



**General Committee on Economic Affairs,
Science, Technology and Environment
(Second Committee)**

**Follow-Up on Recommendations in
the OSCE PA's Istanbul Declaration**

Helsinki +40

Interim Report for the 2014 Winter Meeting

Vienna, 13-14 February 2014

Prepared by the OSCE PA International Secretariat



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Background

The Turkish Grand National Assembly hosted the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 22nd Annual Session in Istanbul from 29 June to 3 July 2013 under the theme *Helsinki +40*. The session's theme underlined the Assembly's support for the OSCE Ministerial Council decision in Dublin to launch a set of objectives aimed at strengthening the OSCE towards 2015, the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

The debates and votes of the Assembly during the session culminated in passage of the 2013 Istanbul Declaration to help shape OSCE and national policy. In the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, the Assembly adopted a wide-ranging resolution covering matters including cyber security, border security, migration, climate change and green growth.

This Interim Report was prepared by the OSCE PA International Secretariat to provide information on actions taken in the second dimension over the past six months by the OSCE, including Institutions and field presences, and other members of the international community, in relation to the OSCE PA's recommendations in the Istanbul Declaration.

A Final Report will be issued in advance of the OSCE PA's 23rd Annual Session, to be held in Baku from 28 June to 2 July 2014 under the theme *Helsinki +40: Towards Human Security for All*.

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Cyber Security and Internet Freedom

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

In the Istanbul Declaration, the PA called on the OSCE to develop confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of cyber conflicts and to promote a culture of cyber security while taking into account participating States' views on transnational information and communication technology. In tackling Internet governance issues such as cyber security and privacy, the PA endorsed an inclusive, transparent, multi-stakeholder approach.

II. OSCE Initiatives

The OSCE's informal working group on cyber security finalized a set of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), which, on 3 December 2013, culminated in the adoption of the Permanent Council Decision No 1106 "*Initial Set of OSCE Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies*".¹ This decision embraced a "comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner in accordance with OSCE commitments and in co-operation with relevant international organizations" in addressing security matters related to the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). It called on participating States to, inter alia, voluntarily provide their national views on various aspects of national and transnational threats to and in the use of ICTs and to voluntarily facilitate co-operation among the competent national bodies and exchange of information in relation with security.

III. International Initiatives

South Korea hosted a conference on cyber space on 17-18 October 2013, focusing on ways to improve international co-operation on cyber security issues, including the development of confidence-building measures.

The Conference Chair, H.E. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, said that it was intended to help promote efforts to strengthen international co-operation on cyber security by establishing an international consensus on how to develop the future of cyber space. He also pointed out that they had found "areas of common ground on the elements that promote an open and secure cyber space, and reflected them in the Seoul Framework for and Commitment to Open and Secure Cyberspace. We believe this document represents the summary of where international consensus among governments has been achieved".

¹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Permanent Council Nr. 975, Decision No 1106, "Initial Set of OSCE Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies", 3 December 2013, <http://www.osce.org/pc/109168>

Following the Seoul conference, the European Union issued a statement at the OSCE Permanent Council, welcoming the results of the conference and stressing that the EU looks forward “to finalising the text of the initial set of OSCE cyber confidence-building measures at the next round of negotiations in November of the thematic Informal Working Group in order to enable adoption by the Permanent Council before the Kyiv Ministerial Council and endorsement by Ministers in Kyiv”.²

Freedom Online Coalition

The Freedom Online Coalition, a group of governments committed to collaborating to advance Internet freedom, held its third international conference on 17-18 June 2013, in Tunis, Tunisia. OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic attend the conference, participating as a panelist at the workshop *Cyber Security and human rights*, a working-group session that aimed to explore a multi-stakeholder approach to cyber security based on human rights standards and values.³

The agenda of the Freedom Online Coalition is to facilitate global dialogue about the responsibilities of governments to proactively further freedom on the Internet. Since the Coalition's launch in 2011, participating governments have met regularly at an expert level to co-ordinate strategies to advance Internet freedom, both through multilateral organizations and in countries of concern. Estonia will host its fourth conference in April 2014.⁴

