

**Presentation by Ambassador Oľga Algayerová
The Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee
To the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE
21 February 2013**

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to address the 12th winter meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as the Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee of the OSCE. My today's presentation will be focused shortly on the main guidance of the work of the Committee this year, and to express challenges and aspirations ahead of us. I will be very pleased to discuss with your endeavors and your expectations from our activities during this year.

The outcome of the work of the Economic and Environmental Dimension might be a gradual process towards economically stable and prosperous region with environmental sustainability. Therefore our intention is to increase efficiency of the OSCE activities in this area. Also the last year's OSCE PA Monaco Declaration encourages governments to consider the economic and environmental area of the OSCE's work as one the most promising from the point of long-term interests. And we feel that this is challenging and a possible aim to attain.

More than two years ago The Astana Commemorative Declaration encouraged us to further develop co-operation aimed at addressing the impact on our region's security of economic and environmental challenges. Despite of a significant progress already achieved, we are of the opinion that further dialogue might be generated in order to reach and pursue these goals. The issues related to the work of the Economic and Environmental Dimension are presently more concrete and visible. Due to this fact the OSCE should much more contribute to raising awareness on issues such as energy security, energy efficiency, environmental protection, fight against corruption, sustainable development, with the only aim to ensure economic, social and environmental stability and prosperity.

Main topics outlined for the work of the Committee this year are: transport and trade corridors, good governance and combatting corruption, public awareness and participation in environmental decision-making and protection of energy infrastructure and its environmental impact. Let me here touch on and appreciate very much that these areas are within the scopes of interest of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. As an example I highly evaluate the adoption of the resolution of the PA on “Promotion and use of new and renewable source of energy” in July 2012.

Regarding transport and trade corridors – our aim is to strengthen transport dialogue in the OSCE. Based on this mandate and taking into account real, practical needs in the OSCE region, we intent to focus on transport-related issues such as: increasing efficiency of existing transport corridors aimed at facilitation and further development of economic cooperation and interaction among the participating states and partners for co-operation; promotion of good governance and fight against corruption in the area of transport and trade; and promotion of the OSCE expertise on best practices at border crossings from trade and transport facilitation perspective. While security is a complex issue we particularly welcome the interest of the participating countries to continue in the dialog on energy security. For the OSCE region, with its wide range of energy and economic options, differing country to country, it is important to find a common way how to cooperate and share best practices.

As of good governance and combatting corruption - with the reference to the latest Dublin Ministerial Council adoption of the *“Declaration on strengthening good governance and combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism”* we feel it appropriate to discuss and evaluate the extent of its implementation and follow-up by the OSCE participating States. It gives us all tasks to be more involved in the fields of public and private sector integrity and transparency, corruption prevention and suppression and combating of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. I am pleased to mention, that also the meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly in October 2012, touched upon the issue of good governance.

Concerning public awareness and participation in environmental decision-making - this topic covers a large amount of aspects; among others there is a space to sensitize and involve more young people into the process of public awareness and participation in environmental decision-making. The focus on this issue will also highlight the OSCE’s role in strengthening

the capacity of civil society organizations and enhancing their role in addressing environment and security challenges.

With respect to protection of energy infrastructure and its environmental impact - the issue of the protection of critical energy infrastructure could be given higher consideration this year. We feel that OSCE must play here more active role and the issue of protection of critical energy infrastructure not only from terrorist attacks, could be given proper consideration. Recent events in Algeria only prove that the task in this area is never done. Therefore this subject cannot be neglected and we should discuss some of its aspects in a more detailed way.

We will also build upon discussions on the prospects of adapting the 2003 Maastricht strategy document to the current economic and environmental situation.

Dear Colleagues,

The OSCE Field Missions are a visible comparative advantage of our organization. As they are located in regions, where issues, as energy supplies, energy efficiency, water management, environmental impacts are day-to-day agenda, it would be much of our interest to involve them much more to the elaboration of our main topics while sharing their experiences. It may allow us to consider aspects which otherwise might have remain hidden to us.

I believe that the work and outcome of the Committee, performed and conducted within the main priorities outlined by the OSCE Chairmanship, will bring tangible results we all strive for.

Thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to deliver my presentation to this distinguished forum.