



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Permanent Council No. 1343 Vienna, 4 November 2021**

#### **EU Statement in response to the report by the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Ambassador Igli Hasani**

1. The European Union warmly welcomes Ambassador Igli Hasani to the Permanent Council in his new role as Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and thanks him for his report. Ambassador Hasani, your remarks have illustrated very well the significance of economic and environmental issues for the stability and security of the OSCE area and its citizens. We assure you of our continued support for strong OSCE engagement in the Economic and Environmental Dimension as an integral part of the Organisation's comprehensive approach to security.
2. We remain fully committed to advancing the agenda of the second dimension and to engage in economic and environmental co-operation as a tool for confidence building and conflict prevention, in line with OSCE values and international commitments.
3. We support the importance you have attached in your activities to the prevention and the fight against corruption and its linkage to organised crime, as well as your focus on the role of the media, private sector and civil society in this regard. We appreciate your work on connectivity and digital transformation, as well as the particular attention you pay to enhancing regional cooperation and fostering sustainability. We also welcome your work on women's empowerment, by, inter alia, launching new initiatives this year and organising the 2021 Economic and Environmental Forum on this topic; we are committed to building on this momentum to reach consensus on the respective draft decision for the adoption in Stockholm.

4. We equally appreciate your focus on addressing the security implications of environmental and climate challenges. In this context, we welcome your office's activities to promoting good environmental governance, inter alia by supporting the multi-stakeholder approach of Aarhus Centres, and to address topics such as transboundary water cooperation, disaster risk reduction, climate change and energy security, also by increasing the use of renewable energy resources. We hope to strengthen our commitments in this regard in the upcoming Stockholm Ministerial Council to reflect the urgency of the climate and environmental crisis, as well as the link between the environment and security.
5. We further welcome your commitment to gender equality through full and comprehensive mainstreaming of gender across all activities of the Office. We are convinced that incorporating a gender perspective in all OSCE activities is an essential component of a comprehensive approach to security.
6. We appreciate the co-organisation by the OCEEA of a high-level conference this summer to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bonn Document. It provided a valuable opportunity to review how the OSCE can continue contributing to European peace, security and prosperity through a market-based economy and environmental protection and to highlight the changing role of the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension over the past 30 years.
7. We thank you for focusing on synergies and avoiding duplications. Joining efforts and coordinating activities among OSCE structures and with other international organisations is key to delivering better results. We encourage you to continue in this way. We equally attach great importance to your active and close cooperation with the field operations and thank you for your continued support to them.
8. We welcome the steps undertaken by your Office in order to make your activities more visible, in particular the launch of the Confluence Space platform to facilitate the exchange of information between your Office and delegations. We would like to stress our support in continuing this work also with regard to the projects your Office is implementing.

9. In conclusion, we thank you and your team for your valuable work throughout the year and in supporting the Chair's efforts in the negotiations of the three draft ministerial decisions in the second dimension. We are looking forward to continuing our good cooperation.

The Candidate Countries the REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA, MONACO and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.