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REPORT

**FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND ENVIRONMENT**

***“COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT:
RESPONDING TO A NEW REALITY IN THE OSCE”***

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REPORT FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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INTRODUCTION

In the year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the creation of the CSCE, it is worth looking again at the fundamental values of that document that continue to form the basis of the OSCE's principles.

The Final Act listed a series of principles and norms on relations between participating States that remain fundamentally valid and should guide our actions as parliamentarians.

Sovereign equality; respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty; refraining from the threat or use of force; inviolability of frontiers; territorial integrity of States; peaceful settlement of disputes; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and co-operation among States – these are just some of the principles set out in 1975.

Even though they resulted from a distant and specific historical context, such as the Cold War, we can't help but think that their topicality remains intact.

The events of recent years in the OSCE's geographical area, especially the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, makes us look again to the Final Act as an inspiring document that opened the door to a wave of democratization, peace, and development in Europe. These events culminated in the fall of the Berlin Wall, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the enlargement of the European Union and ushered in an era of economic prosperity and hope from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The Final Act was also a pioneering and visionary document in the fields of economics, science, technology and the environment. Although we can acknowledge that, of the three baskets, this is the one that initially had the least visibility, we must also highlight its importance and depth since it included areas as diverse as trade and commercial exchanges; industrial co-operation; science and technology; agriculture; energy; new technologies and rational use of resources; transport; oceanography; information technologies; and economic and social aspects of migrant labour.

In this context, what stands out the most, especially if we look at the reality of 2025, is the environmental chapter of the Helsinki Final Act, which mentions, among other areas of co-operation, control of air pollution; water pollution control and fresh water utilization; protection of the marine environment; land utilization and soil; nature conservation and nature reserves; improvement of environmental

conditions in areas of human settlement; and fundamental research, monitoring, forecasting, and assessment of environmental changes.

While technology has evolved and environmental problems have worsened, the environmental issues raised 50 years ago are more topical than ever. The "rational utilization of (...) resources in the interests of present and future generations", as stated in the CSCE's founding document, must continue to guide our actions as political decision-makers.

The Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990) opened a new chapter and paved the way for the inception of the OSCE and a "new era of democracy, peace, and unity".

In our Committee's area of interest, this document refers to the principles of economic freedom and responsibility, namely through developing market economies towards sustainable economic growth and prosperity; and co-operation in the fields of science and technology, energy, transport, and tourism.

In the environmental area, which has taken on a new relevance since 1975, it is emphasized that 'optimal conditions' must be ensured for the economic and rational development of energy resources, with due regard for "environmental considerations" and a "clean and low-waste" technology.

The diversity of the economies of the participating States from 1975 to the present day, their degree of development, the choices that each country has made, the natural resources available, the degree of regional integration, and openness to international trade are all factors that we must take into account when we talk about the geographical space of the OSCE.

Such space is not just one reality but consists of several realities that, nevertheless, share the same problems and ambitions. The acceleration of globalization makes us feel deceptively closer. It is our duty to look at these realities and act, by legislating, so that our citizens feel part of this space where physical and economic borders are less and less relevant and where development is truly sustainable. Co-operation and integration must overcome mistrust and separation.

CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER SCARCITY AND MIGRATION

Escalating Climate Crisis

The past decade has been the hottest on record, with 2024 standing out as the warmest year yet, marking another alarming milestone in the escalating climate

crisis. According to the World Weather Attribution¹ and Climate Central², extreme weather reached dangerous new heights in 2024. Last year's record-breaking temperatures, which fuelled unrelenting heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, storms and floods, killed thousands of people and forced millions from their homes.

Climate change has already displaced millions of people, forcing them to leave their homes due to extreme weather events and environmental degradation. In 2024 alone, rising global temperatures led to an average of 41 additional days of dangerous heat. Moreover, the record-breaking global temperatures translated into record-breaking downpours, intensifying flooding and devastating communities. Meanwhile, rising ocean temperatures and warmer air fuelled more destructive storms, amplifying the frequency and severity of extreme weather across the globe.

