



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

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

**27<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum**

**“Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through energy co-operation, new technologies, good governance and connectivity in the digital era”**

**SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING**

Bratislava, 27 May 2019

**Concluding remarks  
by**

**Ambassador Vuk Žugić  
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

In closing the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, I first of all would like to take the opportunity to thank the Slovak Chairmanship for having dedicated the whole meeting to the topic of energy cooperation.

This meeting gave us a timely opportunity to reflect on the developments undergoing in the energy sector, and to discuss how these new trends translate into new opportunities and challenges for our participating States in terms of energy security.

A broad spectrum of diverse perspectives and insights brought in by our panellists from the government, academia, intergovernmental partners and business sector made this discussion truly valuable for our future engagement in this area.

I would like to draw your attention to **three key messages** that emerged from today's discussion.

The **first** one lies in the importance of **increasing cooperation and coordination** between international and regional organizations.

Today we heard, for example, of the important role that the OSCE can play in raising awareness and building political will for the implementation of norms and standards set by **UNECE** towards achieving the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

In this regard, I am particularly thankful to our long friend, Ambassador Olga Algayerova, for her continuous support and engagement in building synergies with us on how to best complement our respective mandates in supporting our participating States towards the implementation of several SDGs.

The **second** message we can draw from this Second Preparatory Meeting is the important role of **public-private partnerships** in improving the environmental footprint of energy related activities.

The need for significant investments in new technologies and infrastructure throughout the OSCE region was particularly highlighted as well as the important role of governments to support stable and robust regulatory framework and market transparency.

Today's **side event** proved that the OSCE can provide a valuable partners also in fostering dialogue and exchange between government representatives and key leading energy companies.

**Lastly**, the **most important** message emerged today was the need for a continued and reinforced energy **dialogue among participating States** on how to join efforts to overcome the new security challenges brought about by the **energy transition**.

Although this transition has the potential to provide great opportunities in terms of economic growth and sustainable development, the decarbonisation and digitization of the energy systems brings new challenges and exposes our energy networks to new vulnerabilities. No country can meet these challenges alone and, although our pathways may differ depending on national circumstances, it is still important that we keep an open dialogue and support each other in understanding the key aspects on which joint efforts are required to foster our global energy security.

In this regards, the **Office** has been particularly active in supporting several OSCE participating States in two among the most important aspects of this transition, namely the **protection of critical energy networks** and ways to reduce the **environmental footprint** of their energy activities.

During this same week, we will be conducting a workshop on “*Integrating Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection into Effective Disaster Risk Reduction Policies*” for energy experts from Central Asia.

Furthermore, as anticipated by the Secretary General during his opening remarks, in the last months we have received many requests of support by several participating States. We are currently working on **two key projects**, one on promoting **green ports** and connectivity in the Caspian Sea, and one aimed at the creation of a **virtual training platform** which will allow us to broaden the scope of action of our capacity building trainings.

I am sure that this meeting will provide us with additional **Food-for-Thought** for our further actions in this area as well as in preparation to the discussions that we will have in the next months ahead of the **Ministerial Council in Bratislava**.

In conclusion, let me express my warm thanks to the Slovak Chairmanship for hosting us here in Bratislava and for offering us tomorrow a great opportunity to attend the ITAPA conference and to visit the Gabčíkovo dam

Thank you