Civil society

A coalition of online freedom advocates declared 18 January Internet Freedom Day,⁵ which incorporated several themes and campaigns to promote online privacy and an open Internet. The coalition's Declaration of Internet Freedom includes five basic principles:

1. Expression: Don't censor the Internet.
2. Access: Promote universal access to fast and affordable networks.
3. Openness: Keep the Internet an open network where everyone is free to connect, communicate, write, read, watch, speak, listen, learn, create and innovate.
4. Innovation: Protect the freedom to innovate and create without permission. Don't block new technologies and don't punish innovators for their users' actions.
5. Privacy: Protect privacy and defend everyone's ability to control how their data and devices are used.⁶

² European Union Statement, Asian Partners Contact Group Meeting, Vienna, 8 November 2013.

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vienna/documents/eu_osce/other/2013/acg_nov_eu_on_cyber.pdf

³ OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freedom Online Coalition, <http://www.osce.org/fom/102235>

⁴ U.S. Department of State, Fact Sheet: Freedom Online Coalition, <http://www.humanrights.gov/2012/11/20/fact-sheet-freedom-online-coalition/>

⁵ Internet Freedom Day website: <http://www.internetfreedomday.net/>

⁶ Declaration of Internet Freedom: <http://www.internetdeclaration.org/>

Signatories of the declaration include hundreds of non-governmental organizations from around the world, including Human Rights First, Amnesty International, American Civil Liberties Union, Institute for Reporters Freedom and Safety, European Media Platform, and the Index on Censorship.⁷

Border Security

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The Istanbul Declaration recognized the need to develop a common, multi-stakeholder approach to border security and migration.

II. OSCE Initiatives

In September 2013, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the OSCE Border Management Staff College held its first-ever training course for women. The main aim of the six-day course was to support women's participation and leadership in border security and management, involving a group of 20 mid-and senior-level female officers from 13 countries: Belarus, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Ukraine, and the United States.⁸

The OSCE held a workshop in Tajikistan on 1 November for customs officials focusing on effective customs controls through risk management and non-intrusive inspection technologies. Based on the 2012 *OSCE-UNECE Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective*, the workshop was co-organized with the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the World Customs Organization, gathering 28 mid- and senior-ranking customs officers from Afghanistan, Armenia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.⁹

⁷ Declaration of Internet Freedom signatories: <http://www.internetdeclaration.org/content/additional-signers>

⁸ OSCE Press Release: "First training for women in border security held at OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe", 14 September 2013, <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/104927>

⁹ OSCE Press Release: "OSCE holds workshop for customs officials on effective risk assessment methods". Dushanbe, 1 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/107743>

Also in Dushanbe, on 2 December 2013, at the OSCE Border Management Staff College, the OSCE organized a conference on transnational threats and border security in order to promote and develop demand-driven and practice-oriented research on border security and management.¹⁰

2014 Swiss OSCE Chairmanship

In an overview of the activities planned by the Swiss Chairmanship, Switzerland has committed to promoting effective anti-crime initiatives with close trans-border co-operation between police services. The Chairmanship intends to “organize an annual meeting of police experts in Vienna to encourage exchange of experiences and facilitate co-operation between law enforcement agencies of 57 OSCE participating States”, and to “enhanc[e] professional skills of customs, border control, and police officers in the OSCE region”.¹¹

Migration

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

Noting the need for a common, multi-stakeholder approach to migration, the OSCE PA's Istanbul Declaration called for a comprehensive and long-term migration management strategy in the OSCE area.

