



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Response to the Report by the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Kyle Scott  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
October 19, 2006

Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank Mr. Snoy, the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, for his informative presentation this morning. We certainly appreciate all the hard work being done by Mr. Snoy and his staff. And in particular I would like to thank him for the briefing he gave us and the reports on the unit's work on economic and environmental aspects of conflict prevention. We certainly believe that the needs assessment study in the follow-on discussions for Georgia provides important confidence-building measures in that area. And I thank him also for the detailed report on the mission regarding the fires which I found very encouraging.

The United States would like to applaud the important work that the OSCE's Second Dimension is doing, especially the work conducted out in the field. We are happy to support numerous projects in such diverse areas as good governance, the training of women entrepreneurs, environmental security, regional summer camps for children with a focus on economic and environmental education and the cleanup of mélange rocket fuel depots. I might add in fact that Ambassador Finley is currently on a visit to Armenia and had the opportunity two days ago to visit the project that we support in Armenia. Without the OSCE's creative, energetic and imaginative economic and environmental officers, both in Mr. Snoy's office and in the field offices, none of these projects would come to fruition.

Still, we believe, there is more we could be doing, especially in the area of good governance, by further elaborating programs that fight corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. In this regard the United States supports the creation of a new position in the Office of the Coordinator for a full-time Good Governance Officer.

We also would like to reiterate our support for Spain's choice of an environmental theme for the 2007 Economic and Environmental Forum. The issues of land degradation, soil contamination and water management are all serious problems, but particular important because they are trans-boundary problems that merit discussion among the participating States.

As we have noted previously, the United States believes that the topic of energy security is one that affects all participating States, and therefore deserves the OSCE's attention. At the 2003 Maastricht Ministerial, our ministers directed us to take up this issue, and we thus reiterate our openness to dialogue.

Mr. Chairman, it is the view of the United States that the OSCE conducts very effective work in the Second Dimension in OSCE participating states. Small projects in the field often wind up having a big impact. Contrary to the prevailing attitudes, it is not the OSCE's on-the-ground work in this dimension that requires improvement; rather it is the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee and the Forum that need to be made more relevant. We look forward to working with our colleagues here in Vienna and at the Brussels Ministerial Council as we continue to search for ways to enhance our political dialogue, even as these vital projects continue in the field.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. Snoy for his report, and wish him and his staff all the best as they continue in their important work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.