



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Vienna 1 August 2003

Contribution of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to the UN Secretary-General report on “Economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans”

Focus of the work by the field operations of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has been on early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in an effort to promote sustainable stability and security in South-Eastern Europe. In the region, the OSCE contributes to strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing civil society and mobilizing political support for addressing economic and environmental issues with potential national and regional security implications. Furthermore, the OSCE aims at facilitating regional dialogue and cooperation and at helping mobilize international resources to assist political and economic development. In its role as a political facilitator, OSCE continues to provide the framework within which economic development projects, executed by partner organizations, may enhance their impact on the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans.

The OSCE has worked to strengthen the economic and environmental capacities of Ukraine during the past year. Specifically, the office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine has placed special focus on the development of good governance and transparency by facilitating the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, the EU Water Framework Directive and combating corruption. Moreover, the Project Co-ordinator has assisted the Ukrainian government in the elaboration of a comprehensive programme related to the conversion of former military personnel and sites, including social, economic and environmental issues.

With the aim of promoting harmonization with EU standards, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine together with the Ministry of the Environment and the State Committee on Water Management of Ukraine launched a project in March 2002 to assist Ukraine to introduce the EU Water Framework Directive to local stakeholders, as well as to develop and offer training programmes for regional and municipal decision-makers and NGOs and citizens involved in environmental management.

The Office of the Co-ordinator on OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) has been requested to provide support to GUUAM countries to facilitate the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement signed last July by the Heads of States of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The GUUAM Free Trade Agreement creates a comprehensive multilateral framework for free trade between these countries.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, OCEEA organised a working party meeting on the GUUAM FTA in Kyiv on November 4. The event gathered high ranking officials and more than forty experts and representatives from international and

regional organisations (EFTA, CEFTA, BSEC, the Eurasian Economic Community, World Bank and the EU), research and economic policy institutes, OSCE participating states and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The working party identified several areas of technical assistance that shall be provided to facilitate the implementation of the GUUAM Free Trade Agreement.
