



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to French Secretary of State for European Affairs, Pierre Lellouche

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 20, 2010

Mr. Lellouche, we are pleased to welcome you here to the Permanent Council. We certainly agree with our Russian colleague that France is extremely well represented by Ambassador Alabrune and his team who contribute very actively to the debate that we have in this organization. We thank you for your very interesting and thought provoking address and inspiring ideas for strengthening European and Eurasian security. We agree that security must be based on the principles of the Helsinki Act and the Charter of Paris.

We welcome this opportunity to provide an outline of our overarching approach to strengthening European security. With discussions on NATO's Strategic Concept, the OSCE's Corfu Process, and conventional arms control discussions underway in capitals across Europe and Eurasia, we would like to offer our thoughts on the overall U.S. approach on guiding principles to strengthening European security.

The United States remains committed to working with all OSCE participating States to strengthen European security. Our first step should be to discuss real steps that would enhance our common comprehensive security, rather than to focus on the modalities and institutions for doing so. The United States does not believe new treaties or institutions are required, but we believe that several of the ideas that Russia has put forward for enhancing European security merit careful consideration. In that context, we believe we should explore whether we can work together in five concrete areas.

First, we need to work together to broaden our commitments to reciprocal transparency on all military forces in Europe, including conventional forces, nuclear forces, and other defense assets in Europe, including missile defenses.

Second, we should explore reciprocal limitations on the size and location of conventional forces – both permanent and temporary deployments – that are relevant to the world of today and tomorrow, rather than to yesterday's world. We should also be steering our militaries away from basing their exercises on scenarios that bear little resemblance to reality.

Third, we should work together to plan for real threats that could undermine the security of all states from Vancouver to Vladivostok – North Americans, Europeans, Eurasian, Central Asians and partners from the Caucasus – especially those threats that emanate from outside the OSCE area, such as terrorism, WMD and ballistic missile proliferation, drug trafficking, piracy, and cyber attacks.

Fourth, we need a more effective conflict-prevention, conflict-management, and conflict-resolution mechanism that is aimed at defusing crises before they escalate and finding diplomatic solutions that obviate the use of force. We believe that the OSCE should play a

central role in this, and support the creation of an OSCE crisis prevention mechanism to prevent crises before they start.

Fifth and finally, we need to affirm the principle of the indivisibility of security in Europe, the importance of sovereignty and territorial integrity for all countries in Europe, respect for democratic principles and human rights, and the right of all states to choose their own security alliances. In keeping with these points, we need to actively advance our common effort to strengthen European security. We will work with all of our Allies and partners in developing a common approach at NATO, in the OSCE, and through the discussions we have recently launched on finding a way forward on the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE).