

President's Conclusions

Energy Security and Environment OSCE PA Fall Conference, 9-10 October 2009

By addressing energy security and environmental issues together in this high-level parliamentary forum at our Fall Meetings in Athens, we have demonstrated our commitment to squarely addressing concerns in these interconnected fields. Long-term sustainability, energy security, and environmental solutions must be viewed hand-in-hand.

The OSCE, which includes some of the world's largest producers and consumers of energy, as well as critical transit countries, can play a strong role in working for energy security. We are interdependent when it comes to energy, and we must continue dialogue and the search for improved solutions to avoid the manipulation of energy markets, which we have seen. Speculators cannot be allowed to have the same disastrous impact on our energy markets as they recently had on our financial markets.

In recent days, with contributions from high-level experts, and thorough debate by parliamentarians from across North America, Europe and Central Asia, we have considered challenges and solutions at the pan-OSCE level. Our responses cannot be successful if only enacted on a national level; they must be broad in their scope and approach.

The security consequences of climate change are far reaching – notably, the possibility of food shortages was considered as a possible source of conflict and new refugee flows.

The one resounding message that we can all take home is that strong political action is necessary. Taking action in the midst of an economic crisis is difficult, also politically. But we have no choice. We must tackle the issues that are producing dramatic climate change and diversify energy sources to ensure long-term sustainability. The consequences of not addressing these issues comprehensively are much graver even than the difficulties our economies have recently endured.

Reviving the global economy is inextricably linked to re-thinking energy challenges. Investing in new technologies creates new jobs and diversifying the energy sources creates competition and lowers energy prices. Solving energy security issues and cleaning the environment can help economies grow.

We must also all take a look with critical eyes at our own actions; the way we work, eat, travel, and dispose of waste all have an impact on the environment. And so despite our difficulties, I hope that the commitment that we have all showed during our conference here in Athens will be redoubled when we return to our home parliaments. We have work to do.

The wellbeing of all of our populations relies on reliable and predictable access to affordable energy. Disruptions in access to energy cause economic and social difficulties, and can easily

develop into political disputes. We must work to diversify and to further secure our energy transport routes. Let us also make sure that we work together and that we balance the burden in a fair way between developed and developing countries. Transparency and good governance must form the centerpiece of all of our work in this field, ensuring that the benefits are available to all.

We must also aim for long-term sustainability. The future is diversification of energy sources through increased efforts to develop reliable renewable energy sources. The increasing demand for energy must drive the political will for alternative sources such as biofuel, solar, wind and nuclear power. We hope there will be agreement on solid and far-reaching commitments by our governments later this year at the climate conference in Copenhagen.