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PRESS RELEASE

Migration management theme of next week's OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

VIENNA, 14 January 2009 - Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region will be the focus of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which begins next week in Vienna.

Policy makers and high-level experts will discuss the role of the OSCE in promoting a comprehensive migration management approach to mitigate the negative aspects while drawing on the benefits of migration. The Organization's role in enhancing the co-operation between origin, transit and destination countries, both bilaterally and at the regional level, also is on the agenda.

Participants include Theodoros Skylakakis, Secretary General for International Economic Relations and Development Co-operation at the Greek Foreign Ministry, OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut and Goran Svilanovic, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

The theme of the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum stems from the security implications of ineffective migration management. The complexity of this phenomenon and its potential consequences on origin, transit and destination countries and on the migrants themselves, call for a comprehensive, integrated migration policy and of enhanced regional co-operation on migration issues.

The 19-20 January meeting in Vienna is the first part of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. The second and last part will be held from 18 to 20 May in Athens.

Migration management is a priority of the 2009 Greek Chairmanship.

Journalists are invited to the opening session and keynote note speeches, held from 9:30 on 19 January in the Neuer Saal of the Hofburg Conference Centre, followed by a news conference in room 201 at 11:00. The closing remarks on 20 January in the afternoon are also open to media. Journalists interested in interviewing speakers are encouraged to contact OSCE Economic and Environmental Officer Gabriel Leonte.

For admittance to the Hofburg Conference Centre, please bring your OSCE badge or a valid press card to the security desk (main entrance from the Heldenplatz). Parking is available for the press during the event in the OSCE-reserved parking area on Heldenplatz. Temporary parking permits must be collected from the security desk.

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