agenda item 14(b)

**CONCLUDING REMARKS
BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ECONOMIC FORUM**

Dear Colleagues, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Slovenian Chairmanship acknowledges with deep satisfaction the words of praise expressed to it for putting the issues of demography, migration and integration on the agenda of this year's Economic Forum, which has brought together over 450 participants, including representatives of the OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the OSCE Secretariat and field presences, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as academics and representatives of the business community. There was a common understanding that this topic had proved to be one of the central issues of concern to the OSCE participating States. The topics of demography, migration and integration continue to be among the most important challenges confronting the OSCE participating States. As we have learned during these five days, they will attain even greater relevance in the years to come. If not properly addressed, the problems of migration and integration of migrants could lead to serious threats to security and stability within the OSCE area and its neighbourhood. The topics selected are by their nature cross-dimensional and require concerted action.

The Chairmanship has striven to lead the cycle of this year's preparatory seminars and the Economic Forum itself towards meaningful discussion, and feasible suggestions and recommendations. In order not to lose momentum, adequate follow-up initiatives in full compliance with the OSCE's political mandate need to follow the discussions, findings and recommendations of the Thirteenth Economic Forum. We are confident that these will represent a useful platform for many feasible follow-up activities of the OSCE. In its efforts directed towards the implementation of the various tasks stemming from the recommendations of this Forum, the OSCE should further enhance co-operation with its institutions and other international agencies.

The role of field presences and, in particular, the economic and environmental officers, is of utmost importance in the implementation of OSCE activities. In order to provide for effective implementation and practical results, the OSCE's capacity and institutional expertise should be effectively linked with those of other key international players in these fields.

We are glad to note that the Chairmanship's view on the role of the OSCE in addressing the issues of demographic development, migration and integration of minorities was widely supported. This has additionally encouraged the Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to further elaborate concrete steps necessary for the realization of the ideas presented. We are looking forward to co-operating closely in that respect with experts from the OSCE institutions and leading international agencies. We have been encouraged by the support expressed by some delegations regarding the idea of preparing an action plan or strategy for managing migration issues and formulating a statement of principles to guide the integration of persons belonging to national minorities, to be proposed for consideration as possible deliverables for the Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana in December 2005.

It is the view of the Chairmanship that the review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension is an important integral part of the Economic Forum. We would like to thank the UN Economic Commission for Europe for providing us with an excellent report on the implementation of OSCE commitments in the area of integration, trade and transport, and for the interesting presentations delivered to the Forum. We appreciate the support for the new format of the review session. We share the view that the application of this format represents a step forward in the implementation of the Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. In our view, the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the UNECE has already contributed to closer co-operation and should be further enhanced.

We were happy to note that several delegations expressed their support for the deliberations of the incoming Chairmanship regarding the proposed topic for the OSCE Economic Forum in 2006. It is the understanding of the Chair that there is wide support, even consensus, regarding the theme proposed by the incoming Belgian Chairmanship for the Fourteenth OSCE Economic Forum, namely, "Transportation in the OSCE area: Development of transport to enhance regional co-operation and stability, and a secure and safe transport network". A final decision on the theme and its modalities will be taken by the Permanent Council in the coming weeks. This decision should also make it possible to address innovative ways and means to further improve quality and effectiveness of the proceedings in the economic and environmental dimension. We wish the incoming Belgian Chairmanship every success in the preparations for a new series of events.

Before concluding, let me express my sincere appreciation to our traditional host, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. I am especially thankful to the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Dr. Marcin Swiecicki, and his team, and particularly Mr. Gabriel Leonte and Ms. Andrea Gredler, for their immense contribution and the valuable assistance they provided to the Slovenian Chairmanship in the course of the preparatory cycle for the Economic Forum 2005. Since this is the final Economic Forum with the current Co-ordinator, I commend him for his personal contribution to the enhancement and promotion of the economic and environmental dimension and wish him all the best in his future assignments.

I would also like to thank the OSCE Conference Services and the team of the OSCE Prague Office for their excellent organization of this important gathering. Our special thanks

go to the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the International Organization for Migration, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and all the other experts and scholars, and not least to the team of Slovenian scholars, whose expertise proved to be indispensable. Furthermore, I would like to extend my thanks to the panellists, moderators, rapporteurs and interpreters for engaging us in most stimulating discussions. Our sincere thanks also go to all of you, the active participants in events under the umbrella of this year's Economic Forum. You have all contributed to the success of this event.

Thank you.