

CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM OF EASTERN PARTNERSHIP





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BRUSSELS, November 16-17, 2009

220 CSOs representatives from the European Union and six Eastern Partnership countries

Four Working Groups according to the four thematic platforms of EaP elaborated these recommendations



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- Civil Society organizations should be treated as natural institutional partners in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating EaP programs on both bilateral and multilateral levels.
- The EaP countries must strive to fulfill the Copenhagen Criteria and the commitments and recommendations of the Council of Europe and the United Nations
- The EaP provides an opportunity for the partner countries to integrate with the EU by developing stable democratic structure and enabling stronger participation of civil society
- The Forum strongly condemns the holding of political prisoners in some EaP countries, and appeals for their immediate release.

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STABILITY

- The EU should encourage the authorities in the EaP countries to introduce and strengthen democratic principles at national and local level:
 - reform of political institutions in EaP countries
 - promote multiparty democratic processes
 - strengthen self governance
 - monitor the state of democracy
- The EaP countries should insist on harmonizing relevant national legislation with EU standards



DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STABILITY

HUMAN RIGHTS

- The EU should demonstrate the centrality of international human rights standards in its foreign policy
- The evaluation of human rights in EaP countries should be treated as a basic criterion for overall assessment of their democratic progress
- The EaP countries should strengthen the implementation of international norms, mechanisms and recommendations at the national level.





DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STABILITY

ELECTIONS AND ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

- The EU should enhance effective assistance to the EaP countries to ensure free, fair and transparent elections
- It is the responsibility of governments and parliaments of the EaP countries to ensure a proper environment for elections

MEDIA

- Support media independence, pluralism and diversity; and ensure the rights of journalists and guarantee their security



DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STABILITY

SECURITY AND PEACE BUILDING

- Stability and democratic change must be based on tolerance and security for all
- Stability and security elements need to be inclusive, involving both state structures and civil society organizations.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

- The EU should institutionalize the role of CSOs as full partners of the EU and EaP countries



ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND CONVERGENCE WITH THE EU POLICIES

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES INTO THE AGENDA OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP:

- Increasing the performance of social security and social protection systems and intensifying the fight against poverty
- Introducing the principles of sustainable development and adequate responses to climate change
- Facilitating labor mobility and flexicurity
- Supporting the efforts to become WTO members



ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND CONVERGENCE WITH THE EU POLICIES

- Support for consumer protection organizations
- Upgrading the support of business contacts, internationalization and market access
- Support for the social partners and for the social dialogue for the implementation of core labour standards

