



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Acting Head of the OSCE Program Office in Dushanbe

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 24, 2025

Acting Head of Mission Turcan, welcome to the Permanent Council, and thank you for your report. We are pleased to see you in this forum for the first time and commend your commitment to strengthening the OSCE’s work in Tajikistan. We thank you as well for stepping up on short notice to lead the Program Office in Dushanbe.

We appreciate the OSCE’s efforts to enhance border security in Tajikistan, particularly along the Afghan frontier. The Program Office’s tactical field training, operational planning courses, and deployment of UAVs and surveillance kits for Tajikistan’s Border Troops support our shared goals of countering transnational threats and improving regional stability.

We especially appreciate the work of the OSCE’s Border Management Staff College, which epitomizes the Program Office’s focus on achieving tangible results to build security.

The College’s training equips officers to detect illegal immigration, interdict arms and drug trafficking, and disrupt human smuggling networks.

By equipping Tajik officers to conduct surveillance, analyze risk, and coordinate with regional counterparts, the OSCE strengthens border control administration and helps reduce vulnerabilities along key trafficking routes. These activities directly support U.S. – and all of our – interests by limiting the flow of illicit goods and people through Central Asia.

We applaud the OSCE’s demining and explosive ordnance disposal work, including the training in March of officers from the Ministry of Defense and Border Troops to safely identify and neutralize explosive hazards. By training and equipping new demining teams and building regional expertise, the Program Office protects innocent people from devastating injury and allows farmers to reclaim valuable agricultural land. More broadly, this work enhances public safety in former conflict zones, bolstering access and resilience.

The Program Office’s support for regional economic integration creates a more transparent and predictable commercial environment. For example, its recent training on the Kartateka digital platform is helping Tajik transport officials monitor freight flows and manage logistics in real time. The Office also co-hosted a major investment forum for Tajikistan’s free economic zones, connecting government officials with U.S. and other international investors.

Acting Director Turcan, we know the lack of an agreed Unified Budget complicates your Mission's work and thank you for raising this. We urge participating States to adopt a Unified Budget as soon as possible to put the organization on stable financial footing so that it can most effectively execute its core functions in line with its mandate.

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