

PC.DEL/434/15  
27 March 2015

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1046th MEETING OF  
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 March 2015

**In response to the report by the  
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Mr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, to today's Permanent Council meeting and thank him for his interesting report outlining the main areas of work by his Office this year.

We note the positive results of the first preparatory meeting for the 23rd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on the theme "Water governance in the OSCE area – increasing security and stability through co-operation". We welcome the contribution made by your Office to the preparations for that event and trust that the second preparatory meeting in May in Belgrade and the concluding segment of the 2015 Economic and Environmental Forum in September in Prague will be just as successful.

We support the Co-ordinator's balanced and realistic approach to identifying areas where the OSCE might focus its efforts in the second dimension. We believe that the challenges of preventing and combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism will in future remain amongst the key areas of work in the second basket. We agree that it would be useful to hold targeted regional events on these topics.

The Economic and Environmental Committee is currently preparing a report to the Permanent Council on strengthening the OSCE's capacity to fight corruption. We believe that the conclusions and recommendations, on which we trust it will be possible to reach consensus in this format, will lend a fresh impetus to the Office's activities to support the efforts of specialized international institutions in combating this global challenge.

We appreciate the Office's endeavours regarding the issues of migration management and developing transport corridors. We trust that Mr. Yigitgüden's Office will continue to take part in the preparation and holding of regional events on this issue.

We all share the challenges associated with the rise in environmental and material damage as a result of natural and man-made disasters. We support the Office's activities in the practical implementation of the provisions of Basel Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/14 on enhancing disaster risk reduction, which aims at providing assistance to participating States in improving the capacity of their national rescue services, developing regional and international co-operation in this area and exchanging experience and best practices.

We note with interest the information on co-operation between the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and the European Commission in assessing the impact of climate change on security. At the same time, we should like to recall that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the one and only platform for official negotiations on this global challenge. As for the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), we take the position that the OSCE's activities in this respect should only be carried out on the basis of requests by host States. This also applies fully to the Aarhus Centres operating within the OSCE area.

Now for a few words about what we consider to be the most important area of activity, to which unfortunately the OCEEA is so far not paying sufficient attention. We believe that the Office's work should above all take into consideration the common strategic challenge for all participating States of increasing the unifying potential of co-operation. The development of trade and economic relations in the context of combining integration processes in the east and west of the continent may provide a solid foundation for pan-European security under the present difficult circumstances. I might recall that the objective of creating a common economic space from the Atlantic to the Pacific was affirmed by the leaders of Russia, France, Germany and Ukraine in the joint declaration in support of the Minsk agreements of 12 February 2015. Here the OSCE can and should have a say since it provides a platform for broad and specialized dialogue on clarifying possible areas for intensifying co-operation between integration communities in our common space and eliminating the dividing lines that exist between them. In practical terms, this could mean working together to develop some form of "standards" to harmonize participating States' approaches to legislation, economic and environmental policy and ensuring socio-economic rights.

The global financial and economic crisis and its consequences for the socio-economic situation of a significant proportion of the population of our countries, including problems such as rising unemployment, cuts in welfare payments, increasing poverty and a deterioration in the quality of education, also remain off the OCEEA's radar.

One of the OSCE's important assets is the economic and environmental project work carried out by its field presences in response to requests by host countries. We note the positive trend of improved co-operation between the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and mission staff responsible for economic and environmental projects, as well as their regular participation in second dimension events. At the same time, questions remain regarding the transparency of missions' project activities carried out using extrabudgetary funds. Co-operation between missions is not always in place, even within a single region.

We trust that these thoughts will be taken into account when determining the Office's work plans for the future.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Mr. Yigitgüden and his team success in carrying out the wide-ranging tasks ahead of our Organization.

Thank you for your attention.