



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1021 Vienna, 30 October 2014

EU Statement in Response to the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden

The European Union warmly welcomes the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, to the PC.

Mr. Coordinator, we have listened with interest to your report – only a week after our annual Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting devoted to the topic of good governance, transparency and fight against corruption. This is an area of your activities to which we attach particular importance.

The ever increasing urgency of good governance and fight against corruption in order to ensure economic growth, political stability and security in the OSCE area was a common theme during this meeting. The 2012 Dublin declaration was praised as the first comprehensive political statement of its kind agreed by the OSCE participating States. This provides your Office with many new avenues for supporting States in strengthening good governance in both the public and private sectors. It is at the same time an expression of political will of all participating States at the highest level.

We welcome the many good examples of how the Dublin declaration is being implemented by participating States, including through joint efforts with OSCE executive structures. However, much still needs to be done. In this context we encourage you, Mr. Coordinator, and your able staff, as well as all of us around this table to consider ways how to further strengthen the OSCE's performance in this very important area. We are grateful for the concrete proposals made in this regard at the annual implementation meeting and we will reflect on them.

We thank the Swiss Chairmanship for drawing our attention to the important area of corruption prevention by tabling a Ministerial Council draft decision on this topic.

However, we believe that a more ambitious approach, clearly adding value and further strengthening our existing commitments, is needed.

The environmental activities of your Office were dominated this year by deliberations on disaster risk reduction and management and translated into a draft decision proposed by the Chairmanship for adoption at the Basel Ministerial Council. We will continue to engage constructively in the ongoing negotiations and expect that the following elements will remain an integral part of such a decision: a clear link of disaster risk reduction to security, confidence building measures potential, linkages between disaster risk reduction and climate change, as well as the importance of good governance and transparency for achieving resilience.

We appreciate the Coordinator's activities on water and security, especially in the context of transboundary and regional cooperation. We look forward to continuing this important work under the incoming Serbian Chairmanship. We hope that the 23rd Economic and Environmental Forum will help us to identify further areas for the OSCE's future engagement in sustainable transboundary water management. We also see this as a good opportunity to continue our work on disaster risk reduction including addressing cross disciplinary subjects, such as climate change.

We welcome that both economic and environmental activities of the Office of the Coordinator are conducted in close cooperation and coordination with other relevant OSCE executive structures, as well as with specialized international fora, such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe and through the Environment and Security Initiative. We encourage you to continue this approach.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you, Mr. Coordinator, and your dedicated staff for your hard work and wish you every success in your future endeavours.

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.