



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities**

**OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Eleventh Winter Meeting**

**General Committee on Economic Affairs, Sciences,
Technology and the Environment
Vienna, 23 February 2012
Statement**

**by
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Chairperson,
Distinguished Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to once again have the opportunity to address the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly during the annual Winter Meeting

Let me start by drawing your attention to the Economic and Environmental Forum. The Forum process aims at stimulating political dialogue, generating momentum, ideas and recommendations leading to the reinforcement of commitments undertaken by the 56 OSCE participating States in the area of good governance. In 2012 the 20th Economic and Environmental Forum will have a special focus on *the Promotion of Security and Stability through Good Governance*. The theme, proposed by the Irish OSCE Chairmanship and supported by all 56 participating States, gives without any doubt continuity and consistency to our work. It has been divided in two sub topics covered during the preparatory process of the Forum:

At the beginning of February, participating States and experts from the academic, public and private sector, as well as from regional and international organizations, gathered in Vienna to discuss ways to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism at the 1st Preparatory Meeting of the Forum. The Meeting was a success and enabled us to better understand the challenges we are facing and the perspectives we have in this very topical issue.

A similar exercise will take place in April in Dublin during the 2nd Preparatory Meeting. In this occasion, participants will have the opportunity to analyze ways to promote good governance and combat corruption in support of socio-economic development.

Building up on the outcomes of these two meetings, the Concluding Meeting of the Forum that will be organised in September in Prague will provide participants with the opportunity to generate relevant recommendations for the OSCE in the field of Good Governance.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the Parliamentary Assembly to actively contribute to this process and join us in identifying ad hoc policies.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me now briefly state the thematic priorities for my Office we have on our working agenda for the year 2012. The promotion of **good governance and transparency, fighting corruption and combating money laundering and financing of terrorism** are among the key priorities of my Office.

In the **anti-corruption** field my Office will continue to support the participating States in the implementation of their OSCE and other international anti-corruption commitments. We will do so by promoting the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption. We will also facilitate dialogue and exchange of good practices on effective implementation of UNCAC and other relevant commitments through the organisation of regional events and activities. Other areas of focus will include: promotion of ethical behaviour and codes of conduct for public officials; asset declarations; public procurement mechanisms, participatory governance and good governance at the local/municipal level.

My Office will continue its cross dimensional in-house co-operation on good governance and anti-corruption issues by providing support to the anti-corruption work carried out by the OSCE Field Operations. In addition we will continue to develop and maintain good co-operation and contacts with other relevant organizations such as the UNODC and the OECD to ensure co-ordination and greater impact, and avoid overlap and duplication. The OCEEA will also try to ensure closer involvement of the OSCE Partners for Co-operation in the good governance and anti-corruption activities.

In the area of **anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism** we intend to focus on several key areas of engagement, including domestic inter-agency co-operation, international information exchange, national risk assessment, public-private co-operation and capacity building. More specifically, we expect to conduct a number of activities including money laundering and financing of terrorism national risk assessments, regional exchange of experiences for Financial Intelligence Units (FIU), and several capacity building seminars for FIUs within the OSCE region.

We will undertake these activities in close co-operation with other OSCE departments and the OSCE Field Operations, and partner organizations such as the World Bank and UNODC.

In the area of **migration management**, the OCEEA will continue to promote a comprehensive and effective approach to migration management that facilitates regular migration and reduces irregular migration. We will continue facilitating regional dialogue, co-operation, capacity building activities and exchange of good practices. My Office intends to concentrate on specific areas such as promoting the inclusion of gender aspects in labour migration policies, facilitating the collection and sharing of harmonised migration data amongst OSCE participating States, and supporting the implementation of more effective labour migration policies.

The OCEEA will continue to work closely on these issues with such international organizations as ILO, IOM, the Council of Europe and UNHCR, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and with the Special Representative for Migration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Kathleen Ferrier, the OSCE PA special representative on migration, for the great support and good co-operation we have had in the last year.

In the field of **transport** my Office intends to publish jointly with the UNECE Transport Division the proceedings of last year's *Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum Expert Round Table* held in Vienna in December 2011. The publication will also contain a number of expert papers. These papers identify weaknesses and threats in the area of transport security and outline ways to improve co-ordination and the effectiveness of national and international efforts in making inland transport more secure. The publication will be made available both in English and Russian languages.

The OCEEA will conduct in the course of the year a number of regional launch meetings on the recently published *OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: a Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective*. Upon request and permitting funding, (sub-)regional and national capacity building and training activities can be held on specific provisions (i.e. Chapters) of the Handbook.

My Office will also strengthen its co-operation with the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and organise with them *ad hoc* training events on selected economic and environmental aspects of border management. Topics might include: the introduction of Authorised Economic Operator/Trusted Trader programmes; the use of ICT and non-intrusive inspection methods and a technical in-depth training on the above mentioned Handbook.

In accordance with the provisions of the recently adopted MC Decision No. 11/11 on Strengthening Transport Dialogue in the OSCE (Vilnius 2011), the OCEEA will continue supporting activities aimed at promoting the establishment of multimodal transport and logistics systems, including further development of Euro-Asian transport links and corridors. Promoting good governance and establishing public private partnerships in the transport and border crossing facilitation field will also remain on my Office's agenda.