According to the World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General³, "Climate history is playing out before our eyes. We've had not just one or two record-breaking years, but a full ten-year series. This has been accompanied by devastating and extreme weather, rising sea levels, and melting ice, all powered by record-breaking greenhouse gas levels due to human activities".

Another study published in *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*⁴ found that ocean warming in 2024 played a key role in the record high temperatures. The ocean is the warmest it has ever been as recorded by humans, not only at the surface but also for the upper 2,000 meters. About 90 per cent of the excess heat from global warming is stored in the ocean, making ocean heat content a critical indicator of climate change.

In this context, the latest developments in the United States are deeply worrying. The decision of the new U.S. Administration to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change erodes the efforts of all State parties and threatens further negotiations, namely the agreements reached during COP29 in Baku.

The targets agreed in Baku, although far from perfect, represented hope for many developing countries.

Regarding funding, COP29, bringing together almost 200 countries, reached a groundbreaking agreement known as the New Collective Quantified Target on Climate Finance (NCQG), which tripled funding for developing countries to 300 billion USD a year by 2035.

¹ World Weather Attribution, When Risks Become Reality: Extreme Weather In 2024, December 2024, Available: <https://www.worldweatherattribution.org/when-risks-become-reality-extreme-weather-in-2024/>

² Climate Central, Available: <https://www.climatecentral.org/>

³ World Meteorological Organization, WMO confirms 2024 as warmest year on record at about 1.55°C above pre-industrial level, January 2025, Available: <https://wmo.int/media/news/wmo-confirms-2024-warmest-year-record-about-155degc-above-pre-industrial-level>

⁴ *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*, Record High Temperatures in the Ocean in 2024, January 2025, Available: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00376-025-4541-3>

In addition to the financing agreement, COP29 also reached conclusions on carbon markets, creating mechanisms that will help countries deliver their climate plans more quickly and cheaply, making faster progress in halving global emissions in this decade.

Another important milestone at the multilateral level was the recent adoption by the United Nations of the Pact for the Future⁵. In the area of sustainable development, climate, and financing for development, several ideas were approved that deserve our support: mobilizing more financing from multilateral development banks to help developing countries meet their development needs; reviewing the sovereign debt architecture to ensure that developing countries can borrow sustainably to invest in their future; accelerating measures to address the challenge of climate change, including through delivering more finance to help countries adapt to climate change and invest in renewable energy; confirmation of the need to keep global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

These goals cannot be jeopardized; on the contrary, they must be strengthened and have the unconditional support of each one of our countries.

Water Security

Water scarcity and limited access to drinking water sources are also global concerns. While different OSCE sub-regions face distinct challenges in this context, it is crucial to highlight the specific vulnerabilities of the Mediterranean and Central Asian areas.

Efforts to rationalize consumption, constantly improving distribution infrastructures and, when there is no other possibility, investing in desalination plants must continue.

The Aral Sea and the surrounding regions are among the most affected in the OSCE area and, therefore, require greater attention. Growing water scarcity and deterioration of water quality have led to degradation of soil and vegetation, devastating changes in flora and fauna, a decline in fish stocks, and seriously affected agriculture.

Since 1993, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea has endeavoured to alleviate the environmental catastrophe as well as the economic and social repercussions for the populations of several countries.

We must continue to support the efforts of this and of other similar organizations to create regional co-operation policies that promote the rational use of water,

⁵ United Nations, Pact for the Future, September 2024, Available: <https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future>

taking into account the interests of all countries in the region and a fair distribution of existing water resources.

Climate-Induced Migration

Climate refugees are now a reality on every continent. According to new data, wars and climate disasters have driven a threefold increase in the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Africa over the past 15 years. There are now 35 million people internally displaced on the continent, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre⁶. More than 216 million people across five continents will be on the move within their countries by 2050, in large part due to climate change⁷. Many of these IDPs will seek refuge in Europe and North America.

Rising sea levels, floodings, prolonged heat waves, wildfires, severe droughts, stronger extreme weather events, and food and clean water scarcity are already a reality that we cannot deny. The 2015 European migrant crisis, partially influenced by climate-related factors, highlighted the significant political and security challenges associated with managing large-scale migration.

To prevent a recurrence of past shortcomings, responses must be proactive, strategic, and firmly rooted in the principles of equity and solidarity. This implies shifting from ad hoc responses to climate and refugee crises as they arise to more preventive actions on multiple fronts to mitigate their impact.

We can mitigate some of these problems if we decide to deal with their root causes and intervene at their source.

To do so, international funding and assistance are needed on a large scale. However, we recognize that securing such support can be complex, as short-term electoral cycles and the growing influence of populist narratives in many countries can negatively impact on public perceptions in this context.

IDPs and climate refugees must be supported, primarily in their local communities. If necessary, the relocation of affected populations should be carefully planned in advance, with financial support from the international community. Additionally, legal frameworks should be developed to integrate climate adaptation with migration management, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the protection they need.

Migration should also be seen as an opportunity for the host countries' socio-economic development. In the northern hemisphere, there is a growing need for

⁶ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Internal Displacement in Africa, An overview of trends and developments (2009-2023), Available: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/regional-reports/internal-displacement-in-africa/>

⁷ International Organization for Migration, Foreword, World Migration Report, Available: <https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/what-we-do/foreword/foreword>

labour that is not available on the market in most of these countries due to demographic aging.

The Draghi report on EU competitiveness⁸ has made it clear: for Europe to remain a global leader, it must embrace migration as a key component of its economic strategy. The report underscores that Europe's workforce is projected to shrink by nearly two million workers annually by 2040. This decline threatens Europe's ability to sustain its economic growth, invest in innovation, and remain competitive in key global markets. Migrants, including those displaced by climate change, are essential to offset these labour shortages and contribute to sectors such as healthcare, technology, and green energy. Moreover, they will also be critical to boosting the ranks of future European defences. Without a forward-thinking migration policy, Europe risks stagnation while other global powers surge ahead.

Although migration flows should be managed according to national legislation, the basic principles of International Refugee and Humanitarian Law must also apply in specific cases for climate and political refugees.

A comprehensive approach to migration in the context of climate change is, therefore, essential. However, climate migration projections must be approached with caution, as exaggerated figures can foster fear and xenophobia and undermine scientific credibility. Effective responses should prioritize: (1) strengthening adaptation capacities to give people the choice to stay or move, (2) ensuring human security and protecting migrant rights, and (3) leveraging migration as a tool for resilience. Furthermore, integrating migration-related considerations into national climate adaptation plans is crucial to fostering sustainable and forward-looking policymaking.

ENERGY SECURITY

Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition

We must continue to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and increase public and private investment in all types of clean/renewable energies: solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, ocean/waves, and bioenergy.

According to the EU Commission President⁹, “Not only must we continue to diversify our energy supplies and expand clean sources of generation, [but] we must also mobilize more private capital to modernize our electricity grids and storage infrastructure,” she said. “We must [also] better connect our clean and low-carbon energy systems.”

⁸ European Commission, The future of European competitiveness: Report by Mario Draghi, September 2024, Available: https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/draghi-report_en

⁹ European Commission, Special Address by President von der Leyen at the World Economic Forum, January 2025, Available: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_25_285

The dependence of part of Europe on fossil fuels from the Russian Federation, especially after the invasion of Ukraine, has jeopardized our energy security.

Important measures taken since then have mitigated such dependence. However, significant development opportunities lie in triggering a sustainable transition towards non-polluting sources of energy while duly leveraging new technologies. Without a global, concerted strategy to support renewable energies, we are only masking our problems.

According to EMBER, in 2024 Europe already produced more electricity from the sun than from coal¹⁰. This progress constitutes a milestone in the transition to renewable energies: solar panels produced 11 per cent of the European Union's electricity in 2024, while coal-fired power stations produced 10 per cent. Another piece of good news is that electricity production from fossil gas has fallen for the fifth year in a row to 16 per cent.

The strong growth of solar energy and the recovery of hydroelectric power have increased the share of renewable energies to 47 per cent of electricity production in the European Union, compared to 34 per cent in 2019.

We know that there is a growing trend in global energy consumption. Faced with this scenario, which will intensify in the coming years, energy distribution networks will play a fundamental role, as they will require major investment, not only for their expansion but also to reinforce their capacity, particularly to withstand extreme weather events.

We must also focus our attention on simplifying the procedures for producing energy from renewable sources. To this end, we must aim to produce safer and more sustainable energy at more affordable prices and establish new legislation to intensify the production of green energy, diversify supply, and improve efficiency.

The increase in fossil fuel prices has a particularly strong impact not only on vulnerable consumers or those living in energy poverty, but also on many small and medium-sized businesses, exacerbating economic disparities and inequalities. Therefore, we must focus on accelerating the ecological transition to reduce emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.

Tackling energy poverty, thereby ensuring that vulnerable consumers and middle-class families have access to essential energy services and products at reasonable prices, must also be in our scope of action.

Due to its direct impact on people's lives, affecting mainly households, and its complexity, energy poverty remains a major challenge to be further addressed. The COVID-19 crisis, followed by the surge in energy prices and the Russian

¹⁰ EMBER, European Electricity Review 2025, January 2025, Available: <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/european-electricity-review-2025/>

Federation's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, have worsened an already difficult situation for many of our citizens.

In this respect, the measures approved by the European Union¹¹ can serve as an example: the establishment of National Energy and Climate Plans, prioritizing measures targeting vulnerable groups, supporting investments for increased energy efficiency, and empowering consumers through a series of wide-reaching measures.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rebuilding Ukraine, strengthening good governance, boosting cross-border co-operation and promoting economic development by leveraging new technologies are areas we should pay more attention to.

Rebuilding Ukraine

One of the main challenges for the OSCE region in the coming years will be rebuilding Ukraine. The Russian Federation's aggression has destroyed vital infrastructure, government buildings, and housing, which caused millions of refugees and IDPs and has also had devastating consequences for the country's economy.

Whatever the outcome of this aggression will be, its consequences will last in Ukraine and throughout the OSCE area for many years to come.

Therefore, there must be a joint effort by our countries, international organizations, especially the OSCE and the European Union, and our societies to support Ukraine and Ukrainians. This effort must include a plan for a long-term economic recovery and financial stabilization, the reconstruction of infrastructure, the revitalization of connections to Europe's transport and energy networks, and the safe return of refugees and IDPs.

We must also prioritize measures to integrate Ukraine into European structures, namely the European Union, if this is the sovereign will of the Ukrainian people.

Enhancing Good Governance

Strengthening good governance across the OSCE region is essential to ensuring stability and economic prosperity. Corruption remains a significant security challenge, as it erodes public trust in institutions, distorts fair economic competition, and undermines democratic governance. By weakening legal frameworks and fostering impunity, corruption not only jeopardizes the rule of law but also creates vulnerabilities that can be exploited for illicit activities.

¹¹ European Commission, National energy and climate plans, Available: https://commission.europa.eu/energy-climate-change-environment/implementation-eu-countries/energy-and-climate-governance-and-reporting/national-energy-and-climate-plans_en

In this context, combating money laundering and financing of terrorism is a priority, particularly as new technologies, including virtual assets, present both opportunities and risks. Strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing transparency, and ensuring effective oversight of virtual asset transactions are crucial steps to prevent their misuse for illicit financial flows.

By reinforcing anti-corruption measures and bolstering financial integrity, we can promote accountable institutions that serve the interests of all citizens and contribute to regional security and economic development.

Connectivity and Re-industrialization

Regarding the economic development of the OSCE area, and despite the differences that separate us, we must move towards greater connectivity, integration, and interdependence.

Strengthening trade and economic ties must be a priority for our governments. Economic isolation and the imposition of new, unjustified tariff barriers cannot be the solution. Otherwise, trade wars that nobody can win will be the new normal, and our citizens will likely face new inflationary waves.

Over the last 50 years, the OSCE has consistently worked to promote cross-border trade. In the current scenario, we must take this task a step further. Trade can be a powerful instrument for peace.

Therefore, facilitating and strengthening international trade is what we at the OSCE PA, as parliamentarians, are advocating as the way forward. Lasting peace and security are based on trust; trade as an engine of mutual knowledge and development is one of the instruments that the OSCE cannot do without.

The European Union's upcoming industrial decarbonization strategy is a good example of what our governments can achieve: environmentally friendly policies that also promote economic growth.

The main areas of this strategy will be energy security and energy prices, financing, recycling and critical raw materials, labour and skills, lead markets and global action.

The re-industrialization of our societies, through investments that are not speculative but truly productive, in which the priority is the creation of wealth and qualified employment and a commitment to scientific research and technology, must guide our legislative agenda.

Governments must also strengthen their means of fighting corruption and protecting their critical infrastructure. The recent sabotage of data and energy

transmission cables in the Baltic Sea deserves our condemnation and attention through increased surveillance.

Moreover, in the coming years our countries will likely have to make greater budgetary investments in common defence systems. Support for defence industries, whether they already exist or are yet to be created, should be seen as an opportunity to create jobs, invest in scientific and technological development, and foster economic growth.

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In recent decades, world trade has undergone significant changes, firstly due to industrial relocation to other regions, particularly in Asia, but also with the development of new technologies that have radically changed the paradigm of work.

AI is probably the main transformative technological development of recent decades, affecting not only the labour market, but also our daily lives and even relationships between countries. It is already automating many of the tasks we perform today, which will transform the workforce of the future.

Machine learning and AI are very intensive in terms of computing and, consequently, energy consumption. The energy needs of the huge data centres that underpin the AI revolution continue to increase. However, AI's energy needs are likely to be met largely by fossil fuels, especially outside the European Union (USA and China). This could jeopardize the climate commitments already made.

In geopolitical terms, AI can be used as a 'diplomatic weapon', not only in the development and use of applications but also in terms of investments such as the purchase of companies (start-ups or more established ones) in other regions. In this context, we should be on the lookout for the chip industry, which is fundamental for AI applications and cloud services.

A recent study by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training¹² on skills and working with AI shows that there is still a great deal of fear on the part of the workers consulted that their jobs will be eliminated due to the increasing use of this new technology. There is, therefore, a need to adjust the qualifications of the labour force to the demands of the workplace, as AI is transforming the nature of labour functions, automating routine tasks, and creating professions that require specific technical skills.

It is essential to adjust the training offered to the new needs to promote employment and contribute to the competitiveness and innovation of companies

¹² European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, How to get ready for AI in the workplace – Cedefop survey, June 2024, Available: <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/how-get-ready-ai-workplace-edefop-survey>

and ensure that the labour force is prepared for the current and future challenges posed by AI.

Economic freedom and support for the creation and growth of the private sector must be accompanied by social measures to support the most fragile and disadvantaged sectors.

OSCE PA's CONTRIBUTION

While retaining a strong focus on the security impact of AI, in 2025 the OSCE PA is enriching its engagement on climate change by looking at its intersection with human mobility. During the last OSCE PA Winter Meeting, discussions in the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment emphasized the growing challenges posed by climate change, migration, energy, resource scarcity, and AI.

The work of our General Committee is interwoven with the efforts of a growing number of OSCE PA structures, with whom we frequently co-ordinate to strengthen economic and environmental security, thereby demonstrating the heightened relevance of OSCE's 2nd basket in modern days.

