



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 737th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 OCTOBER 2008

**RE: REPORT BY THE CO-ORDINATOR OF OSCE
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

Mister Chairman:

1. The Delegation of the Holy See willingly joins other speakers in welcoming Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, to his final appearance before the Permanent Council and thanks him for his report.

2. For the Holy See, the economic and environmental dimension has always had great importance. In fact, for the Catholic Church “*the human person itself and hi or her irreducible dignity must be at the center of political and social life*” and, according to the principle of the universal destination of the goods of creation, “*everything that the earth produces and all that men and women transform and manufacture, all their knowledge and technology, is meant to serve the material and spiritual development and fulfilment of the human family and all its members*” (Message of Pope Benedict XVI to Professor Mary Ann Glendon, President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, on the occasion of its XIII Plenary Session). For this reason, the Holy See attentively follows the work of the second “basket” and desires that it contribute effectively to security and to the building of a just society, in respect of the common good and the inalienable dignity of each human person.

3. The Delegation of the Holy See renews its gratitude to Mr. Snoy for his final report in which he presents the recent activities of his Office and traces possible priorities for the future. Security, especially in this time of

unprecedented economic and financial crisis, the environment and climate change, the phenomenon of migration are all, without doubt, challenges to be faced in the future by our Organization.

4. Dear Mr. Snoy!

In the name of my Delegation, I would like to thank you for your service to the OSCE, for your professionalism, your passionate dedication and commitment to environmental and economic issues, as well as for the incessant and contagious optimism with which you approached all those challenges. I assure you and your wife of my prayers and I wish you every success in your future work at the Catholic University of Louvain.

Thank you, Mister Chairman!