Energy Security

As you know, since the Brussels Ministerial in 2006, my Office has been increasingly involved in promoting dialogue amongst participating States in the field of Energy Security, in facilitating the exchange of best practices, and in building capacity in the areas of energy efficiency, energy savings and the promotion of renewable energy. Our activities are based on the relevant MC Decisions on *Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE* and on *Strengthening Dialogue and Co-operation on Energy security in the OSCE area*. We also take guidance from the recommendations contained in the Secretary General's report "*Concerning the Complementary Role of the OSCE in the Field of Energy Security*", as well as from conclusions and recommendations of last year's Economic and Environmental Forum, which focussed on the development of sustainable energy and transport.

The 2011 Forum theme of sustainable energy is thematically aligned with the "Rio + 20" UN Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Brazil this June, and the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All as declared by the UN. Follow-up activities to the EEF in

the area of sustainable energy, in synchronization with international institutions and organizations, are being planned for 2012. My Office will also strive to engage in organising activities related to energy security dialogue with Partners for Co-operation in accordance with two of last year's MC decisions, MC.DEC/5/11 on *Partners for Co-operation*, and MC.DEC/4/11 on *Strengthening OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*.

In the interest of sharing best practices and creating synergies with specialist partner organizations, my Office will continue to work with the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels and with the IEA, IACA, and NATO, as well as with the organizations which make up the Vienna Energy Club: Energy Community Secretariat, IAEA, IIASA, IRENA, OFID, OPIC, UNIDO, REEEP. On 27 February the OSCE will host the next meeting of the VEC here at the Hofburg. In line with the topic of the Irish Chairmanship's EEF theme we will put a special focus on good governance and welcome the Chair of IACA, the International Anti-Corruption Academy, as well as the new Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat as guest speakers.

Environment and Security

The last 20 years demonstrated the significance of the regional perspective in dealing with global issues. Transboundary water management, land degradation, hazardous waste management, climate change adaptation, and conservation of natural resources, all require co-operation and partnership among neighbouring countries. Not surprisingly, these issues also have significant security implications. In some cases, these challenges can be the driving forces to provoking tensions. But at the same time, the very characteristics of environmental issues make them excellent candidates for cooperation and confidence building because environmental problems can only be solved through joint efforts.

It is based on this understanding that, together with our field colleagues, we continue to be actively engaged in the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative which I had the honour to chair last year. During our chairmanship our primary objective was to strengthen the security dimension of the Initiative and its work programme in all OSCE sub-regions. Our respective efforts undertaken jointly with our ENVSEC partners UNEP, UNDP, UNECE, Regional Environment Centre and NATO, as associate partner, yielded concrete results: The Ministerial Declaration, for instance, that was adopted at the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment for Europe in Astana last year as well as the Report of the UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20 last December, both made a clear reference to how security, environment and sustainable development are interlinked. Our ENVSEC partners now request us to continue to lead the ENVSEC efforts in 2012 for integrating a security perspective into the Rio+20 preparatory process and eventually to the Conference Outcome Document.

At political level, transboundary water co-operation has always been recognized as an entry point for building confidence and trust among riparian countries. While both the quality and quantity of water are important considerations for security and stability, the proper governance of water resources is equally or even more important. In this respect, we will continue our efforts to promote transboundary water co-operation for the Chu and Talas river basin in Central Asia, the Dniester River Basin in Eastern Europe, and the Kura-Aras River Basin in South Caucasus. My Office is also in this context working on the implementation of the Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan. .

Partnerships and Participation:

“Participation” and “partnerships” are the driving forces in ensuring environmental security and sustainable development. And civil society is a key player in this respect.

With this understanding in mind, my Office will continue its support to strengthen and further expand the **Aarhus Centres Network** in the OSCE region with special emphasis on enhancing their capacities as advocates of environmental good governance. Aarhus Centres are an accessible resource for citizens and governments. They facilitate the provision of environmental information, they support citizen participation in governance, and they provide legal counsel in environmental matters to individuals and organizations. Importantly, they work closely with government at all levels. This is how they are able to build a bridge, allowing governments to tap the resources of civil society for effective and participatory environmental governance. Currently, the OSCE supports a network of 37 Aarhus Centres in 10 countries.

Referring to partnerships, I would like to once again emphasize the essential role of Parliamentarians in addressing environment and security challenges and sustainable development. The Parliamentarians have an important role in helping to drive progress in the Rio+20 negotiations. You contributed to the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development and also to 2002 follow-up Conference in Johannesburg. The UN Conference on Sustainable Development that will convene in June 2012 once again in Rio – the Rio+20 will focus on two themes which are equally relevant for Parliamentarians: first on the greening of economy and second on the institutional framework for sustainable development. Both themes also have linkages with security, peace and stability. As a follow-up to the Maastricht Strategy, the OSCE has contributed significantly to implementation of the 1992 Rio Summit Declaration. In our efforts to bring the security perspective once again to the Rio+20 process we need your support and co-operation.

*Distinguished delegates,
Dear Chair,*

At the end of my intervention, let me express my enthusiasm upon an upcoming Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting to take place later in fall. As a few months ago we have had an opportunity to witness the process of the first Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, it is delightful to note confirmed continuity of this exercise. The organisation of this event has been seen by participating States as a necessary step to further strengthen the Second Dimension. In anticipation of a decision concerning the agenda and timetable of this event to be adopted in the next months, I am convinced that this Meeting is not only an excellent opportunity to revise our work in the Second Dimension but an essential utility to promote a better equilibrium among all the three baskets.

Thank you for your attention.

I am looking forward to our discussions.