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EUROPEAN UNION

21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum 1st Preparatory Meeting

Vienna, 4 – 5 February 2013

EU Opening Statement

The European Union is pleased to participate in the first Preparatory Meeting of the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum.

We all face great challenges in trying to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, including in the areas of climate change, energy security, efficient use of energy resources and the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy. The EU has set ambitious energy and climate goals - to reduce by 2020 greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, to increase the share of renewable energy to 20% and to make a 20% improvement in energy efficiency. These have been incorporated into the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth adopted by the European Council in June 2010. The EU energy strategy towards 2020 moreover identifies five top priorities, which have paved the way for concrete EU legislative initiatives and proposals over the last two years, especially in the area of energy efficiency, electricity and gas markets integration, renewable energy and international cooperation through bilateral and multilateral frameworks. Beyond 2020, the EU Energy Roadmap 2050 explores the challenges posed by delivering the EU's decarbonisation objective while

at the same time ensuring security of energy supply and competitiveness. We should bear in mind these initiatives as well as relevant initiatives of a number of major international institutions with greater expertise in the field of promoting sustainable energy solutions. We are therefore pleased that representatives of several partner organisations of the OSCE have been invited to this meeting and we look forward to their presentations. We encourage them to elaborate on a possible complementary role the OSCE could play in this regard.

We would like to recall existing OSCE documents, especially the Athens Ministerial Decision 06/09 on Strengthening Dialogue and Cooperation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area that resulted in several discussions and follow-up events, as well as preparation of a report by the OSCE Secretary General concerning the complementary role of OSCE in the field of energy security. The work done so far, especially during the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship, provides a good basis for our discussions this year. We should build on our achievements so far and explore further a complementary role for the OSCE to play in the energy field.

Stability, predictability and respect for the rule of law are core factors in attracting investment and in meeting energy security objectives. Transparency and good governance drive stability and predictability, therefore we believe the OSCE should concentrate efforts in this area using its unique competence and expertise in the field of good governance. We reiterate our view that pS should explore the possibility of an OSCE endorsement of the EITI principles, particularly in the context of implementing commitments reiterated in the Ministerial Declaration on good governance adopted in Dublin last year. We therefore welcome that the first preparatory meeting of the 21st EEF

focuses also on these aspects and we look forward to the presentations, especially concerning the role for the OSCE.

We have already recognized that the OSCE as a political security organization is well placed to serve as a platform for a cooperative dialogue to enhance transparency, reliability and cooperation in the energy field. It is crucial to know what other actors are doing and to explore together with them new opportunities for increased cooperation. Due to the multifaceted nature of energy security, progress can only be achieved through strong international cooperation, since several specialised organizations are mandated to address specific energy issues. In this spirit we look forward to an intensive and fruitful debate in the days ahead.

Finally, we would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship and the OSCE CoEEA and his staff for preparing this first meeting.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.