



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Second Preparatory Meeting of the 20th Economic and Environmental Forum Dublin, 23-24 April 2012**

*Promoting Good Governance and Combating Corruption in Support of Socio-  
Economic Development*

### **EU Statement**

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1. The European Union and its Member States are pleased to participate in the second Preparatory Meeting of the 20th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. We thank the Irish Chairmanship for hosting the meeting in this beautiful historic, cultural and green city.
2. We welcome promoting security and stability through good governance as the Chairmanship's main priority in the Economic and Environmental dimension. Negative phenomena like corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing flourish where governance is weak and ineffective. They undermine economic development and expose states to greater security risks.
3. Corruption remains one of the biggest challenges for all societies. Although the nature and scope of corruption differ from one state to another, it harms societies as a whole by lowering investment levels, hampering the fair operation of the market and reducing public finances. Moreover, organised crime groups use corruption to commit other serious crimes, such as

trafficking in drugs and human beings. Corruption also undermines trust in democratic institutions and weakens the accountability of political leadership.

4. Whether it takes the form of political corruption, corrupt activities committed by and with organised criminal groups, private-to-private corruption or so-called petty corruption, the abuse of power for private gain is not acceptable and has dreadful consequences.
5. The European Union attaches great importance to combating corruption throughout its Member States. The anti-corruption efforts made at EU level have just been outlined in the presentation of Director Priebe.
6. All measures taken at national or Union level and efforts made at the international level are regarded within the EU as mutually reinforcing. The UNODC, OECD and Council of Europe, as the main multilateral players in the anti-corruption field, have developed extensive frameworks that support the implementation of internal norms, including model legislation and assistance in the drafting of relevant anti-corruption laws.
7. We appreciate that the fight against corruption has been an integral part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and an important component of its work in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. We welcome targeted cooperation and coordination in this area between OSCE and the above mentioned partner organizations. We support the complementary role the OSCE plays in awareness raising of the UNCAC commitments, legal assistance in adapting national legislation to the UNCAC requirements, exchange of experience and best practices and capacity building activities.

8. We perceive positively establishment of a working relationship between the EU and the OSCE within the Eastern Partnership Platform 1 "Democracy, Good governance and Stability" (Panel on fight against corruption).
9. We would like to underline that fight against corruption can not be successful without engagement and feedback from civil society and private sector. They have a substantive role to play in public debate and anti-corruption activities including implementation and monitoring of anti-corruption instruments.
10. While international and regional anti-corruption instruments are already in place, their implementation remains insufficient. Firmer political will and commitment by all stakeholders is needed. We hope that the Dublin part of the Economic and Environmental Forum will contribute to achieving that objective. We look forward to stimulating discussions today and tomorrow.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be member of the EFTA and of the EEA.