



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE  
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY  
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MICHAEL W. BANACH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,  
AT THE 771<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**30 JULY 2009**

**RE: CHAIRMANSHIP'S REPORT ON THE FUTURE ORIENTATION  
OF THE SECOND DIMENSION**

Madame Chairwoman!

My Delegation would also like to thank the Chairman of the Informal Group of Friends on the Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE, Mr. Alexander Verbeek, for his work not only in guiding the Informal and open-ended Group of Friends in exploring options for strengthening the OSCE "second basket", but also for his thought-provoking and comprehensive report. The 13 objectives and 15 recommendations contained therein can help in further consolidating and strengthening the Economic and Environmental Dimension (EED).

The document offers too much to comment on in the allotted time-frame, so I will limit myself to only two comments. Building on the Maastricht Strategy of 2003 will ensure not only a common response to economic and environmental challenges and threats to security, but will also firmly place the EED within the ongoing discussions in the so-called "Corfu Process."

Additionally, Recommendation 9 on increased attention for relevant recent developments is most welcome. Allow me to cite an example why this emphasis is important. Last April, I participated in a Ministerial Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Beijing. Some studies were shared with participants that indicate that within sixty years known deposits of uranium could be depleted. This has profound effects on countries contemplating the use of nuclear power as part of their energy mix; it also becomes a pressing security question, as underground markets for uranium could develop.

I am not advocating that the OSCE become involved in nuclear power questions; I cite these discussions as an example of the evolving nature of environmental and economic security threats in the twenty-first century and the need for the OSCE to remain current and relevant in this area.

In renewing my gratitude for the Chairman's Informal report, as well as wishing Mr. Verbeek every success in his new and important work in his country's Foreign Affairs Ministry, I would like to assure that my Delegation stands willing to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations and to strengthen our Organization's Economic and Environmental Dimension.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman!