



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Secretary General of the Council of Europe

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 14, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We also would like to welcome the Secretary General to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report on the Council's work and its relationship with the OSCE.

Cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe on our areas of shared priorities is essential for advancing the cause of security and democracy in Europe. In these times of increased security threats from terrorism, it is important that all of Europe's major organizations reinforce each other's efforts to fight against terrorism and to promote democracy, which makes a key contribution to improved security. Similarly, when our efforts are coordinated, we make a greater impact in other areas as well.

That is a point that I specifically made in almost every one of my Washington consultations over the past couple of weeks.

In the past, the OSCE and the Council of Europe have, in particular, cooperated successfully in the fields of election monitoring and the fight against trafficking in human beings. We hope that our coordinated efforts will expand to include other priority areas.

The United States is very pleased at the achievement of the Declaration on Co-operation Between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. We strongly support the four priority areas for Council of Europe and OSCE cooperation and any complementary efforts that could be undertaken in our joint priority fields.

We believe that the Declaration will increase the ability and the resolve of the Council of Europe to work side-by-side with the OSCE to enhance activities aimed at increasing democratic accountability, human rights, tolerance, and rule of law among all participating States.

The United States commends efforts that have been taken thus far. We look forward to the continuation of joint efforts between our two organizations and wish Secretary General Davis success in advancing this endeavor.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.