II. OSCE Initiatives

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier opened the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting in Vienna on 21 October 2013 by noting that the impact of migration, in its multiple facets, is a topic that is gaining traction within the OSCE.¹²

At session two of this meeting, Ambassador Andreas Papadakis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE, spoke about the migratory pressure that his nation faces due to its geographic position at the external border of the EU, its extensive land and sea borders and its proximity with the countries of origin and transit of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers. He explained Greece's approach to migration management, which consists primarily of:

1. Legitimization of migrants' residence and their smooth social integration with special emphasis on women and socially vulnerable groups,
2. Co-operation with the countries of origin and

¹⁰ OSCE Press Release: “OSCE-organized conference on transnational threats and border security takes place in Dushanbe”, Dushanbe, 2 December 2013, <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/109116>

¹¹ OSCE Switzerland 2014: “Creating a Security Community for the Benefit of Everyone”, <https://www.osce.org/mc/109266?download=true>

¹² 2013 OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting Welcoming Address by Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General, 21 October 2013. <http://www.osce.org/sg/107291>

3. Fighting illegal migration.

He further elaborated on the main instruments for the implementation of these objectives, which include:

1. Ensuring the consistency of the legal framework,
2. Simplifying and improving the efficiency of administrative procedures,
3. Meeting the needs of the national labour market and
4. Enhancing participation of legally residing third-country nationals in all aspects of social and economic life.¹³

Greece currently holds the presidency of the European Union, and among its priorities are promoting mobility of EU citizens, economic recovery, employment, cohesion, and European security. The Greek Presidency notes that, “the EU is called upon today to safeguard financial stability through the deepening of the EMU, to boost growth-enhancing economic policies aiming to fight unemployment by, and inter alia, enhancing synergies between migration and growth”.¹⁴

Field activities

An OSCE regional training course on gender-sensitive labour migration policies concluded on 8 October 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Government officials and civil society from five OSCE participating States – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – learned how to develop and implement labour migration policies that benefit both female and male migrant workers.¹⁵

III. International Initiatives

The International Organization for Migration's branch in Kosovo signed two direct management agreements with the European Union for the implementation of two new projects intended to create new employment opportunities in Kosovo. The projects are the EU Beautiful Kosovo Phase II (EU-BK II), totaling EUR 5 million and the Support to Micro, Small and Medium

¹³ Speech by Ambassador Andreas Papadakis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE: “Greece’s approach to migration management and gender mainstreaming in migration policies”, 21 October 2013, PC.EEDIM.DEL/11/13.

¹⁴ Greek Presidency of the European Union Programme and Priorities, <http://www.gr2014.eu/eu-presidency/the-greek-presidency/programme-and-priorities>

¹⁵ OSCE Secretariat –Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities: “OSCE trains officials on gender-sensitive labour migration policies in Central Asia, 8 October 2013, <http://www.osce.org/eea/106823>

Enterprises (MSMEs), totaling EUR 4 million, including a co-financing of EUR 1 million from the Kosovo Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Both projects have the aim of promoting the EU's and Kosovo government's efforts to foster economic development and reduce irregular migration by providing more opportunities for Kosovars to build their lives in their home communities.¹⁶

The Migration Policy Institute and the Transatlantic Council on Migration have collaborated on several projects in the reporting period, including the publication of best-practice papers on how to thwart actors who profit from illegal labour and sex work,¹⁷ and addressing challenges to border security such as illegal migration and smuggling.¹⁸

Climate Change

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

In Istanbul, the PA called on OSCE participating States to find the necessary political will to make the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, taking place in Warsaw on 11-22 November 2013, a fruitful meeting that leads to concrete action to address climate change and binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

II. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw ended on 23 November 2013 with a modest set of decisions to keep countries on the path toward an international climate agreement by 2015.

“Warsaw has set a pathway for governments to work on a draft text of a new universal climate agreement so it appears on the table at the next UN Climate change conference in Peru. This is an essential step to reach a final agreement in Paris, in 2015”, said Marcin Korolec, President of the COP19 conference.¹⁹ In view of the devastation brought by typhoon Haiyan to the Philippines and other natural disasters, participants decided to establish an international

¹⁶ International Organization for Migration, “EU backs IOM Kosovo projects to reduce risks of irregular migration”, 4 February 2014. <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2014/pbn-listing/eu-backs-iom-kosovo-projects-to.html>

