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PC.DEL/408/19
11 April 2019

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

Celebrating International Roma Day

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Gregory Macris
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 11, 2019

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

On behalf of the Government of the United States, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the Roma on the occasion of International Roma Day earlier this week on April 8.

On this day, we recognize the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Roma and their contributions in the many countries around the world in which they live, including the United States, where over one million Americans of Romani descent have helped shape our great nation.

Unfortunately, many Roma continue to face discrimination, segregation, and marginalization in their daily lives. We call on all governments to take steps to combat intolerance against the Roma and other marginalized groups and enable their full participation in civic and economic life, as doing so promotes stability and democracy.

The United States reaffirms its commitment to the human rights and dignity of all Romani individuals, condemns intolerance and violence towards them, and supports the associated OSCE Action Plan.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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