



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Head of the OSCE Anti-Terrorism Unit, Mr. Raphael Perl

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 13, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Perl, welcome to the Permanent Council and thank you for your comprehensive report on the status of the work of the OSCE's Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU). As you noted, last week's foiled attempt in Times Square and last month's attacks in Moscow's subway demonstrated, terrorism is, sadly, not a diminishing threat and is more complex and more global than ever before.

President Obama recognizes that the United States cannot address this threat alone. Rather, we have reached out and will continue to reach out, on the basis of mutual interests and mutual respect, to forge international coalitions. We remain committed to building partnerships, including with organizations like the OSCE, the United Nations, the European Union, the private sector, and civil society. This is an important part of our comprehensive approach to addressing this threat. It is based on the premise that military power, intelligence operations, and law enforcement alone will not eliminate the underlying political, economic, and social conditions that help put so many individuals in situations where they might choose the path to violence. Our approach recognizes that our counterterrorism efforts can best succeed when they make central respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Diplomacy and capacity-building are two essential pillars of our new approach, and both are areas where our partnership with this organization is of real value. We are focused on building political will through consistent diplomatic engagement with senior counterterrorism policymakers and practitioners for common counterterrorism objectives. Through its work on promoting critical energy infrastructure protection, building public-private partnerships, combating the misuse of the internet for terrorist purposes, countering violent extremism, and enhancing travel document security, the OSCE ATU has provided useful and unique opportunities for this engagement and for that we are grateful. The United States is particularly pleased to have been able to support the OSCE's work in a number of these areas this past year and will consider how best to continue doing so in the coming period.

I would like to highlight, in particular, the OSCE's contributions to our efforts to counter violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism. Identifying the drivers of radicalization and how to address them most effectively lies at the heart of the United States' approach to addressing the terrorist threat over the long term. Much work needs to be done at the national, regional, and global levels to help us address and reverse the drivers of violent extremism so that Al-Qa'ida and its affiliates must cope with a shrinking pool of recruits.

This is a classic cross-dimensional topic that is tailor-made for an OSCE region-wide approach. We recall the October 2008 workshop, sponsored by the British Government and are interested in supporting further follow up at a regional, sub-regional, or national level.

Finally, we hope the ATU will take a hard look at ways in which it can support the OSCE efforts to assist Afghanistan, through partnerships and practical outreach with neighboring states in Central Asia. We also hope the ATU will actively seek out ways to support and reinforce efforts outlined under UNSCR 1540 to combat the smuggling of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.