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United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Romanian Foreign Minister Diaconescu

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 30, 2009

We warmly welcome you to the Permanent Council, Minister Diaconescu. We thank you for Romania's views on the key issues in the OSCE area responsibility. The United States and Romania have a close bilateral relationship, and we are pleased to work together with you constructively on a wide range of issues.

Romania has been an important supporter of international efforts in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and is an active, valued, and constructive participant in the Euro-Atlantic community, and in discussions of European security.

Romania remains a valuable OSCE partner, and has exhibited leadership by chairing the organization in the past, and by hosting a variety of major OSCE conferences, including an event focusing on combating discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding.

Romania, as a European Union member State with a unique perspective on the EU's neighbors, has also been a valuable supporter of the European Union's Eastern Partnership Initiative, and a strong proponent of efforts to encourage closer ties to Euro-Atlantic institutions. We note that recent events in Moldova have caused great concern for the Romanian public and government. We continue to encourage a constructive relationship between Moldova and Romania, and urge both sides to focus on productive dialogue and conclusion of ongoing bilateral treaty negotiations.

The United States remains concerned about the situation in Moldova, as outlined April 23 by OSCE Ambassador Remler's report to the Permanent Council. We call on the government of Moldova to address concerns raised by opposition parties about problems with the voter lists in a cooperative and transparent manner. It is important that allegations of mistreatment of detainees be investigated. High Representative Solana's proposal to include the opposition and international community in such an investigation is an example of how these allegations can be examined.

Mr. Minister, we very much agree with you that the OSCE is uniquely suited to play a central role in addressing and resolving protracted conflicts, which constitute a continuing question mark for European security. With its emphasis on comprehensive security in all three dimensions, and its broad base of participating States, the OSCE serves as an example of the importance of an integrated approach to European security. We have heard a call for a renewed look at the arrangements dedicated to ensuring Europe's security, and we agree entirely with you that the OSCE should be the primary venue for any such discussion.

Mr. Minister, the United States looks forward to continued close cooperation with Romania, and to building on an already solid foundation to deepen our bilateral relationship. Thank you again for joining us today.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.