



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Border Security and Management

As prepared for delivered by Deputy Representative Douglas Davidson
to the Annual Security Review Conference, Vienna,
June 23, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States is committed to enhancing border management and security in the OSCE region and beyond. There clearly is a need to enhance international cooperation in this area, and we encourage the OSCE to increase its outreach with other international organizations to allow it to better determine where it can provide value-added training and advice within its area of application.

My government believes that the OSCE can play a positive role beyond the work it has already accomplished in travel document security, MANPAD controls, the Balkan Border Conference, and border guard training and monitoring operations. This is all in our best interest.

Providing border security ultimately remains the responsibility of nation-states. The United States has undertaken several initiatives fairly recently to help us better secure our borders, while maintaining the free flow of legitimate trade and people, and I would like to take this opportunity to share some of them with you.

After the events of 9/11, security delays caused problems in commercial activity. We have established new programs to address this:

- The Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism is a joint government-business initiative to build cooperative relationships that strengthen overall supply chain and border security while expediting cargo flows.
- The Container Security Initiative, through which U.S. Customs and Border Protection partners with countries to identify and inspect potentially high-risk containerized shipments before they are loaded on a ship bound for the U.S.
- The Megaport Initiative, through which the Department of Energy provides radiation equipment and training to enhance partner nation capability to screen cargo for nuclear or radioactive material that could be used as weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.
- The Free and Secure Trade Program, to expedite border processing through advance electronic filing and dedicated lanes at major border crossings.

-- The Trusted Traveler Program (also called NEXUS) expedites processing for trusted travelers. Citizens or permanent residents of both countries may qualify. Applicants are investigated for criminal history, and those approved are issued a NEXUS identification card. Dedicated lanes are assigned for cardholders.

We are currently working with countries throughout the OSCE on several of these programs and are willing to share our experiences with interested parties.

Turning farther afield, the U.S. Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance (EXBS) Program, which counts some 24 OSCE members as participants, is designed to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons through assistance in improving export controls and their enforcement. For this fiscal year alone, the U.S. has earmarked over \$40 million for EXBS funding.

There are three primary areas of EXBS assistance:

Laws and Regulations: we provide model rules and regulations that assist in the drafting and implementation of new export control and enforcement legislation; -- Licensing: we provide training on how to recognize suspicious end-users; and -- Enforcement: we provide training and equipment that has already led to the apprehension of stolen radioactive material and sensitive goods within the OSCE region.

U.S. State Department Antiterrorism Assistance Funds have also helped improve border security through programs for rural border patrol and airport security.

Similarly, programs conducted by the State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs have helped to develop the capacity of customs inspectors and border agents to interdict narcotics.

Through the Terrorist Interdiction Program, the State Department's Office of Counter-terrorism provides partner nations with software, hardware, and training that allows them to collect, compare and analyze traveler data to assist the country in securing its borders and, if necessary, detain or track individuals of interest.

At last year's ASRC, U.S. Coordinator for Counter-terrorism Cofer Black presented the idea of the OSCE adopting common standards for travel documents, to include digitized photographs and biometrics that meet international standards. Already, the ministers have committed to achieving that goal as soon as technically and financially feasible, and experts have begun to map out how we can cooperate to reach that goal.

The United States believes that NATO, the EU, the UN, and OSCE each possesses a wealth of resources and expertise in border management and security issues, which could better be coordinated throughout the OSCE region. These organizations have demonstrated that combining and coordinating their efforts in the Balkans contributed significantly to national and regional security and stability. Together, united in purpose, the synergy provided by these organizations is far greater than can be provided alone.

They should therefore consider additional work in the Balkans, Caucasus, and Central Asia, as well as new joint undertakings to assist OSCE members and partners in meeting border management and security challenges throughout the region.

We encourage OSCE, NATO, the EU, the UN, and other organizations to explore the development of a coordinated action plan to help states enhance their own border management and security efforts.

I would also like to reiterate Admiral Loy's call for the OSCE to undertake the political commitment to cooperate closely in enhancing the security of shipping containers.

The OSCE has proven that it is an excellent place to help members implement common standards and consistent procedures developed in other international organizations.

We must encourage national as well as regional coordination and cooperation of police, border guards, customs officials, intelligence, and armed forces personnel to make for truly effective border controls.

National contact points should be designated, and regular meetings held. Education and training programs should be coordinated as much as possible.

Finally, the U.S. asks for your support in holding a joint OSCE-UNODC conference of international organizations on border management and security here at the Hofburg from 7-8 September.

We hope that the conference will allow technical experts from international organizations the opportunity to share their experience in promoting more effective border management and security, and that as a result we will be able to develop a more strategic and coordinated approach to delivering international assistance.

As Admiral Loy also said, this is all part of creating an OSCE concept for border management and security. We look forward to further discussion on our ideas, and those of your own on what this concept should look like.