



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

# **On Security Threats Associated with Illegal Immigration**

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires Katherine Brucker  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
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As President Trump stated in his January 20 executive order titled “Securing our Borders,” during the last four years the United States of America has endured an invasion at our borders. Millions of illegal aliens from nations and regions all around the world successfully entered the United States where they are now residing, including potential terrorists, foreign spies, members of cartels, gangs, and violent transnational criminal organizations, and other hostile actors with malicious intent. President Trump has taken decisive action to stop the invasion and secure our borders. We are conducting a massive and coordinated operation to locate, apprehend, and deport illegal aliens who threaten the safety and security of America. We now have the most secure border in the history of the United States.

President Trump’s actions send a clear message: the days of open borders are over. There are consequences for illegal immigration. If you are an illegal alien, you will be found, arrested, and deported.

There are a number of risks associated with illegal immigration. Illegal immigrants are at risk of exploitation from human traffickers. The United States is fully engaging with our OSCE partners to put an end to exploitation that stems from human trafficking. As participating States saw at the OSCE’s 25th Alliance Conference Against Trafficking in Persons, stopping trafficking in persons, especially of children, by transnational criminal organizations must be a priority.

Open border policies are dangerous to all countries, and measures must be taken by each nation to secure their own borders – our futures depend on it. In the United States, we have deployed the U.S. military, are in the process of building a wall, and imposed consequences for illegally entering the United States.

We have all witnessed the impact of de facto open borders in the OSCE region and the immediate threats they pose to both U.S. and European security. OSCE programs that assist participating States in enhancing the security and control of their own borders is a U.S. priority.

What can we do? The United States strongly supports OSCE programmatic work operationalizing OSCE’s border security management concept.

We read with interest reports of the March 26 meeting of experts under the Border Management Staff College on trends in illegal immigration in the OSCE region. Briefers underscored that more than 90 percent of all migrants paid smugglers affiliated with transnational criminal organizations for assistance.

We welcome cooperative work by the OSCE field missions and Secretariat to increase participating States' efforts in identifying, apprehending, prosecuting, and convicting alien smugglers, as well as human traffickers.

The sources of illegal immigration are diverse, and experiences differ among States. What is certain is that the human cost and risks to our common security mean that we as nations and as an organization should make the issue a subject of priority attention.

Madam Chair, the United States proposes to keep this important security challenge on our common agenda in the months ahead.

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