¹⁷ Migration Policy Institute and the Transatlantic Council on Migration, “Spheres of Exploitation: Thwarting Actors Who Profit from Illegal Labor, Domestic Servitude, and Sex Work”, By Meghan Benton, January 2014. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/TCM-Migration-Exploitation.pdf>

¹⁸ Migration Policy Institute and the Transatlantic Council on Migration, “Securing Borders: The Intended, Unintended, and Perverse Consequences”, By Randall Hansen and Demetrios G. Papademetriou <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/TCM-SecuringBorders-UnintendedConsequences.pdf>

¹⁹ United Nations Climate Change Secretariat Press Release: “UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw keeps governments on a track towards 2015 climate agreement”, 23 November 2013. http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/131123_pr_closing_cop19.pdf

mechanism to provide most vulnerable populations with better protection against loss and damage caused by extreme weather events and slow onset events such as rising sea levels.

Civil society groups, however, were not impressed with the results of the conference, and on 21 November staged a “walk-out” to protest the perceived influence of lobbyists from the fossil fuel industry on the UN negotiations. World Wildlife Fund, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, ActionAid and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) were among 15 groups that walked out of the summit.²⁰

“Polluters and corporations dominated this conference with their empty talk, so we walked out in protest. Polluters talk, we walk”, said Jagoda Munic, Chairperson of Friends of the Earth International.²¹

The envisioned agreement for the 2015 COP21 conference in Paris would focus on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance. Countries agreed in Warsaw to introduce their national climate mitigation contributions by early 2015, which would provide time to assess whether their actions are sufficient to address severe climate change. The agreements included a significant set of decisions on ways to help developing countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and the degradation of forests that account for around one-fifth of all human-generated emissions.

Governments also completed work on the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) so that it can immediately respond to requests from developing countries for advice and assistance on the transfer of technology. The CTCN is currently operating and is encouraging developing countries to set up focal points to accelerate the transfer of technology.²²

The next UNFCCC meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform is to take place in Bonn from 10 to 14 March 2014.

III. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change²³ (IPCC) released a report on 26 September 2013, which determined that the scientific evidence for global warming is unequivocal.²⁴ IPCC

²⁰ Business Green: “COP 19: Civil society groups quit Warsaw Climate Summit”, 21 November 2013.

<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2308523/cop-19-civil-society-groups-quit-warsaw-climate-summit>

²¹ Friends of the Earth Press Release: “Civil society walks out of Warsaw climate talks, says hope lies with building peoples' power”, 21 November 2013. <http://www.foei.org/en/media/archive/2013/civil-society-walks-out-of-warsaw-climate-talks-says-hope-lies-with-building-peoples2019-power>

²² UNFCCC,

https://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/131123_pr_closing_cop19.pdf

²³ “The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. It was established by the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) and the [World](#)

scientists concluded with a 95 per cent certainty that humans are the dominant cause of global warming and that atmospheric carbon dioxide is higher than it has been in at least the last 800,000 years. Further, projections of sea level rise have increased, and much of global warming is irreversible and will continue for centuries, the panel found.²⁵

Green Growth

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

In the Istanbul Declaration, the OSCE PA welcomed the establishment of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) as a full-fledged international organization and urged the OSCE and all participating States to consider joining the GGGI. The OSCE PA also called on OSCE parliamentarians and other policymakers to utilize the OECD's Green Growth Strategy, including its Study Papers, which provide concrete recommendations and measurement tools for achieving environmentally-friendly economic growth and development.

The PA further welcomed the EXPO 2017 in Astana, entitled "Future Energy".

II. OSCE Initiatives

On 27 September 2013, around 100 participants took part in an OSCE-supported conference on green growth and Kazakhstan's strategy of transition to the green economy which took place in Pavlodar, Northern Kazakhstan. The event was supported by the OSCE Centre in Astana and held in partnership with the Environmental Protection Ministry, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the local administration of Pavlodar region and the non-governmental organization "Coalition for Green Economy and G-Global Development", bringing together representatives from the business, academic and government sectors from Pavlodar, East Kazakhstan and Karaganda regions, as well as from civil society. The conference provided an opportunity for local leaders, managers and experts to discuss the transition to the eco-friendly economy and find greener solutions to the specific needs of their region.²⁶

On 22 November 2013, more than 70 participants took part in an OSCE-supported regional conference on green growth and Kazakhstan's transition to the green economy, held in Uralsk, Western Kazakhstan. The event was supported by the OSCE Centre in Astana and organized in

[Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#) in 1988 to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts."

