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**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 832
Vienna, 28 October 2010**

EU Statement in response to the OSCE Coordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities, H.E. Mr Goran Svilanović

The European Union welcomes the Coordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities H.E. Mr Goran Svilanović and thanks him for his comprehensive report.

Mr. Chairman,

The just ended Review Conference showed that since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, tremendous progress has been achieved in the social, economic and environmental development and cooperation of the countries of the OSCE region. Nevertheless, not all expectations raised, namely by the Bonn Document of 1990, have been fully met. In particular, good governance is an area where progress will still be necessary. The EU supports OSCE's cross-dimensional work in promoting good governance, transparency, rule of law and combating corruption and is convinced that the OSCE can play an important and useful role in these issues.

The EU is convinced that the second dimension of the OSCE is an integral element of OSCE's early warning and conflict prevention activities. In this respect, we think that the mandates given to the OCEEA by previous Summits such as the Lisbon Document of 1996, the Charter

for European Security of 1999 and its Platform for Cooperative Security, as well as the 2003 Maastricht strategy are still valid and their full implementation remains high on our agenda. Furthermore, as recommended by the Verbeek report, a workshop could be organized where previous successful experiences in confidence building could be presented and shared among participating States. We should focus on the development of an effective early warning capacity in the second dimension as well as on the necessity to further develop and implement those economic and environmental dimension activities, which can act as confidence building measures within the conflict cycle. These should be reflected in the Summit document.

The EU considers that a comprehensive implementation of the Verbeek report's recommendations is highly desirable. In this context, we praise both Kazakhstan and the incoming OSCE Chairmanship Lithuania for their ongoing efforts in building consensus around the Decision on the Strengthening and Improving the Effectiveness of Work in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. We hope that the draft decision on this subject will be soon brought before the Permanent Council for adoption.

The EU welcomes the OSCE Secretary-General Report concerning the complementary role of the OSCE in the field of energy security, mandated by the MC Decision 06/09, and based in part on the findings of the Special Expert Meeting in Vilnius. The EU is ready to be actively and constructively engaged in the process of further defining the role of the OSCE in the field of energy security. We reiterate that the OSCE has a specific role to play in the energy security dialogue. We support including this topic in the Summit document.

As the UN Secretary-General made clear when he addressed the Permanent Council, there is a role for regional organisations such as the

OSCE in tackling the security implication of climate change. The importance that the EU attaches to this issue is well known. We believe that this topic should be one of the priority areas for the future streamlined work of the OCEEA and should be included in the Summit document.

Mr Chairman,

The EU reiterates its position that the Office of the Coordinator should focus on areas of activity directly linked to security. In particular it should concentrate on where it can add value, in coordination with other regional and international actors. This is all the more relevant at a time when the current economic difficulties impose on all participating States the need to prioritise activities.

In light of the foregoing, the EU will reflect carefully on the budgetary increases proposed by the OCEEA for the coming year. We will also take into account our priorities for the Summit and indeed the outcomes, as well as the recommendations contained in the Verbeek report.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Mr Svilanović and his team for their work and wish them the best of success in their future activities.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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