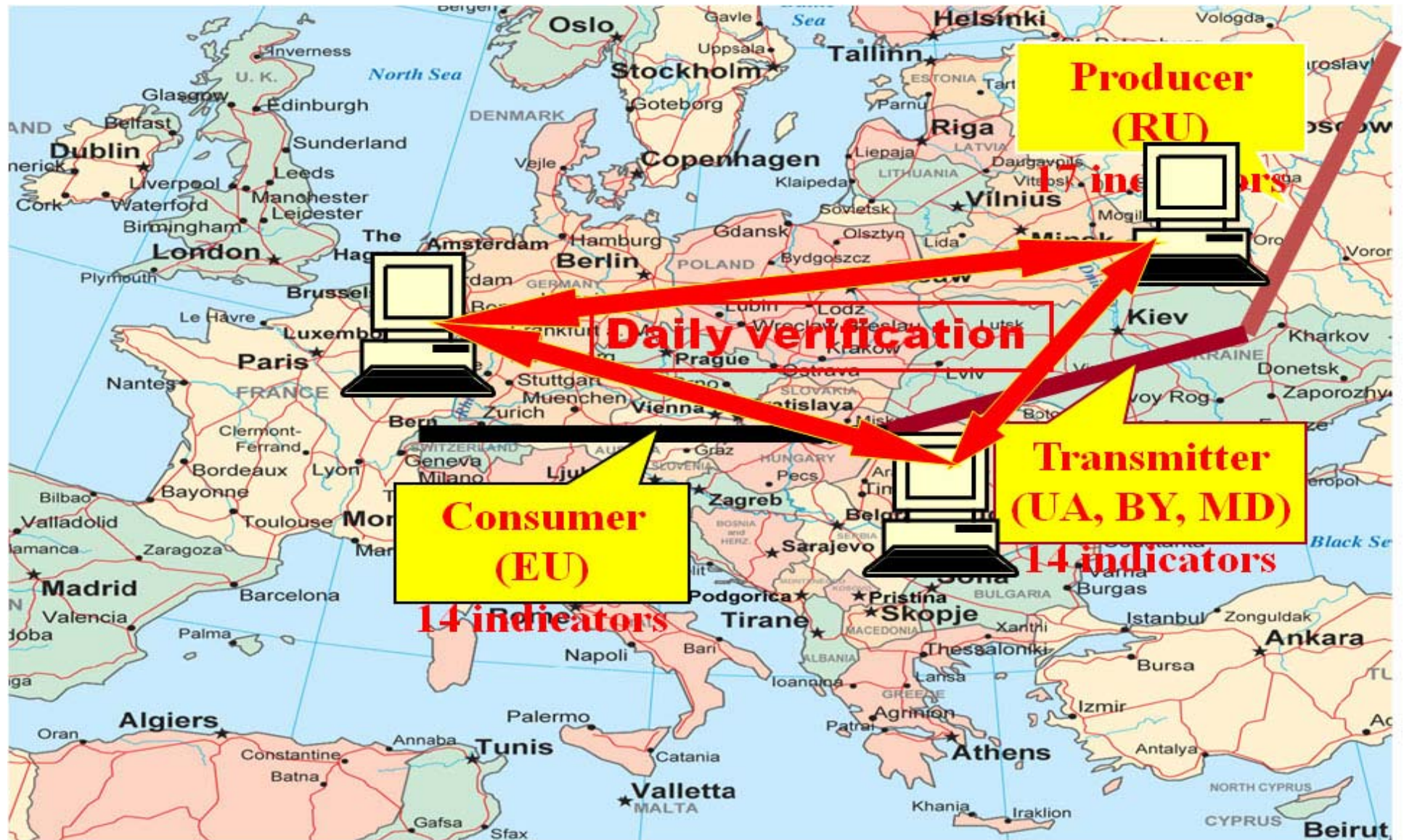


ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY SECURITY

ENERGY SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Shape an integrated sustainable energy policy for the EaP region
- EU Member States and EaP countries to work together towards higher security of energy transportation.
- The European Initiative on Gas Transparency should be promoted as a pilot project within the Eastern Partnership

APPROXIMATED SCHEME OF THE ON-LINE DATA INTERCHANGE SYSTEM AS A BASE OF EUROPEAN INITIATIVE ON GAS TRANSPARENCY



Two gas crises requires taking additional measures to guarantee energy security of the European continent which correspond to the trilateral format of the technological chain functioning Upstream – Midstream – Downstream (Russia –Ukraine - EU).



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY SECURITY

ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY, AND AGRICULTURE

- Support the integration of environmental aspects into all national policies of EaP countries

INFORMATION, EDUCATION, CAPACITY BUILDING AND AWARENESS RAISING

- Implement the principles of education for sustainable development in national educational systems
- Promote the transfer of knowledge from EU to EaP countries



CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE

- Promote and disseminate information on EU issues and enlarge the network of European Information Points

VISA FACILITATION AND LIBERALISATION

- The EU and its member states should offer all six EaP countries roadmaps towards visa free regimes

EDUCATION

- Facilitate non-formal education and increase funding for internships and volunteer opportunities, school exchange programmes and distance learning



CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE

YOUTH

- Enhance the active participation of young people in decision making processes at all levels

CULTURE

- Foster cultural exchanges and cooperation between EU and EaP countries
- Encourage ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

STEERING COMMITTEE (17)	
THEMATIC (8)	REGIONAL (9)
<p>FOUR platform representatives from EaP6 countries</p> <p>+</p> <p>FOUR platform representatives from the EU countries</p>	<p>SIX country facilitators one from each EaP6 countries</p> <p>+</p> <p>THREE representatives from the EU countries</p>