



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1095
Vienna, 7 April 2016**

**EU Statement in Response to the Report by the
Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental
Activities, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yiğitgüden**

The European Union warmly welcomes the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yiğitgüden to the Permanent Council and thanks him for outlining the plans of his Office for this year.

We have studied carefully the draft work plan of your Office presented at the Economic and Environmental Committee meeting in February and are broadly supportive of it.

We welcome your intention to ensure increased efficiency and prioritisation of your Office's activities, and to focus on security-related economic and environmental issues, and issues where the OSCE can provide added value. We therefore appreciate your intention to enhance cooperation with relevant international and regional organisations, and thus avoid duplication of efforts. We consider close cooperation and coordination with the OSCE field presences a priority. We attach great importance to their active involvement and feedback concerning second dimension activities and encourage the Office of the Coordinator to continue liaising with Economic and Environmental Officers. We also strongly support their participation in our discussions here in Vienna.

We support your focus on the promotion of good governance, in line with the Chairmanship's priorities. We attach particular importance to your work on combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. We look forward to the upcoming launch of the OSCE Handbook on Combating Corruption and the meeting in Central Asia on disrupting illicit financial flows, which will hopefully generate further ideas on how to strengthen the OSCE's role and

visibility in the area of good governance, transparency and the fight against corruption. We further welcome the fact that your activities are planned in partnership with other specialised actors, such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, The UN Economic Commission for Europe, the World Bank, the OECD and others.

We welcome your support to the dialogue on good migration governance, which we hope will contribute to the work of the informal working group on migration.

We believe that the discussions in the framework of the 24th Economic and Environmental Forum offer another opportunity to further explore how to strengthen stability and security in the OSCE area through co-operation on good governance. We therefore look forward to discussing several aspects of good governance in the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum, including the fight against corruption.

We support your activities on transport, trade and customs in line with the Chairmanship's focus on connectivity.

We commend your work in the area of environment and security. As the OSCE chairs the Environment and Security Initiative in 2016, we welcome your intention to strengthen the initiative from a security perspective and to ensure synergies with the implementation of the global processes related to sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

We appreciate your work on the security implications of climate change, as well as the attention you continue to pay to water management and disaster risk reduction in support of participating States' endeavours in these areas.

In the area of energy security, we appreciate your intention to promote best practices and continued capacity-building building on activities from previous years.

We fully support your efforts to apply a good governance approach to your activities in the environmental field. We value the work done so far in the area of environmental good governance through the support of Aarhus centres, as well as through the implementation of the Civic Action for Security and Environment.

Finally, we wish you and your able team a successful year and assure you of our support.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.