



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities

Climate Change & Security after Copenhagen

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**European Parliament (Room A3G-2), Brussels
by Marc Baltes, Deputy Co-ordinator**

Thank you very much for the invitation. It is indeed a great pleasure to be among all of you once again. I will give you an update on how the OSCE, as a political security organization, intends to continue its work on climate and security related issues and how it can thus contribute to the overall debate.

You will recall that I mentioned during a meeting in early October last year that there were once again efforts to negotiate a Decision at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Athens in early December 2009. Unfortunately however, as in the previous year, OSCE States could not reach consensus on a common document. Opponents were saying that they wanted to wait until after Copenhagen to see what role the OSCE should be playing. I am afraid that did not really bring us forward a lot!

Nonetheless, the topic was not totally ignored and in a specific Ministerial Council Decision on Energy Security, OSCE participating States agreed to address climate change and sustainable development in connection with global energy security.

Thus, we are encouraged to continue our work. And as I had mentioned before, we do have a strong mandate stemming from the 2007 Madrid Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Security, which recognizes that “climate change is a long-term challenge” and acknowledges that the OSCE, as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, has a complementary role to play within its mandate in addressing this challenge in its specific region.

Also, it is encouraging that the present Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE is committed to continue discussions with the aim to eventually reach consensus by the end of the year. In the meantime my office in the OSCE Secretariat is implementing a project aimed at developing scenarios for different OSCE regions to quantify the security implications of climate change. The study will assess the impact of climate change on natural resources, energy and food availability, and their repercussions. These scenarios will provide a tool for co-operative action and policy recommendations that can, for instance, be implemented by the OSCE field operations or could be elevated at a later stage for discussion to the OSCE Permanent Council.

Some of you might recall that we had first mentioned this project at the OSCE Chairmanship Conference in Bucharest in October last year. With a financial contribution by Spain the project has in the meantime started.

The goal is to produce scenarios on the impacts of climate change on security and to identify how the OSCE could contribute to mitigating potential challenges. The OCEEA and the European Environment Agency (EEA) will jointly implement the project. The first step was the development of a scoping study which has four main aims:

- Reviewing the state of the debate in current research on climate change and security. In addition, assessing the role of scenarios in policy planning and identifying the characteristics of scenarios related to climate change and security;
- Identifying potential security implications of climate change in several regions within or adjacent to the OSCE – in particular the Arctic, the Southern Mediterranean, South East and Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia;
- Assessing the activities conducted by countries and international organisations - particularly the UN and OSCE member states - with regard to climate change and security;
- Outlining initial recommendations to the OSCE on addressing the potential security implications of climate change.

The scoping study was implemented by Adelphi Research, in co-operation with the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House) and CIMERA, a private non-profit organization. It reviews key literature, and includes desk-based research and input from regional experts.

So far we have an advanced draft of the study and we hope to be able to put it on the web in the weeks to come. As I mentioned, this is only the first phase and the overall aim of the project is to foster additional political will among OSCE participating States in order to help them to make progress in their discussions on climate change related security implications.

It was mentioned by previous speakers that progress on the debate within the international community is too slow compared to the dynamics of climate change. Our aim is therefore to stimulate these discussions and to create the political will which is necessary to achieve common measures. All of this is done in very close co-operation with a number of international partners, and is obviously also done in consultation with our partners from the ENVSEC Initiative.

Thank you for your attention.