In late 2024, the Parliamentary Assembly Support Team for Ukraine prioritized strengthening Ukraine's resilience. Special Rapporteur Mati Raidma conducted a fact-finding mission to Kyiv in April 2025, addressing critical areas such as labour shortages, reintegration of war veterans, IDPs and refugees, civilian and energy infrastructure, and media and information literacy, including at grass-root level. These efforts aim to support Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction while offering avenues for collaboration with the Second Committee.

In November 2024, the OSCE PA formally contributed to the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan. At the OSCE's side-event on "Advancing a Climate-Resilient, Green, and Just Energy Transition," OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Climate Change, Mr. Pere Joan Pons, underscored the urgent need to integrate climate resilience into energy policies for a sustainable, clean energy future. Ahead of COP29, the Special Representative also issued a call for global action, highlighting climate change as a "threat multiplier" that exacerbates existing tensions and drives migration.

In parallel, the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration has consistently explored the humanitarian and security challenges associated with irregular migration, emphasizing the benefits of enhanced, co-ordinated, and humane migration governance. Through targeted visits to migration hotspots in Italy, Türkiye and Morocco, and also by sharing best practices and developing comprehensive policy guidance, the Committee has played a crucial role in assessing migration challenges and shaping policy responses throughout 2024.

The OSCE PA's Special Representative on Central Asia, Ms. Farah Karimi, has fostered regional co-operation on environmental security, particularly in relation to water security and climate change-related challenges. These efforts marked the visit to Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan in April 2024 and the 2nd Ashgabat Conference in Turkmenistan in November 2024. A visit to Kyrgyzstan at the end of April 2025 has provided new opportunities for regional engagement on critical 2nd dimension issues.

Meanwhile, the Special Representative on South East Europe, Mr. Kyriakos Hadjiyianni, hosted the 3rd Inter-Parliamentary Forum of OSCE PA Delegations from the region in Kastoria, Greece in March 2025. The forum focused on energy security and the green transition. Additionally, the Special Representative on the Arctic and High North, Mr. Mark Pritchard, has continued exploring environmental and security challenges affecting the Arctic - including through an official visit to the USA in March 2025 - where global warming effects are notably more visible and fuel geopolitical tensions.

Moreover, while former Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence, Mr. Tine Novak, contributed to the 31st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague in September 2024 by emphasizing the need for forward-looking regulations to manage AI's risks while harnessing its potential, our Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism has produced innovative policy guidance on the nexus of new technologies, such as AI, with terrorism and radicalization, a development which was broadly welcomed by our international partners. Finally, the Special Representative on Demographic Change and Security, Ms. Gudrun Kugler, recently issued an insightful report on the profound impact of demographic shifts on security and stability across the OSCE region.

Recognizing the need for comprehensive responses, the OSCE PA is also collaborating closely with the OSCE executive structures. Finland's 2025 OSCE Chairpersonship has placed resilience at the centre of its agenda, emphasizing the importance of environmental co-operation, conflict prevention, and sustainable development as pillars of comprehensive security.

In alignment with these objectives, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) is currently prioritizing the fight against climate change, promoting water co-operation, enhancing good governance, and strengthening cross-border connectivity across the OSCE region by running targeted initiatives and projects.

The OSCE PA strongly supports this ambitious security agenda, reiterating its readiness to promote multilateral engagement on climate security and cross-border environmental challenges.

CONCLUSION

In the face of global challenges, our governments must nurture innovation, foster competition, and protect the most vulnerable. Investing in efficiency and encouraging companies to adopt sustainable practices is a necessity. Sustainable development, digital and green transitions, and the spread of AI offer new opportunities to promote peace and prosperity in the OSCE region.

Without sustainable economic development and equal opportunities, there is no real democracy, and, as a result, our citizens do not feel truly represented politically and socially. At a time when democratic values are under threat, the commitment to free markets and to sustainable economic development are fundamental pillars of our societies.

As policymakers, we must find a balance between rapid economic changes and social responsibility, ensuring that progress benefits all citizens, strengthens trust in democratic institutions, and secures long-term stability. In doing so, we will reinforce the OSCE's mission of promoting peace, security, and co-operation through sustainable and inclusive economic policies.