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**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 853
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EU Statement in response to the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr Goran Svilanović

The European Union warmly welcomes the Co-ordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities Mr Svilanović and thanks him for his report.

The EU acknowledges that the main bulk of activities carried out by the Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) is the result of several decisions adopted by the participating States in the last years. Nevertheless, we believe that the “projects side” of the Office’s work should be complemented by a more “analytical one”. The intention of the OCEEA to pay more attention also to analysis of possible challenges, threats or implications for our security and stability of a number of ongoing or emerging phenomena corresponds to the EU vision of the Office’s mandate. In that regard, we think that a shift of activities could already start this year and should be reflected in the 2012 Programme Outline.

The OCEEA’s focus on more security related issues of economic and environmental co-operation in the OSCE region is a welcome step, as well as the intention to place the main focus of the Office’s work on good governance on developing and implementing a smaller set of core activities in certain niche areas. This is in line with the EU’s longstanding call for a prioritisation of the

OCEEA activities and for a stronger link to the Organisation's vocation of security and democratisation. This approach should also be followed by other units of the Office by, for instance, evaluating the impact of their activities.

The EU highly values the work carried out by the Economic and Environmental Officers and appreciates that the OCEEA will continue strengthening its co-ordination and co-operation with Field Presences.

The reinforcement of the confidence-building potential of the Economic and Environmental Dimension, inter alia in conflict areas or regarding management of scarce resources, should be one of the priorities of the OCEEA. In this regard, we look forward to the CiO workshop on economic and environmental activities as confidence building measures.

We welcome the Office's endeavour to strengthen its cross dimensional in-house cooperation in particular in the Good Governance area. We believe that this approach could also be followed by other units of the OCEEA when developing the analytical capacity of the Office.

2011 sees the OSCE as Chair of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC). The EU fully supports the ENVSEC initiative. It is a good example of both the development of a strategy for environmental security in the OSCE area, in line with the 2007 Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security; and of cooperation between the OSCE and the UN system, based on pooling their respective strengths and resources. We look forward to future presentations of the activities of the Initiative by the OCEEA.

The EU stands ready to continue to constructively contribute to the full implementation of the MC Decision adopted in Athens in 2009 on "Future orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension". Useful work has been done last year and that should be continued.

Finally, the EU reiterates its support for the OSCE's role in tackling the security implications of climate change and calls for a Ministerial Council Decision in Vilnius to develop this role.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Mr Svilanović and his team for their dedicated work and wish them the best of success in their future activities.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

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