



DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE OSCE

**Talking Points of Chairperson of the OSCE Economic and
Environmental Committee, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in
Vienna at the Permanent Council meeting**

(19 October 2017)

Mr. Chairperson,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to thank the Austrian 2017 OSCE Chairmanship for giving me the opportunity of leading the Economic and Environmental Committee and for our excellent cooperation. Let me also thank my predecessor Ambassador Vuk Žugić who successfully chaired the Committee in 2016, for his skillful leadership, systematic and co-operative work in his current capacity as a Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Today, I would like to present the main outcomes of this year's work within the Economic and Environmental Committee and also inform the Permanent Council about the meetings which lie ahead of us and what remains to be done until the end of the year.

Throughout this year we have continued the efforts aimed at reinvigorating and strengthening the role of the Second Dimension in promoting security, stability, prosperity and cooperation in the

OSCE region. Allow me to highlight the continuity of our work in the Economic and Environmental Dimension with the previous Chairmanship, as well as attempts to explore new concrete ways to strengthen security and co-operation in the OSCE area.

This year, we have continued with the practice of holding thematic meetings that cover a broad range of meaningful topics. In total, this year's general outline of the EEC Committee includes 9 thematic meetings. The topics, which are displayed at the screens, that are covered this year, reflect the priorities of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and put an equal emphasis on both economic and environmental security. At the thematic meetings that have been organized with the support of the OCEEA, we have had in-depth discussions, among others, on renewable energy, building partnerships in Euro-Asian transport, environmental aspects of sustainable development, labour migration, as well as good governance, corruption prevention and investment climate. For the first time, the EEC has addressed the topics of good governance in global supply chains as well as the prevention of radicalization through economic participation and sustainable growth. Two remaining thematic Economic and Environmental Committee meetings on "Connectivity and Trade Facilitation" and "Hazardous Waste Management" will be held in November and December respectively.

In addition to this, in March, we organized a Special Committee Meeting on "Participation of Women in Economic and Environmental Decision-Making" on the occasion of International

Women's Day on 8 March that has been addressed by women in leadership positions. On this occasion, Ms. Christine Muttonen, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, joined us in our deliberations.

Moreover, in July we had a Joint Committee Meeting on "Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery", which has shown high interest of the participating states.

Throughout the year, we have involved different stakeholders in our discussions. We have further encouraged involvement of the representatives of government, private sector, civil society and academia who have provided useful insights. I believe that a multi-stakeholder approach, co-operation and inclusive dialogue is crucial for effective capacity and confidence building.

Let me also highlight that in 2017 we have continued a fruitful practice of benefiting from the presentations of concrete and valuable activities OSCE Field Operations in the Second Dimension providing us with insights of their work on the ground. We have invited a number of the OSCE Heads of Mission, amongst them Head of OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo, OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, and the Project Coordinator in Ukraine.

Furthermore, in May, the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship hosted an Academic Conference "Towards the Vision of a Common Economic Space from Vancouver to Vladivostok: Connectivity, Trade and Economic Cooperation", followed by the

Ambassadorial Retreat, exclusively dedicated to the Economic and Environmental Dimension that took place in Linz. The ever first ambassadorial retreat of the Second Dimension gave equal emphasis to both pillars, economic and environmental aspects of security and highlighted the relevance of enhanced economic and environmental co-operation for stability and security in the OSCE area.

Mr.Chair,

Now, in the preparation to the Ministerial Council in Vienna, we will concentrate our work on two draft documents on:

- “Promoting economic participation to prevent radicalization”
- “Greening Our Economies and Fostering Our Environmental Co-operation”

The Economic and Environmental Dimension’s texts elaborated by the Chairmanship touch upon timely and highly relevant topics and intend to strengthen the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension. The Preparatory and the Concluding Meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum in Vienna, Astana and Prague as well as the Ambassadorial Retreat in Linz and thematic EEC Meetings had shown the relevance of both topics for the common security in the OSCE area and demonstrated the interest of participating States in working together towards possible MC decisions in these areas. I would like once again to emphasize the relevance of this year’s topics of draft

decisions, not only in preparations for upcoming MC, but also in a longer perspective.

The topic of economic participation would link the OSCE's activities in this area with its cross-dimensional focus on preventing violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism. A Ministerial Council Decision that reflects the links between good governance, education, economic prospects and resilience towards radicalization and violent extremism will increase the relevance of the OSCE's work in the Economic and Environmental Dimension and create possibilities for deeper cooperation with the business sector, labour market institutions and civil society.

The decision on "Greening our Economies and Fostering Environmental Co-operation in the OSCE Area" is intended to further strengthen co-operation between participating States in the environmental and energy sphere, in particular in addressing challenges such as disasters, climate change, hazardous waste and mismanagement of water. It will recognize that greening our economies can contribute to sustainable development, thereby helping to rebuild trust and to foster stability and security in the OSCE area.

The Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting held this week in Vienna highlighted once again the importance of co-operation on environmental and energy issues in preventing tensions, building confidence and promoting good neighbourly relation in the OSCE region and created a positive momentum towards the Ministerial.

Soon, the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship intends to distribute first drafts of a possible Vienna Ministerial Council Decisions and we will commence our work on the text of the draft decisions. I believe that we will be able to find common ground and agree on the language in our negotiations and I look forward to our constructive discussions, collaborative approach and positive spirit towards a successful outcome in Vienna.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me briefly touch upon 2017 OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process, which remains a key instrument for the work within the Second Dimension and we have marked its 25th anniversary this year. The topic of 2017 Forum *“Greening the Economy and Building Partnerships for Security in the OSCE Region”* has provided an opportunity to mobilize the political will to address both economic and environmental challenges to security and to engage into constructive exchange of views based on the food-for-thought papers introducing ideas for the two decisions. I am confident that concrete proposals put forward throughout the EEF process will build a solid basis and provide a good guidance for our further deliberations in Vienna.

Dear Colleagues,

In conclusion, I would like to stress the big support the OSCE Austrian Chairmanship has given this year to the OSCE work in the Second Dimension and I would like to conclude with my personal wish for a successful outcome of the Vienna Ministerial Council that would represent a further important step in strengthening and

reinvigorating the OSCE work in the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

I thank you.