



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Presentation by the Head of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, Mr. Udo Burkholder

As delivered by Gary Robbins, Deputy Chief of Mission
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 1, 2011

The United States welcomes Mr. Udo Burkholder to the Permanent Council. Mr. Burkholder, thank you for your presentation to this body.

We commend the invaluable work of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine. The Border Assistance Mission's activities have helped achieve important practical and operational benefits, including enhanced efforts to combat cross-border and organized crime. The EU's engagement has also helped to provide an effective border monitoring mechanism on the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine border.

Your visit today is especially timely, because it gives us an opportunity to mark the resumption, after a nearly six-year hiatus, of official 5+2 negotiations on a political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. That meeting is ongoing in Vilnius today, with U.S. and EU participation. I am sure that all the distinguished representatives in this room, including especially you, Mr. Burkholder, share our hope that the meeting in Vilnius will inaugurate a new, substantial effort to achieve a political settlement that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova and provides for an agreed status for the Transnistrian region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.