



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**20<sup>th</sup> OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

**“Promoting Security and Stability through Good Governance”**

**SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING**

*“Promoting good governance and combating corruption*

*in support of socio-economic development”*

**Dublin, 23-24 April 2012**

**Opening Remarks**

**by Mr. Goran Svilanović**

**Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to join Minister Perry in welcoming you to this 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum.

Allow me to also take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the hospitality that the Irish Chairmanship has shown by hosting this event in its capital, as well as for its very productive and meaningful insights during the preparations of this Second meeting that closes the preparatory cycle of the Forum.

Distinguished participants,

Today we initiate the second phase of the Forum process, dedicated to the topic of *promoting good governance and combating corruption in support of socio-economic development*.

We are all aware that corruption is one of the biggest threats to security and stability and a big barrier for the effective implementation of good governance principles. As a direct abuse

of entrusted power, corruption and bribery undermine democratic institutions, diminish the rule of law, discourage investment and business development, hurt social integration and hinder the capacity of countries to allocate scarce resources in an efficient manner.

In this regard, anti-corruption initiatives have proven to have a positive impact on a country's prosperity. According to the IMF, if a country improves its corruption index by two points, it will enjoy an increase in investment activity by four percentage points and half a percentage point in the annual growth of GDP per capita. Therefore, measures that help prevent and counter corruption in both the public and private sectors should be vigorously encouraged by all of us. Only by effectively implementing good governance practices can we increase our social, economic, and environmental capital in order to achieve lasting prosperity and sustainable socio-economic development.

This is why the 2003 OSCE Ministerial Council in Maastricht placed strong emphasis on further developing the co-operation among the OSCE participating States to strengthen good governance on the international and national levels, and to fight corruption. By promoting a culture that upholds values of transparency, accountability and integrity, we aim at achieving an ethical public administration that enjoys the trust of the people. We also actively encourage stronger inclusion of civil society in public matters in order to enable a broad-based decision-making process that includes all relevant actors - the government, the private sector and the civil society.

As recalled by Minister Perry, the 2004 Sofia Ministerial Council Decision on Combating Corruption gave the OCEEA the mandate to assist OSCE participating States in the ratification and implementation of the *United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)*.

Thus, in the last ten years, my Office has worked on raising awareness of the damaging effects of weak governance and corruption and the new means and tools available to countries interested in effectively fighting this scourge. In co-operation with other OSCE executive structures and institutions as well as with relevant international organizations, we have promoted the implementation of existing international anti-corruption frameworks and legal instruments, in particular the UNCAC. We have also organised several roundtables, expert seminars, training programmes and study tours across the OSCE region to facilitate

exchange of best practices, expertise, peer learning and professional networking. Some of the most recent events, like the OCEEA-OECD Expert Seminar on *"Anti-Corruption Policy and Integrity Training"* or the roundtable *"On the road to Marrakesh: the role of civil society in fighting corruption"* have just been mentioned by Minister Perry.

We have also provided more concrete support to initiatives like the establishment of Anti-corruption Agencies and Financial Intelligence Units in different OSCE countries and thematic publications. In this connection, I would like to inform you that we are currently updating the *OSCE Guide on Best Practices in Combating Corruption* and working on a new publication on National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. We will have the pleasure to share these with you during our Concluding Meeting in September in Prague.

Dear participants,

Our efforts would not be so significant without the contribution of our field presences. The OSCE Missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Skopje, our Presence in Albania, our Centres in Bishkek and Astana, and our Offices in Yerevan, Baku and Tajikistan are working closely with their host countries in providing assistance in areas such as development of anti-corruption legislation, anti-corruption agencies and independent judiciaries; development of codes of conduct and transparent public procurement processes; promoting integrity in customs and border services as well as raising the awareness and engagement of the civil society.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our partner organizations, OSCE institutions and field presences for your continuing support and dedication. By complementing each other and also working together, we will be faster and more effective in reaching our common goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting is a unique occasion for us to exchange knowledge and experience gained across the OSCE region and with our Partners for Co-operation as well as within the civil society and the International Organizations. Let us use this Meeting fully to identify areas for

further improvement and co-operation to reach our common goal of improved governance and transparency, and eradication of corruption for the benefit of sustainable socio-economic development, stability and security. I would therefore like to encourage all of you to actively participate in the discussions and to suggest topics for further elaboration at the Concluding Forum Meeting in Prague.

Thank you very much for your attention