



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum 2nd Preparatory Meeting Vienna, 15 - 16 June 2020

EU Closing Statement

The European Union would like to thank the Albanian Chairmanship and the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and his staff for organising the Second Preparatory Meeting of 28th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

The EU thanks all the presenters for their contributions and the Albanian Chairmanship for prioritising the topic of corruption, which is one of our key priorities in the Economic and Environmental dimension. We welcome that this meeting also provided the opportunity to discuss the impacts of corruption on the environment and natural resources.

We look forward to continuing this dialogue during the upcoming Anti-Corruption Conference and beyond, in the spirit of a multi-stakeholder approach, with active involvement of the private sector and civil society.

Over the past two days, we have seen many examples of national anti-corruption measures, innovative solutions and digital tools to prevent corruption. The discussions have highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to anti-corruption measures and the necessity of inter-

governmental cooperation, including joint international investigations of environmental crimes. Our exchanges have also underlined the positive effects of beneficial ownership disclosure, the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogue and the significance of indirect methods of combating corruption, promoting gender equality being one of these.

We would like to thank the speakers for highlighting the gravity of the impacts of corruption on the environment, including through trafficking of wildlife and natural resources. Throughout this Forum, we have heard excellent examples of national and international efforts in this area, including fight against illicit financial flows, building capacities across law enforcement, promoting transparency, enhancing international cooperation investigating environmental crime, creation of cooperation networks as well as involvement of communities and civil society. We hope that through our discussions and their potential tangible outcomes, we and the OSCE will be able to contribute to the international efforts in this field.

The EU reaffirms its strong commitment to continue efforts to prevent, combat and to promote effective measures against corruption in all forms. We also strongly support the valuable work of the OSCE's autonomous institutions and field missions, as well as the Secretariat, in this regard.

We believe that we should build upon, as was further highlighted during this Forum, our common interests in combatting corruption in a comprehensive manner, in all forms and at all levels. We are looking forward to the continuing work towards prevention and the fight against corrupt practices, including those impacting the environment through environmental crime, trafficking of natural resources or trafficking of wildlife.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and

HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA 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.