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

# **Reply to Russia on Weakening the Ability to Protect Against Domestic Violence in Russia**

As delivered by Charge d' Affaires, a.i. Kate M. Byrnes  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
February 2, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor.

The Russian Federation posed a question — perhaps it was a question — it is not clear it was a question. But let me explain why we raised the statement today. We are deeply concerned about the progress of this legislation and the fact that the only remaining step to make it active is the signature of President Putin. We raise it today in that vein.

The United States is delivering, today, a coordinated position from Washington — as we do always in this Permanent Council — respecting the august body that it is.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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