



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the National Referendum in the Republic of Macedonia

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 11, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We take note of the preliminary results of the November 7th referendum in Macedonia. The referendum has failed by a considerable margin to reach the necessary 50 percent participation threshold that was required by law. Thus, a majority of the population did not support the initiative.

The United States congratulates the Macedonian government and the citizens of Macedonia on the successful conduct of the referendum, which took place in a generally calm and orderly manner. The referendum voting process was generally free and fair, and its outcome bears witness to the country's commitment to the implementation of the decentralization reforms and the Ohrid Framework Agreement. It also reaffirms the country's commitment to Euro-Atlantic integration.

The United States calls on all parties to respect the outcome of the referendum, and to continue to work through the democratic process to ensure continued implementation of the Framework Agreement.

The United States would also like to take this opportunity to thank ODIHR for its work in organizing this very important referendum observation mission.

Thank you.