

PLATFORM 1 (29/04/2010)

The meeting of the **platform 1 on Democracy, good governance and stability** opened with the Chair's and Spanish Presidency's opening addresses that were followed by the presentation by the representatives of the civil Society Forum. Then, participants discussed state of play of the multilateral track of the EaP and the financing opportunities of the EaP activities in the context of the multilateral thematic Platforms.

The meeting summarized what has been done in the framework of the platform 1 to date. It was underlined that the recommendations of the Civil Society Forum (established in November 2009) were presented to Foreign Ministers at their meeting in December 2009. A report on the first panel on **Integrated Border Management** that took place in Odessa in October 2009 was presented. Also, **three key areas of cooperation** had been identified for the platform: elections (legislation, code of practice, media, voters' participation), the judiciary (effectiveness and respect of human rights in the delivery of criminal justice), and fight against international crime (cyber crime, corruption). The platform saw no need to create new structures for this work or to reinvent approaches, but rather to build on work already done: to take existing projects as a basis, exchange best practices, share expertise and organize seminars and training sessions.

The **preparations for the panel on fight against corruption** were initiated as agreed at the previous Platform meeting. The initiative was widely embraced by all of Participants. The Council of Europe contributed to the meeting by providing useful and practical observations and guidelines based on its previous experience. The suggestions of the Council of Europe got a very positive reception from the Participants.

PLATFORM 2 (07/05/2010)

The Platform 2 on Economic integration and convergence with EU policies was introduced to a cooperation project by Directorate General Enterprise and Industry (DG ENTR), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Training Foundation (ETF) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to support private sector development in the region of the Partner countries. The Platform agreed in principle to establish a **Panel on Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)** policy issues covering also the implementation of the SME Flagship Initiative¹ and the organization of business to business contacts. The Panel would start its work before the next Platform meeting on 10 November 2010. The Platform also had a comprehensive discussion on how to integrate cooperation in the field of transport in its work programme. It was informed about the state of play regarding the ongoing work of the

¹ http://www.eeas.europa.eu/eastern/initiatives/docs/fs_sme_marinelli_en.pdf

already established **Panels on “Trade” and “Environment and Climate Change”**. The European Commission (DG EMPL) and the ETF briefly informed the Platform about a regional employment conference to be held in Odessa in October 2010. Finally, a representative of the Civil Society Forum (CSF) presented the recommendations of the Forum’s economic working group. It was followed by a short Platform debate.

Cooperation in Transport

The European Commission (DG MOVE) provided a comprehensive presentation of the Commission’s proposal to include road, air and maritime safety in the work programme of Platform 2 and on other ongoing activities in the field of transport. The Chair concluded that the Platform will come back to this proposal at the next Platform meeting.

Reports by the Commission on Panel Meetings

The European Commission (DG TRADE, DG TAXUD and DG ENV) reported about the first meetings of the “Trade” and “Environment and Climate Change” panels and gave an outlook of future activities of the Panels.

Recommendations of the Eastern Partnership’s Civil Society Forum (CSF)

A representative of the CSF presented the recommendations of Working Group 2 (on Economic integration and convergence with EU policies) of the CSF to the Platform. The Chair responded to the CSF’s presentation followed by a short Platform debate.

SME Policy

The stakeholders from the business community (BUSINESSSEUROPE and EUROCHAMBRES) reiterated their strong support for the Eastern Partnership process and emphasized that business to business contacts should be organized within given structures like they were managed with the enlargement countries.

The first discussion on the proposed project on SME policy had clearly demonstrated, that there is further need for more detailed information on this policy in the Partner Countries.

A Panel should address in the first stage the following issues:

- exchange of information on SME policy approaches in the EU and in the Partner countries;
- a common project on enterprise policy performance;
- the implementation of the SME Flagship Initiative and
- organization of business to business contacts.

The Panel would also cooperate closely with the Panel on “Environment and Climate Change” as regards the promotion of green technologies and eco – innovation. The SME policy dialogue will be regarded as an important vehicle to address recommendations on these important issues to the SME community in the Partner Countries.

PLATFORM 3 (20/05/2010)

The meeting of the Eastern Partnership **Platform 3 on Energy security** took place on the 20th of May 2010 in Brussels. It was recalled that the Platform adopted its Core Objectives and Work Programme 2009 -2011. It was agreed that Activity 1 (Security of Supply Statements) constitutes a good approach to strengthen EaP dialogue and that represents a starting point for discussing regional security and solidarity questions in a later stage. Activity 4 was launched focusing on **energy efficiency and renewable energy**.

The Energy Community Secretariat expressed the readiness to provide support and advice to the EaP countries in preparing the Security of Supply Statements. The achievements of the Republic of Moldova in the context of its accession to the **Energy Community Treaty** on 1st of May 2010 and the ongoing accession process of Ukraine in the same direction were highlighted. The participants were briefed on the perspectives of the energy exports from the Caspian region and the EaP Partner Countries were invited to present the status of preparation of their Security of Supply Statements.

The participants were debriefed on the latest status concerning **the EU initiatives aiming at diversifying gas supplies and routes**, in particular the development of the Southern Corridor. An update on the Gas SoS draft Regulation under examination in the EU followed. It was highlighted the importance of the Regulation for the EU security of supply.

A presentation on the recently **approved Directive on energy performance of buildings** was delivered. It was followed by a speech on the main findings of the inception phase of the project "Energy Saving Initiatives in the Building Sector" financed under the INOGATE programme² and which will be carried out until 2014. The European-Ukrainian Energy Agency³ presented their position paper "10 golden ideas for energy efficiency improvement in buildings".

The participants then were familiarized with the **"Visegrad+" (V4) Energy Security Initiative for Central and South-East Europe**, notably the major result of the Visegrad group's Budapest

² <http://www.inogate.org/>

³ <http://euea-energyagency.org/>

Summit of February 2009⁴ which shall be seen as a kick off event to be followed by similar summits under the next V4 presidencies.

The representative of the EaP Civil Society Forum presented their recommendations for the work of Platform 3. The platform took note of the recommendations for further consideration.

It was recalled that the upcoming workshop on electricity interconnection will take place on 7th of July 2010 and the date of the next meeting of platform 3 was announced (27 October 2010). The participants were informed about the European Commission's intention to start working on a 2050 strategy to "decarbonize" the energy sector.

PLATFORM 4 (27/05/2010)

While the previous **Platform 4 “Contacts between people”** meetings concentrated to finetune the work programme, the third meeting was mainly dedicated to policy discussions on two of the main themes covered by the Platform: higher education and research.

Two representatives from the Civil Society Forum (CSF) were invited to present their recommendations to Platform 4, which were welcomed but considered as too general to be directly implemented. Platform 4 participants agreed to invite CSF representatives to all their technical meetings and as ad-hoc participants to regular Platform meetings when relevant.

The presentations at the platform focused on **research** (the European Digital Agenda, new opportunities offered in the 7th Framework Programme 2011 work programme, activities of the Joint Research Centre in favour of EaP Partner countries) and on **higher education** (Commission's initiatives in relation to the Bologna Process, plans to boost learning mobility, i.e. under the programme “Youth on the Move” and the new strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training - "E&T 2020").

⁴ http://www.mfa.gov.hu/kum/en/bal/foreign_policy/V4_presidency/