



EUROPEAN UNION

21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum 2nd Preparatory Meeting

Kyiv, 16 – 17 April 2013

EU Opening Statement

The European Union is pleased to take part in the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 21st EEF. We would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for hosting this event and the key note speakers, Assistant Secretary Camunez and Ambassador Lukov, for their thought-provoking interventions.

We have listened with interest to Ambassador Lukov outlining the G20 priorities during the Russian Federation Presidency. Issues such as combating corruption and energy sustainability are pertinent not only for the G20 to address but also for the OSCE.

The G20 Anti-Corruption Plan encompasses several important elements that are also integral part of the OSCE Declaration on Good Governance. These are not only issues such as strengthening the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption, ensuring the independence of anti-corruption agencies, countering bribery involving foreign public officials, fighting money laundering and protecting those that expose corruption but also the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships to combat corruption in specific sectors, including extractive industries. In this context we reiterate our view that pS should explore the possibility of OSCE pS endorsement of the EITI principles aiming at strengthening governance by improving transparency as a critical tool in

the fight against corruption, as also noted by Assistant Secretary Camunez.

We expect that our discussions in the days ahead on sustainable energy, promoting energy efficiency, green growth and other environmental-related energy issues will help us to identify a complementary role for the OSCE to play bearing in mind the existing bilateral and multilateral energy cooperation fora. The OSCE should focus on matters where it can clearly add value, such as security, confidence-building, transboundary cooperation and conflict prevention.

Energy and environmental policies are closely linked. The challenges of producing and using energy resources sustainably and protecting our natural environment equally represent an opportunity to pursue sustainable economic growth, peace and stability.

We believe that our discussions in the upcoming days should build upon recommendations for a future OSCE role related to the impact of energy-related activities on the environment formulated at our meeting in Vienna. We value especially the proposals suggesting promotion of good governance and transparency including enhancing public-participation in decision-making. We believe that the Aarhus Convention is an important international commitment in this regard and we welcome OSCE efforts in supporting it.

We look forward to an intensive and fruitful debate in the days ahead and encourage the speakers to focus on identifying areas for future action of the OSCE in the area of energy and environment.

Finally, we would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship and the OSCE CoEEA and his staff for preparing this meeting.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.