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19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

“Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of
development of sustainable energy and transport”

Concluding Meeting, 14 – 16 September 2011, Prague

Concluding Session, Friday, 16 September 2011

Closing Statement

Renatas Norkus,

Chairperson of the Permanent Council

Permanent Representative of Lithuania to OSCE

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad having possibility today to share with you some preliminary ideas and views regarding the outcome of the 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. The eight months since our First Preparatory Meeting have been a period of intensive and challenging, yet fruitful work.

When Lithuania proposed the theme of the Forum, our intentions were two-fold: on the one hand, to enhance the continuity of work in the Second Dimension by addressing key areas such as transport and energy and build upon the existing *acquis*. On the other hand we aimed at strengthening the focus on sustainability and security, by analysing the security implications of different energy policies, various energy and transport activities. Our objective has been to not only to raise the awareness of these

important issues, but also to propose viable ways to strengthen our capabilities, encourage co-operation and generate political will to tackle related challenges.

The presence during these days of numerous delegates from Vienna as well as of high-ranking officials from our capitals and partner organizations, the rich and lively debates we witnessed during this year's Forum meetings, do confirm the pertinence and relevance of the development of sustainable energy and transport in the OSCE area. There is no doubt that participating States are highly interested in promoting common actions and co-operation in this important field to make sure that the OSCE can bring real value added to the ongoing international efforts and attract the interest of others in working together with our organisation.

Throughout the Forum process we have had the opportunity to listen to various stakeholders - representatives of international and regional organisations, national representatives, independent experts, businessmen, civil society representatives and researchers. All of them have provided us with their inputs and expertise. Their views might not always coincide in every single aspect, but they all seem to agree that without co-operation, without the exchange of best practices and without the definition of common and realistic objectives we will not be able to increase efficiency, security and sustainability in the OSCE area.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our economies depend very much on right decisions in the fields of energy, transport, environment protection. We cannot ignore - and should certainly not forget - the mistakes done in the past. We can mitigate their consequences but, first and foremost, we should draw the necessary lessons and avoid the same past mistakes today. To do so, we need not only expertise and knowledge but also a strong political will. This is our main strength and we should make use of it for the benefit of our people and future generations.

We know that there is room for improvement in the field of sustainable energy and transport in the OSCE area. During the Forum we have heard experts raising their

concerns. Now, I believe, the time is ripe for the OSCE to play a role as a platform, not only for the dialogue, but also for defining and agreeing on strategies and priorities, and eventually agreeing on relevant commitments.

While significant progress has been made in the implementation of the existing MC Decisions, other areas still require additional efforts, which could potentially be listed and elaborated upon in new MC Decisions.

Mr. Svilanovic has presented a comprehensive, at the same time, concrete initial elements that were reflected during the Forum. While the Office of Coordinator will prepare a Consolidated Summary of the Forum, allow me telegraphically refer to same recommendations that were expressed around the table and beyond it during many informal consultations that were taking place in the auspices of this conference:

- OSCE should be used broader as a platform for regional cooperation. Bringing together different sub-regional organizations from all OSCE area, exchanging experience in certain spheres of common interest might be useful for all actors, such as Caspian Environmental Program, activities under Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Viking railway line pilot project.
- Discussing energy and transport related issues between policy makers and private business, OSCE should put stronger efforts in promotion of public- private partnership.
- OSCE field operating presence should be more actively involved in the promotion of green energy and transport, innovative solutions in development of policies, reflecting the needs of countries and regions. We would encourage economic and environmental officers to be more active in these areas and cooperate more closely among themselves as well.
- Climate change, energy security, pollution, water scarcity, natural and man-made disasters requires common response and joint actions. OSCE could be broader used as a place for dialogue, sharing of expertise and best practices, bringing together different parties to discuss and adopt common measures.
- Lastly to aiming continuity and consistency in the activities of the 19th and 20th Economic and Environmental Forums a consideration could be given to energy sector also next year when discussing the theme of good governance and transparency the

possibility to discuss the issue of good governance and transparency in the energy sector.

As a follow up to the discussions held during the 19th Economic and Environmental Forum, the Chairmanship would like to propose to discuss and adopt at Vilnius Ministerial Council Meeting decisions on Transport security and Energy security. In close collaboration with the Secretariat, the Chairmanship is working on the draft documents. We will be consulting with pS on their content. One of the proposals briefly introduced by Vice Minister Meilūnas at the Opening Session two days ago would be the formation of a Task Force on Energy Security as well as agreeing on a set of principles of cooperation in the area of energy security, based on OSCE commitments.

We will continue detailed discussions of the main conclusions and of the possible follow-up to the 19th Economic and Environmental Forum during the upcoming Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting in Vienna on 17-19 October. We are also looking forward to the further input and guidance from the participating States in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee. Let's join our efforts, so that by the end of the year, by the Vilnius Ministerial Council meeting, many of this Forum's conclusions and recommendations are successfully translated into political decisions.

The Lithuanian Chairmanship remains committed to promote co-operation in the field of Energy Security. Using this opportunity I would like to invite you to participate actively in the upcoming Chairmanship Conference of the Heads of Energy Agencies - "Integrating Global Energy Markets – Providing Energy Security," on 3-4 November 2011 in Ashgabat.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding this Forum Meeting, I would like to thank all participants for their active involvement in the discussions and debates, all the speakers and panellists for the high quality and pertinent interventions. In addition, I would like to congratulate

the moderators for their professionalism in chairing the sessions and the rapporteurs for making sure that all the voices are well reflected in the summaries.

I would like also to express my gratitude to Mr. Goran Svilanović and his team, as well as to the Prague Office and technical staff of the meeting for the excellent cooperation and in particular for their work in preparing and coordinating this year's Forum.

Last but not least, I would like to warmly thank our host, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, for providing us with all the facilities to organize the concluding part of the Forum in this beautiful and always inviting city.

Looking now to the future, I would like to wish every success to the incoming Irish Chairmanship, in organizing and conducting the next Economic and Environmental Forum cycle on which, as we heard from the Irish Permanent Representation, will focus on *Promoting Security and Stability through Good Governance*.

My last, but certainly not least thanks go to our interpreters who again, demonstrated exceptional skills and professionalism in providing excellent services to all of us. I wish you all safe trip home.

The Forum is closed.

Thank you.