



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Agreement for OSCE to Facilitate Participation of Serbian Citizens in Kosovo in Serbian National Elections

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 3, 2012

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States also welcomes the agreement reached this week by the OSCE and the Governments of Kosovo and Serbia that paves the way for the OSCE to facilitate the participation of Serbian citizens resident in Kosovo in the May 6 Serbian parliamentary and presidential elections.

We particularly commend the persistent and tireless efforts of a number of colleagues in the Chairmanship, the Secretariat, particularly the Secretary General himself, and the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center; the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, particularly the Deputy Head of Mission, Edward Joseph, and a number of delegations here in Vienna, particularly Ambassador Žugić of the Serbian delegation.

This agreement was reached in the best tradition of the OSCE: working together to enable democratic processes and prevent potential conflict. Given the short time until the elections, we urge both Serbia and Kosovo authorities to cooperate closely with the OSCE and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) to ensure that the agreement can be successfully implemented, in a safe and secure environment for all.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.