



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Ambassador James Schumaker, Project Coordinator in Ukraine

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 3, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes warmly its good friend and colleague Jim Schumaker. As in the past, the United States will continue to lend solid support to extra-budgetary programs in the Ukraine.

The United States has contributed significantly to major projects to upgrade the voter registry and to remove dangerous munitions left at Novobohdanivka, among other projects. Other programs have also done much to help the government achieve the goals it has set for itself -- consistent with its OSCE commitments -- to promote the rule of law, good governance, free media and combating trafficking in persons. As you mentioned, none of this would be possible without the high level of cooperation that exists between your office and the Ukrainian authorities.

This is the way the OSCE was meant to function. We can all take some pride in the tremendous progress that Ukraine has made. We should work together to make that a reality throughout the OSCE region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.