



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Response to the Report by Robert Bosch, Head of OSCE Presence in Albania**

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
October 16, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We join in welcoming Mr. Robert Bosch, head of OSCE's Presence in Albania. He and his team are doing effective and important work, and the United States fully supports the Presence and its mandate.

Albania has made remarkable progress in a number of areas, including reforms to improve the business climate, approval of a new electoral system, and important laws on judicial reform. The report also highlights a number of significant political challenges that remain, such as ensuring independence of the judiciary and improving the ability of law enforcement entities to address trafficking in persons. It will be to the benefit of all to continue the close cooperation between the Government of Albania and the OSCE in addressing these challenges.

At its core, the relationship between the host country and the OSCE mission is a partnership. We hope that the OSCE presence is viewed as an opportunity to progress further on issues of fundamental importance to Albania's citizens and to future Euro-Atlantic integration.

We recognize the efforts of the PiA to focus and prioritize its projects in 2007 and 2008, and are confident that the PiA will continue with this policy of prioritizing its work around stronger, more focused democratization activities. We need to be sure that efforts are focused on priorities within the existing mandate, in order to best utilize the OSCE's limited resources.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. Bosch and his staff for the important work they do.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.