



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

## **THE 19th OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting  
7-8 FEBRUARY 2011, VIENNA

**Closing Statement by  
Goran Svilanovic  
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Dear Ambassador,  
Dear Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having reached the end of this First Preparatory Meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, dedicated to the very topical issue of 'Development of Sustainable Energy', allow me to voice my satisfaction with regard to the positive spirit of our deliberations, the wide range of issues we have touched upon, the quality of our speakers' presentations, as well as to the results we have achieved.

I believe this meeting has confirmed once again the usefulness of the OSCE engagement in promoting dialogue and co-operation in energy issues. We should continue in building upon the outcomes of our previous engagements, the conferences we have organized so far, the work done by the Economic and Environmental Officers in the field and the discussions we have held in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee. These activities and events represent a solid basis for our future endeavours. Let me also note that the Report of the OSCE Secretary General *Concerning the Complementary Role of the OSCE in the Field of Energy Security* has provided us with a useful starting point for discussions in some of the Forum's sessions. I am very much looking forward to further discussing the recommendations of this report in the Permanent Council.

Of course, the results we have reached through this Preparatory Meeting, the conclusions we can draw at this point, have a preliminary character. We have to refine them and further define the concrete role the OSCE can play in promoting co-operation in the field of energy. But they represent without any doubt a promising beginning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some of the questions raised during this two-day meeting have received an appropriate answer, some have been only partially addressed, while others have just been formulated and

require further debate. But, all in all, I think that we have had a good start and I am confident that at the Concluding Meeting in Prague we will achieve concrete and positive results.

This would be indeed very important as the challenges we currently face are real and urgent. As one speaker stated, this is a time of energy transition and transformation. Our collective action and our political will should ensure the correct evolution of these processes. The outcome must be beneficial to all of us. In this regard, we should bear in mind that access to energy is a pre-requisite for development, for poverty reduction, for the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals. Many participants have referred to the complexity of energy issues in the contemporary world and therefore to the need of developing new and integrated energy approaches and concepts, such as, "networked energy security". I think that due to its comprehensive concept of security, the OSCE is well placed to further contribute in this direction. The development of sustainable energy is a key aspect of energy security and requires a climate of political stability and co-operation.

Let me also underline the key importance of good governance in the energy field. A set of rules and codes of conducts should guide the behavior of all the stakeholders involved in the energy field. In this respect, I should also emphasize the role of partnership and co-operation between the governments, the private sector and the civil society. Ideas such as diversifying energy sources, the "energy mix", developing renewable energy solutions and increasing energy efficiency have been on everybody's lips over the last two days. These issues are quite high on the agenda of many regional and international organizations and represent a constant preoccupation for all participating States.

There is a lot of expertise and know-how available in this regard, and we have to continue in enhancing co-operation and coordination with relevant international organizations, such as the UNECE, UNIDO, IRENA, etc.

The OSCE should be seen as a platform for sharing experiences and best practices. Indeed, the OSCE can facilitate partnerships among different regions and countries. More concretely, some proposals have been made in this direction, such as the formation of databases on good practices and sustainable energy issues, and the organization of discussions among participating States on further possibilities of transfer of experience.

Moreover, during the debate it has been underlined that energy dialogue should be based on more intense regional and sub-regional energy co-operation, not just at institutional or state level, but also at business sector level. In this respect, some suggestions for regional events and activities have also been formulated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Office will compile the Consolidated Summary of this meeting which will be made available to all of you during the next weeks. It should also serve as a basis for discussions in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee here in Vienna.

We will also continue the preparation of the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which will focus on 'Development of Sustainable Transport' and will take place on 4-5 April in Druskininkai, Lithuania.

Before closing this meeting, I would like to thank all those who contributed to its success, the Lithuanian Chairmanship, the Moderators, Speakers and Rapporteurs, the interpreters, the conference service staff, as well as the colleagues from my Office.

I also want to thank all of you, dear participants, for your active contribution, and to wish you a safe trip back home. I am looking forward to seeing you soon in our next meetings.