<http://www.ipcc.ch/organization/organization.shtml#UqHShvRDugw>

²⁴ IPCC -WORKING GROUP I CONTRIBUTION TO THE IPCC FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT: "CLIMATE CHANGE 2013: THE PHYSICAL SCIENCE BASIS", 26 September 2013, <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/#UqHTJvRDugz>

²⁵ Mother Jones, "6 Scary conclusions in the UN's New Climate Report, 27 September 2013, <http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2013/09/ipcc-climate-report-scary-conclusions>

²⁶ OSCE Centre in Astana, 27 September 2013, <http://www.osce.org/astana/105888>

partnership with the Environment and Water Resource Ministry, the United Nations Development Programme, the local administration of Western-Kazakhstan region and the Zhaik-Caspian Aarhus Centre. It brought together representatives from the business community, academia, government and non-governmental organizations from the Atyrau, Mangistau and Western-Kazakhstan regions.

The conference provided local leaders, managers and experts with an opportunity to discuss the transition to a more environmentally-friendly economy and to find greener solutions to the specific needs of their regions. Conference participants also learned about pilot projects in preparation for the EXPO 2017 which were presented by the Innovation Centre of the Western Kazakhstan region.²⁷

III. International Initiatives

Global Green Growth Forum

The 3rd Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) took place on 21-22 October 2013 in Copenhagen, hosted by the Danish Government in partnership with the governments of China, Kenya, Korea, Mexico and Qatar. The focus of 3GF 2013 was on improving resource efficiencies in the value chain. Four key themes were addressed – energy, water, food and greening the value chain. In addition there were discussions on issues related to financing green growth, creating economic demand for green growth and ways to enhance economic incentives for the transition towards a green economy.²⁸

Under each of the four themes a number of tangible outcomes with specific public-private partnerships were discussed:

- Financing Urban Water Leakage Solutions;
- Reducing Food Loss and Waste;
- Power System;
- Ensuring Deforestation-Free Supply Chains;
- Green Trade Liberalization;
- Industrial Symbiosis;
- Public Procurement of Green Infrastructure;
- Energy Efficiency in Buildings;

²⁷ OSCE Centre in Astana, 22 November 2013 <http://www.osce.org/astana/108805>

²⁸ 3rd Global Green Growth Forum, 21-22 October 2013 <http://3gf.dk/en/3gf-2013/introduction/>

- Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL);
- Water Resource Management;
- Smart City Water Supply.²⁹

OECD Green Growth Strategy

The 2013 OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum was held on 5-6 December 2013 under the general theme “How to unlock investment in support of green growth”, focusing on how governments can improve their investment policy framework to reduce the risk and attract long-term private finance in support of green growth.³⁰

On 26 November 2013, the OECD published a report “The Role and Impact of Public Sector-Led Initiatives in Renewable Energy” based on a joint study by the OECD, the University Technology Sydney (Australia) and the University of Massachusetts (United States). The report presents a snapshot of the global renewable energy industry and investigates what this global industry can mean for local development, noting that this industry is rapidly growing in response to countries’ activities to reduce their carbon emissions. The deployment of renewable energy is seen as a key development opportunity for rural regions and a way for governments to give substance to “green growth” claims. The paper suggests that local governments and other institutions will be central agents in the success of the transition of regional areas to low-carbon economies.³¹

Global Green Growth Institute

On 16 December 2013, in recognition of its achievements in green growth and sustainable development, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution granting the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) observer status.³²

On 17 January 2014, the GGGI was accredited as an observer organization to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GCF was agreed by Parties at the 2010 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference held in Cancun, Mexico, and designated as an operating entity of the Convention’s financial mechanism.³³

