



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N° 1210
Vienna, 20 December 2018**

**EU Statement in Response to the Report by the
Chairperson of the OSCE Economic and Environmental
Committee, Amb. Kairat Sarybay**

1. The European Union thanks you Ambassador Sarybay for your report and for having continued your dedicated work as chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee also this year. We appreciate your efforts to fully tap the potential of the 2nd dimension which can in many ways contribute to conflict prevention and confidence building.
2. In line with the priorities of the 2018 Italian Chairmanship we have covered a broad range of security-related topics in the economic, environmental and energy fields. Digitalisation and the need to develop the necessary human capital are cross-cutting issues that increasingly affect the socio-economic dimension of our lives, economies and societies. We, therefore, highly welcome the adoption of two Ministerial Council deliverables on these topics in Milan to which you have considerably contributed. However, in the context of global efforts to foster sustainable development and combat climate change, in particular in the context of the 2030 Agenda and after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, we deeply regret that we were not able to find consensus on a text dealing with transnational organized crime which damages the environment. Negotiations on this text should resume as soon as possible.
3. In the Committee meetings we have appreciated the exchanges with a wide range of stakeholders including private sector and civil society representatives and, most notably, OSCE field operations. The newly introduced practice of a more structured sharing of experiences and best practices on national policies has proven useful and should be expanded in the future.
4. Security threats do not always fit into the borders of one particular OSCE dimension and require a comprehensive approach. The joint committee

meetings on combatting human trafficking along migration routes and on combating environmental crime are good cases in point.

5. To conclude, I wish to express the full support of the European Union and its Member States to your important work in the EEC in 2018. We look forward to actively supporting and contributing to the work in the Committee also next year.

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, the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, 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.