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United States Mission to the OSCE

Concerns Regarding Follow-up to Permanent Council Discussions in the Human Dimension Committee

As delivered by Acting Political Counselor Patrick Connell
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 23, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As you know, the United States has proposed giving more detailed responses to concerns in the Human Dimension Committee. We believe this is the forum for providing voluntary reports on the implementation of OSCE commitments.

The United States strongly believes that the Permanent Council remains the correct forum for peer review and dialogue on issues of current concern. In fact, we have been pleased that many participating States have availed themselves of the opportunity with increasing frequency in these past several months.

At the same time, we very much appreciate the initiative established by the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee to emphasize “self-review” of implementation and the sharing of best practices. Time limits during Permanent Council meetings, unfortunately, do not allow for extended responses. Therefore, when a more detailed response would highlight efforts put forth by a participating State to implement its OSCE commitments, doing so in the Human Dimension Committee is entirely appropriate.

We would welcome a discussion of this approach, if anyone has any concerns.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.