



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### On Europe Day

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Katherine Brucker  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 9, 2024

Today, the United States congratulates our colleagues here at the Permanent Council and across Europe as we celebrate *Europe Day*. Together, we commemorate the 74th anniversary of Robert Schuman's groundbreaking proposition to create the European Coal and Steel Community. At the time, he envisioned how economic cooperation could eliminate future wars between European nations. Now, 74 years later, we reaffirm Schuman's vision to promote peace and security through cooperation here at the OSCE and throughout the OSCE region.

The legacy of Schuman's vision continues to unite much of the continent in peaceful, prosperous cooperation through the European Union. Likewise, transatlantic cooperation is a cornerstone of the unity and shared values between the United States and our European partners. For more than six decades, our partnership has proven crucial to upholding and defending the rules-based international order and to addressing international challenges.

Unfortunately, on this anniversary, when people across the world commemorate the courage, resilience, and resolve that led to the Allied victory in World War II, a war of aggression again rages in Europe. We again see an autocrat seeking to subjugate his neighbors through military force. Yet, we've also seen the brave people of Ukraine embody the same inexhaustible spirit of those who fought to defend freedom during the Second World War. Some of these brave Ukrainians - members of the First Ukrainian Front moving west and led by Lt. Colonel Alexander Gordeyev - met up with Americans moving east at Strehla, Germany, along the Elbe, in the closing weeks of the 2nd World War. I had the great honor to meet many of those brave Ukrainian veterans at the 65th anniversary of Elbe Day in 2010. Today, the people of Ukraine are fighting for Schuman's idea of a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace, bound together in goodwill and prosperity.

The United States stands with the people of Ukraine, and with all of our European partners across this great continent. We congratulate you and all you stand for on this anniversary.

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