²⁹ Report “Improving resource efficiencies in the value chain”, 3rd Global Green Growth Forum , 21-22 October 2012 <http://3gf.dk/en/~media/3gf/Images/gallery/3GF2013%20Report.pdf>

³⁰ OECD, Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum: How to unlock investment in support of green growth?; <http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/gg-sd-2013.htm#Media>

³¹ OECD Green Growth Papers, 26 November 2013 http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment-and-sustainable-development/improving-the-effectiveness-of-green-local-development_5k3w6ljtrj0q-en;jsessionid=1ncii0s9o5hmz.x-oecd-live-01

³² Global Green Growth Institute, GGGI Receives UN General Assembly Observer Status, 17 December 2013 <http://ggi.org/ggi-receives-un-general-assembly-observer-status/>

³³ Global Green Growth Institute, GGGI Granted Observer Status to Green Climate Fund, 17 January 2014 <http://ggi.org/ggi-granted-observer-status-to-green-climate-fund/>

Combating Corruption

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

In the Istanbul Declaration, the OSCE PA emphasized “the importance of seeking new paths to economic growth particularly by taking meaningful measures to combat corruption, improve governance, increase co-ordination of fiscal policies, and strengthen education and training in the widest possible range of areas, and promote social cohesion while safeguarding the social, economic and cultural rights of the most vulnerable members of society”.

II. OSCE Initiatives

OSCE Presence in Albania

A two-day regional conference held on 10-11 October 2013 in Albania was aimed at strengthening co-operation on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as tackling corruption in South-Eastern Europe. Organized by the OSCE Presence in Albania, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the Albanian General Directorate for the Prevention of Money Laundering, the conference brought together law enforcement and financial intelligence officials from South-Eastern Europe and OSCE experts.

Participants examined the role of financial intelligence units in combating corruption, as well as the specific tools available to conduct financial investigations of corruption offences. On the sidelines of the conference, the heads of the financial intelligence units of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia held a meeting on regional co-operation in the fight against money laundering.³⁴

OSCE Centre in Astana

The OSCE Centre in Astana supported an international conference on contemporary approaches to countering corruption and ensuring economic security that took place on 15 November 2013 in Astana. The event was co-organized by the Financial Police Agency and the OSCE Centre. The main participants of the event were scientists, educational institutions, law enforcement agencies and public organizations, experts in the field of anti-corruption and financial crime from Kazakhstan, Turkey, Russia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. They shared the knowledge of modern strategies and techniques to minimize the risk of financial crime and to prevent and fight corruption. International experts presented specific anti-corruption responses and discussed case studies and solutions that have proven to be

³⁴ OSCE Presence in Albania, <http://www.osce.org/albania/106961>

effective for preventing and mitigating negative effects of corruption and economic-related crimes.³⁵

III. International Initiatives

On 3 December 2013, the European Commission in co-operation with Transparency International held a conference in Brussels on anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures in relation to the use of European Structural and Investment Funds. The conference analyzed fraud and corruption issues, offering ideas on how to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption in relation to the management of investment funds. The conference brought together representatives from managing authorities, audit authorities, specialized anti-corruption authorities from Member States plus representatives from civil society and relevant NGO's.³⁶

On 7 October, 25 November, and 3 December 2013 Transparency International published the Progress Report 2013 assessing enforcement of the OECD Convention on combating bribery,³⁷ the 2013 Progress Report on the UN Convention against Corruption³⁸ and the Corruption Perceptions Index 2013 paper respectively.³⁹ All reports are available at www.transparency.org.

