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TO THE OSCE, AT THE CONCLUDING MEETING OF THE
19th OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 14 September 2011

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

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We wish to associate ourselves with the words of welcome expressed to the participants in today's meeting, which opens the concluding part of the 19th Economic and Environmental Forum. We thank the Lithuanian Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) for the excellent manner in which they have organized this event. We should also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Czech Government, which traditionally hosts this key event in the "second dimension" of the OSCE.

In terms of defining the future areas of activity of our Organization, we regard as extremely useful a regular review of the implementation of obligations and commitments in the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE. We are indebted to Mr. Jan Kubiš, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, for the significant contribution to this process by the organization under his direction.

Energy and transport play a key role in ensuring the viability of our civilization and in advancing along the path of socio-economic progress. If the tasks confronting us in this area are to be successfully tackled, we need to pool and co-ordinate the efforts of all the participants in the system of world economic relations.

Russia has a special place among the suppliers of energy from the point of view both of the size of its reserves and of the transit of energy resources and the reliability of deliveries. The world, and especially the European, energy market is inconceivable without our country (which holds second place in the world in terms of the export of oil and first place in terms of trading in natural gas). The crises of the past involving the transit of energy resources became a lesson for the world community and a test of the existing instruments for

ensuring global and regional energy security. Those crises made it clear that the instruments available were far from perfect in terms both of the speedy resolution of conflict situations and of the prevention of similar situations in the future.

It is for the purpose of dealing with the problems that exist in this area that in April 2009 President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia put forward an initiative for the preparation of an international legally binding document that would encompass all aspects of global energy co-operation and that would reflect in a balanced manner the interests of all parties concerned. Working on the basis of that initiative, Russian experts have drawn up and submitted in various forums, including the OSCE, a draft convention on ensuring international energy security.

With a view to enhancing the reliability of hydrocarbon raw material deliveries, Russia is paying increased attention to the question of the diversification of export routes. Last week saw the beginning of the pumping of gas into the first segment of the “Nord Stream” gas pipeline, which directly links Russia with consumers in Germany and other European countries.

Among other priorities, I would mention the aim of increasing the energy efficiency of the economy and the development of nuclear energy – obviously, subject to the condition of further improvements in the systems designed to ensure the safety of nuclear reactors.

Russia is an active participant in the process of forming international transport corridors. We see in this undertaking a way of exploiting one of our natural advantages as a transit link between European and Asian countries. We support the creation of a single transport space within the OSCE’s area of responsibility, including the carrying out of those initiatives that are concerned with trans-Eurasian container shipments.

The purpose of our meeting is to sum up the results of the work that has been done within the format of the Economic and Environmental Forum to assist in the development of sustainable energy and transport in the OSCE region. We have succeeded, with the active support of the Lithuanian Chairmanship and the OCEEA, in preparing an impressive agenda. We expect that the discussions at the Forum will make it possible to identify subjects and areas of work in which the OSCE could inject “added value” while at the same time avoiding a duplication of the work already performed by participating States, specialized international organizations and financial institutions.

The subject of this Forum – Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport – is not a simple one but, I believe, one that is within the reach of all the participants in our Organization. What is important is to approach it in a flexible and balanced manner, while at the same time carefully considering the concerns and “red lines” of all OSCE participating States. If this is done, the results will not be long in making themselves felt.

During the consultations in Prague there is traditionally a discussion also of the modalities for the next Economic and Environmental Forum. In that connection, we think it important to continue in 2012, in a way that advances good governance and transparency, the dialogue on matters having to do with the simplification and harmonization of border and customs procedures and the development of Eurasian transport corridors. We are interested in

continuing discussions on issues relating to the improvement of the legal framework in the area of international energy co-operation.

Thank you for your attention.