



*Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Beču,
OSSE i drugim međunarodnim organizacijama, B E C
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office
at Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A*

**14th Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and
Environment
19 February 2015
Ambassador Tomislav Leko,
Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chair of the EEC**

Ms. Chairperson,
Distinguished Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honour to address the Members of this General Committee on the occasion of the 14th Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA. The Serbian Chairmanship has entrusted me with responsibility to Chair the Economic and Environmental Committee in 2015.

Our main guidelines for the work of the EEC in 2015 are the Serbian Chairmanships' priorities in the Second Dimension, namely the good water governance and the countering of corruption in the OSCE area.

In addition to that, the 2014 Swiss Chairmanship activities in the Second Dimension were heralded with two Ministerial Council Decisions, adopted in Basel, last December. These MC Decisions give us a mandate to be more involved and active in dealing with the reduction of natural disasters and the prevention of corruption, both being of a great importance for our citizens and our governments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After conducting consultations with the Serbian Chairmanship, the Delegations of pS and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, we have produced the Work Plan of the EEC for 2015 and here I would like to share with you some general outlines.

The EEC will hold six thematic meetings. Allow me to briefly introduce them:



*Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Becu,
OSSE i drugim međunarodnim organizacijama, B E C
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office
at Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A*

Migration (March)

Thematic meeting on migration will focus on promoting comprehensive labour migration management as well as further exploring the potential for enhanced engagement with international partners such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Anti-corruption and Anti-money laundering (April)

This thematic meeting will explore how to better interlink anti-corruption mechanisms and anti-money laundering systems in order to effectively detect and prosecute corruption and money laundering offenses.

Disaster Risk Reduction (May)

It aims to provide an opportunity to discuss the OSCE's plans and activities in the follow-up to the MC Decision No.6/14 on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction adopted in the Ministerial Council in Basel last year. It will also focus on the possible linkages of OSCE's activities with the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, which is expected to be adopted at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 14-18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

Energy Security (July)

While energy issues risk becoming a potential source of tension, they also offer many opportunities for fruitful co-operation between energy supplier, consumer and transit countries. This meeting will take stock of the most recent activities and explore future perspectives toward enhancing energy security and sustainability in the OSCE area.

Transport (September)

Transport thematic meeting will deal with strengthening dialogue and the exchange of best practices in the fields of trade, transport and customs, including regional transport and customs initiatives.

Climate Change in the OSCE Context (October)

Climate change increasingly contributes to the shaping of a security agenda. Keeping in mind that in the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Security climate change is referred to as a threat magnifier, the OSCE has deepened its involvement in this topic. This thematic meeting will aim at taking stock of the relevance of climate change in the OSCE area particularly from the security perspective. It will also provide an opportunity to present OSCE's activities related to climate change and discuss avenues for possible future work also in light of global processes in this field.



*Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Becu,
OSSE i drugim medjunarodnim organizacijama, B E C
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office
at Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A*

The other important aspect of the work of EEC in 2015 will be steered at bringing in the perspective of the Field Operations to our discussions. In this respect, we will use every opportunity to invite to the EEC meetings those OSCE Heads of Mission who will be in Vienna on the occasion of their regular reporting to the PC, starting already next week with the address of the Head of the OSCE Mission in Serbia.

We recognize that women's participation in the economic sphere contributes significantly towards economic recovery and the creation of cohesive societies, and that implementation of existing commitments on eliminating discrimination against women and promoting equal opportunities for women in the economic and environmental sphere is essential to the security and stability of the OSCE region. Having that in mind, the EEC intends to incorporate and integrate the gender perspective in the ongoing activities and programmes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

By adopting the MC Decision 5/14 on "Prevention of Corruption", the Ministerial Council has tasked the EEC: **"with input and contributions from OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE field operations, to present a report to the Permanent Council no later than 1 June 2015 providing options for strengthening the current OSCE capacity on combating and preventing corruption and for enhancing co-ordination among the OSCE executive structures in that field, taking available resources into consideration"**.

In order to produce a meaningful report, as a Chair of the EEC I have created an open-ended informal working group - the Group of Friends, with the aim to support the EEC Committee in preparing the report. With the pleasure I can note that the delegates from the number of the delegations have embarked and that the Group, under the coordination of our Greek colleagues, has produced a Questionnaire on Corruption. It is about to be distributed among the OSCE structures. Its intention is to gather information and views from a wide range of OSCE staff and leadership personnel, to help guide the Organization as it assists pS in preventing and combating corruption. Pursuant to that, a relevant report will be produced. I intend to present the report to the PC in course of May.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The number of the topics is of cross-cutting nature and with the need to be examined from cross-dimensional and all-inclusive approach. Relative to that and after consultations with Serbian Chairmanship and the Chairs of the Three Committees we have decided to organize, as a sort of novelty, two joint meetings of all Three Committees. The aim is to process the phenomena of terrorism and migration from different angles and perspectives and with the belief of possible contribution to consensus shaping on our way to Belgrade's Ministerial in December.



*Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Becu,
OSSE i drugim medjunarodnim organizacijama, B E C
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office
at Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A*

This year's Economic and Environmental Forum focuses on good water governance and will be held in September in Prague, under the heading "Water governance in the OSCE area – increasing security and stability through co-operation". This issue remains very topical and critical as water is becoming increasingly an essential element of national and regional security. In this regard,

the topic of good water governance should promote regional and cross-border cooperation in both prevention and remediation side, thus invigorating overall security and stability within the OSCE area and beyond, including the Partners for Co-operation.

On our way to Prague's Forum, two Preparatory Meetings are supposed to setting the tone for successful deliberations of this years' Forum.

The First Preparatory Meeting was already held, here in Vienna on 26-27 January and the second will take place in Belgrade, by middle of May. The sojourn in Belgrade will offer to the participants a possibility of an insight to the catastrophic floods, which hit the Western Balkans in May last year, exemplifying the grave consequences of the climate changes and amplifying the need for the improvements in the water governance

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am firmly convinced that the Prague's EEF deliberations, coupled with the work of the Committee and with the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting in October (which will be devoted to the fight against corruption) will create the solid foundations for a meaningful deliverables at the Ministerial Council in Belgrade.

In conclusion, I am confident that in 2015 the OSCE EED with the help of all pS and all OSCE structures will accomplish further progress on many related issues.

I trust that the topics just outlined set out the areas where we can and have to co-operate further to make best use of all potentials and to strengthen the work of the Second Dimension. Further utilization of Economic and Environmental Dimension could substantially contribute to the overall security in the OSCE area.

Thank you for your attention and I am looking forward to your responses and comments with a view at fruitful and effective co-operation.