On 24-26 October, the Third Global Conference on Transparency Research Conference was held in HEC Paris. It addresses the interdisciplinary community of scholars working on transparency and open government studies and brought together academics, policy makers, and interest group representatives working in a variety of fields such as law, business, economics, sociology, political science, public administration, journalism, and philosophy.⁴⁰

Financial Transaction Tax

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The Istanbul Declaration encouraged OSCE participating States “to introduce financial transaction taxes on stock trading and other financial purchases such as high-frequency trade to help to make short-term speculation more expensive and generate significant revenue for

³⁵ OSCE Centre in Astana, 15 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/astana/108398> , 15 November 2013

³⁶ European Commission, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/anti_corruption/index_en.cfm

³⁷ Transparency International, 7 October

2013 http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/pub/exporting_corruption_progress_report_2013_assessing_enforceme
[nt_of_the_oecd#sthash.4xHxBHz4.dpuf](http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/pub/exporting_corruption_progress_report_2013_assessing_enforceme)

³⁸ UN Convention Against Corruption: Progress Report 2013; 25 November

2013 http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/pub/un_convention_against_corruption_progress_report_2013#sthash.Uop6EokA.dpuf

³⁹ Corruption Perceptions Index 2013, <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2013/results>

⁴⁰ The Third Global Conference on Transparency Research, <http://campus.hec.fr/global-transparency/>

individual States, which is urgently needed to carry out forward-looking projects, promote growth and build a fair economy, and could be used for these purposes”.

II. International Initiatives

European Union

There is disagreement in the EU on the financial transaction tax (also known as Tobin tax or Robin Hood tax), primarily between the United Kingdom, which is against, and the European Commission, which made a proposal to introduce a financial transaction tax within 11 of the Member States of the European Union.

By the end of September 2012, the Commission had received a request to this end from a group of 11 Member States. They asked to be allowed introduce a common system of FTT based on the scope and objectives of the Commission's initial proposal. The Commission analyzed this request to ensure its compatibility with European law, also taking into account the interests of non-participating Member States.

In April 2013, the UK Government launched a legal challenge in the European Court of Justice, and in September the legal service of the EU Council, which represents EU Member States, warned that the tax would exceed the powers of the Member States and that it was not compatible with the EU treaty (finding it discriminatory against non-participating-Member States). However, EU tax commissioner Algirdas Semeta said on 14 September that, “the European Commission is absolutely confident in the legality of the tax we have proposed. We reject any claims that it goes against the treaties or that it compromises the single market”.⁴¹

On 4 December 2013, the EU Commission's legal services addressed the opponents of the FTT, concluding that, “the proposed FTT directive is in conformity both with customary international law and EU primary law”.⁴² According to the European Commission, “if ... there is a speedy transposition into national law by the participating Member States, this common framework for an FTT could still enter into force towards the middle of 2014”.⁴³

International Monetary Fund

The IMF is of the view that there are other levies that might work better than the financial transaction tax. According to Carlo Cottarelli, head of the International Monetary Fund's fiscal affairs, “the Washington-based lender believes that the proposed EU FTT could negatively

⁴¹ Euobserver.com: “EU commission not giving up on finance tax”, 14 September 2013
<http://euobserver.com/economic/121437>

⁴² REUTERS: “EU executive document says transaction tax plan legal”, 4 December 2013
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/04/eu-fft-commission-idUSL5N0JJ3W920131204>

⁴³ http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/other_taxes/financial_sector/

impact transaction volumes, despite being designed to bolster public finances and discourage speculative trading”.⁴⁴

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The Istanbul Declaration encouraged the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and other OSCE executive structures to continue to facilitate a global energy transformation in the OSCE region and to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and the increased role they can play in energy supplies.

II. OSCE Initiatives

At the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which took place 11-13 September 2013 in Prague, representatives of OSCE participating States, international and non-governmental organizations as well as experts discussed how the OSCE can contribute to energy sustainability and prevent adverse environmental impacts of energy-related activities. The event focused on issues of sustainable energy and promoting good governance in the energy sector, with particular focus on the opportunities that renewable energy resources offer. The Forum also reviewed OSCE commitments in the energy field and discuss how the OSCE can help participating States' in this sphere.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ International Business Times: “IMF asks EU to find financial transactions tax alternative”, 16 July 2013 <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/490825/20130716/ftt-trading-tax-eu-imf-carlo-cottarelli.htm>

⁴⁵ OSCE Press Release: “OSCE meeting in Prague addresses environmental impact of energy-related activities”, 11 September 2013, <http://www.osce.org/cio/104762>