

The OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension: Structure and Decision-making



What is the Economic and Environmental Forum Process?

“... To give political stimulus to the dialogue on the transition to and development of free-market economies as an essential contribution to the building of democracy, to suggest practical efforts for the development of free-market systems and economic co-operation...”

Mandate of the Forum, Final Document of the 1992 Helsinki Summit, “The Challenges of Change”



The OSCE Chairmanship is held for one calendar year by an OSCE participating State. The function of the Chairperson-in-Office (CiO) is exercised by the Foreign Minister of the chairing State.



The Permanent Council, one of the main regular decision-making bodies of the Organization, convenes weekly in Vienna to discuss developments in the OSCE area.



The Economic and Environmental Forum is the main annual event within the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE. It focuses on promoting dialogue on key economic and environmental issues and their impact on security. The annual Forum process contributes to strengthening political dialogue among governments, international organizations, the business and the academic community, as well as civil society. The Concluding Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum process takes place in Prague in September.



The Organization comprises 57 participating States, encompassing three continents – North America, Europe and Asia – and more than a billion people.



The OSCE Ministerial Council, consisting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States, is the central decision-making and governing body of the OSCE between Summits. It meets, as a rule, once a year at the end of each Chairmanship term to consider and adopt decisions.

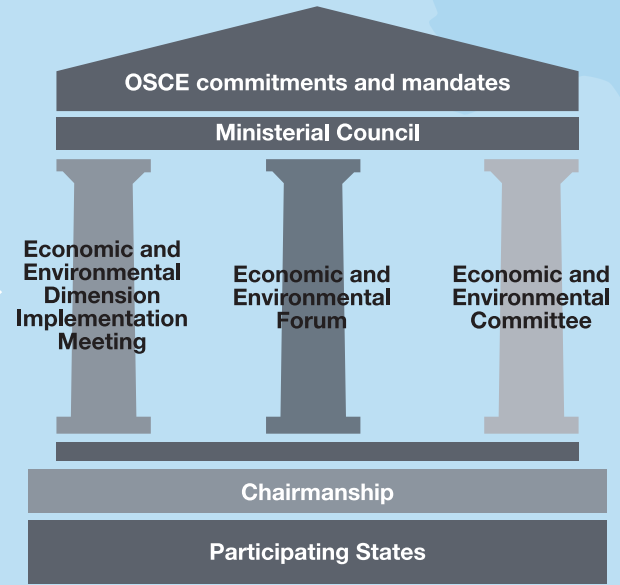
Decision-making in the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension

OSCE commitments and mandates are agreed by the participating States in the framework of the Ministerial Council and the Permanent Council. The Economic and Environmental Forum

(EEF), the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM), and the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC) provide on-going

platforms for dialogue among the participating States on economic and environmental issues and their impact on security.

The EEDIM is held once a year, usually in October in Vienna, to review the implementation of Ministerial Council decisions. It provides a framework for enhancing dialogue and co-operation on key thematic areas within the Dimension.



The EEC convenes once a month in Vienna to discuss relevant issues, including the implementation of participating States's commitments, and to consider cross-dimensional issues of particular relevance to the economic and environmental aspects of security. The EEC supports preparations for the EEF and the EEDIM, as well as discusses draft decisions for adoption by consensus

Who implements the mandates?

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)

The OCEEA consists of the Economic and Environmental Forum Unit, the Economic Governance Unit, and the Environmental Co-operation

Unit. It co-operates with the OSCE Chairmanship in supporting dialogue and promoting co-operation on economic and environmental issues and their connection to security. It also works to strengthen the ability of the OSCE Permanent Council and OSCE Institutions to address the economic

and environmental aspects of security.

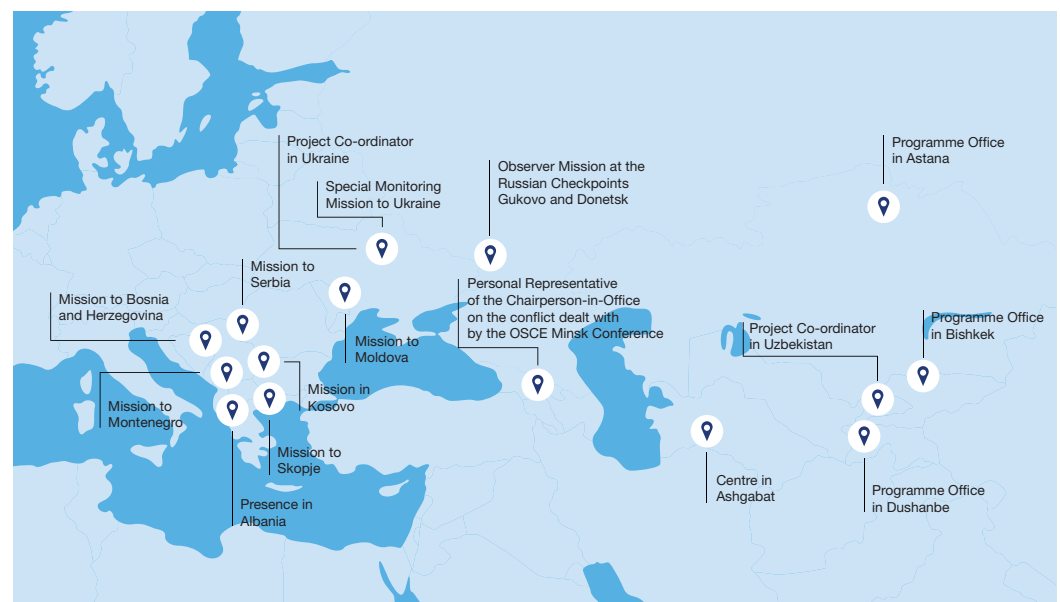
Together with the field operations, the OCEEA undertakes projects and activities that put into practice the commitments OSCE participating States have agreed upon in the areas of anti-corruption, anti-money

laundering, connectivity, transport, trade and customs, migration governance, water management, disaster risk reduction, hazardous waste, climate change, environmental good governance, and energy security.

OSCE in the field

The OSCE's field operations assist host countries in putting their OSCE commitments into practice and fostering local capacities through concrete projects that respond to their needs.

The field operations enable the OSCE to tackle crises as they arise, and in many places play a critical post-conflict role, helping to restore trust among affected communities.



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