



EUROPEAN UNION

Economic and Environmental Implementation Meeting Vienna, 29 October 2025

From commitment to impact – advancing the OSCE's role in building resilience and response to disasters

EU Closing Statement

FINAL (470 words)

1. We would like to once again thank the Finnish Chairpersonship and the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities for having organised this valuable meeting yesterday and today. This year's EEDIM provided a timely opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the field of disaster risk reduction. We also would like to reiterate our thanks to Ambassador Župevc and commend the dedication and efforts of the Slovenian Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee in advancing dialogue and cooperation in the Second Dimension this year.
2. We would also like to thank all panelists for sharing their experience and best practices. As highlighted by the speakers, advancing work in disaster risk reduction is a key component of the comprehensive approach to security in the OSCE region. The OSCE achievements in this field in Central Asia, particularly the cooperation with civil society and tackling the special needs of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and management, are proof of the added value of the organisation in regional cooperation and security. In this regard, we welcome further discussions on the critical linkages between disaster risk management and security in the OSCE region.

3. The discussions underscored the importance of adopting an integrated approach to disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and promoting inclusivity in DRR with local communities while considering specific vulnerabilities, as well as the use of new technologies in support of DRR. In this regard, the EU actively promotes cooperation on disaster risk management as key for peace and security. Building resilience against natural or human-made disasters also forms part of the Sustainable Development Goals. We express our support for the OCEEA's valuable work in this area.
4. We reiterate our support for the OSCE's efforts to address the devastating impact of Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine's environment and economy, particularly in strengthening disaster risk management. We underline the need to assess the damage and remain committed to addressing it within Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction framework. In this context, we welcome the continuation of the ExB project "Assessment of environmental impacts of the war against Ukraine and options for remediation".
5. In conclusion, the EU reaffirms its strong commitment to promoting and advancing cooperation on these issues. In this context, the EU underlines the importance of enhancing the voice and full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and young people in decision making at all levels to improve policies for disaster risk management. The EU also stresses the importance of ensuring inclusive multi-stakeholder participation, including civil society. We believe that the OSCE has a relevant and valuable role to play in assisting participating States' efforts to achieve goals in disaster risk reduction and management, and in implementing our common commitments in the economic and environmental dimension.

(Alignments)