



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

### **Strengthening the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension**

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires Katherine Brucker  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
June 12, 2025

The world – and along with it, economic realities -- have changed dramatically since our countries adopted the Helsinki Final Act. New technologies, shifting labor markets, and competition over energy, water, and critical minerals create new tensions. Predatory economic and unfair trade practices—especially from China—distort markets and damage the environment.

Economic security is national security. Good economic governance involves more elements than prudent and limited financial regulation. Prosperity and stability depend on transparent and business-friendly investment policies, predictable regulatory environments, a level playing field for investment, and secure borders.

Secure borders mean exactly that. As Secretary of State Rubio said: “There’s nothing compassionate about illegal mass migration. There’s nothing compassionate about open borders that allow people to be trafficked.” Decades of record illegal immigration in the United States have produced lower wages and higher unemployment for our citizens. Some illegal immigrants in the United States have engaged in hostile activities, including espionage, economic espionage, and preparations for terror-related activities. Many have abused the generosity of the American people, and their presence in the United States has cost taxpayers billions of dollars at the federal, state, and local levels. The United States is engaged with countries in our region to vigorously protect our border, fix vulnerabilities in U.S. supply chains, rebalance trade, and drive strong economic growth in the United States.

This Organization can play a role in addressing illegal immigration and its economic impact, which is being felt by nations throughout the OSCE region. This needs to be one aspect of our work to reinvigorate the second dimension and promote economic security.

Building on the 2003 Maastricht Strategy and other Ministerial decisions, we need to better deliver private sector opportunity, sustainable growth, and economic resilience for our citizens.

We’ve already seen the OSCE deliver real results. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the OSCE supported legal reforms that cut thousands of outdated regulations and expanded transparency in market access. In Uzbekistan, legal reforms supported by the OSCE improved contract enforcement and streamlined dispute resolution. And in Moldova, OSCE-supported efforts to formalize the informal economy helped expand tax revenue and reduce corruption—giving small and medium sized businesses, including American firms, a clearer

path to market. The OSCE should leverage the expertise and technical capabilities of other international organizations, such as the World Bank and the IMF, to build on these successes.

The private sector has a critical role to play. As our Chair, Finland, has noted, the private sector brings innovation, investment, and long-term development. We welcome the growing recognition that public-private cooperation is essential to meeting today's challenges and encourage efforts by the OSCE institutions to foster private sector engagement.

We welcome Finland's and Slovenia's willingness to work with us to shape a focused agenda for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. This emphasis on energy security, trade facilitation, protecting critical infrastructure, reducing regulatory burdens, and promoting transparent, rules-based economic cooperation reflects common priorities. We look forward to building on this alignment to deliver concrete results that address illegal immigration, strengthen border control and economic security, including on investment vetting, reduced regulation, and fair, effective procedure for legal redress. We also see opportunities for Asian Partners to share their experiences in specific areas, such as identifying and excluding malign investment. We look forward to hearing how others propose using the OSCE's tools to meet today's - and tomorrow's - economic and environmental challenges.

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