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DRAFT RESOLUTION

**FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND ENVIRONMENT**

The OSCE: Region of Change

**RAPPORTEUR
Mr. Tony Lloyd
United Kingdom**

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**DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

Rapporteur: Mr. Tony Lloyd (United Kingdom)

1. Recognizing that governments are carrying out painful policies to curb soaring public deficits and counter the effects of the European sovereign-debt crisis,
2. Disturbed by the impact of credit rating agencies on the formulation of economic and financial policies, and welcoming the reforms discussed in the European Parliament to reduce reliance on agency ratings, and eliminate conflicts of interest that could influence them,
3. Noting that governmental responses to the economic crisis have often bypassed political debate and reduced the overall effectiveness of parliamentary oversight in OSCE participating States,
4. Concerned that important economic policy decisions are being made within some OSCE participating States by technocrats without meaningful input from the people most directly affected or their elected representatives in parliament,
5. Concerned by the negative effects of the austerity policies implemented across the OSCE region, in particular cuts targeting healthcare and education budgets, and observing growing evidence of a stagnant growth scenario,
6. Acknowledging that the Institute of International Finance (IIF) underlined that austerity is “excessive when carried out across the board,” and encouraged governments to move beyond strict fiscal discipline to “avoid the risk of an austerity overload” on the world economy,
7. Noting with concern the most recent EU data which indicates that unemployment in the Eurozone has reached an all-time high, and emphasizing that excessive levels of unemployment restrains the long-run growth potential of the economy,
8. Recognizing that those bearing the cost of economic failure often tend to be the most vulnerable members of society, including women, the young and the elderly, people belonging to national minorities, and migrants,
9. Alarmed by mounting social unrest across the OSCE region and recalling once more the interrelationship between economic hardship and political extremism, nationalism, and xenophobia,
10. Mindful that several international organizations, most notably the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, have underlined that the economic crisis presents an opportunity to encourage greater green investments as a way to sustain the recovery,
11. Noting that training policies have a major role to play within the global framework of realizing green growth and achieving the economic recovery, and aware that the economic

crisis has triggered changes in the global demand for skills, whereby knowledge-based industries entail increasing levels of education,

12. Stressing that governmental support is essential to drive innovation, foster scientific co-operation, and generate new economic solutions to support growth in the OSCE region,
13. Welcoming the discussions on “Fostering Economic Co-operation and Stability in the OSCE Region” held during the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Economic Conference in Batumi,
14. Supporting the role of the OSCE Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities in promoting deeper economic co-operation between participating States, thereby contributing to achieve peace, prosperity and stability in the OSCE area,
15. Welcoming the decision to hold an Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on an annual basis, with the aim to improve the implementation of OSCE commitments and the effectiveness of its work in the economic and environmental dimensions,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

16. Calls on parliamentarians of OSCE participating States to play a greater role in overseeing and debating the economic policies implemented by governments across the OSCE region;
17. Supports a reform of the credit rating system to encourage greater transparency and reduce the possibility for financial speculation;
18. Encourages parliamentarians of OSCE participating States to discuss ways to decrease the frequency of short-term market trading through the implementation of a Tobin tax;
19. Encourages governments of OSCE participating States to carefully analyze the long-term effects of austerity-driven budget cuts, in particular with regards to healthcare and education budgets;
20. Emphasizes that the opportunity cost of stagnant growth and high unemployment has a negative impact on the solvency of social funds, reduces the possibility of carrying out strategic investments, and undermines the future prosperity of the OSCE region;
21. Recommends that the OSCE offers itself as a leading international organization to foster economic co-operation and encourage synergies among participating States, and encourages once more governments to consider the economic and environmental area of the OSCE’s work as one of the most promising from the standpoint of their long-term interests;
22. Calls upon the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013 and the Office of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Co-ordinator to highlight alternative solutions to tackle the economic crisis in the OSCE area at the Twenty-first Annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum and its preparatory conferences in 2013;

23. Supports the work of the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development to raise awareness among policymakers about the economic opportunity of green growth;
24. Encourages increased investment in the green economy, the development of energy-saving technologies, and renewable sources of energy, as well as the incorporation of environmentally-friendly methods of economic activity to assist the post-crisis economic recovery;
25. Underlines that education and training policies are essential to combat unemployment, positively adapt the workforce of participating States, and retain a competitive edge in tomorrow's economy;
26. Calls upon the parliaments of OSCE participating States to debate measures favouring greater labour mobility.

