



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Eva Biaudet

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 10, 2009

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Permanent Council today, Special Representative Biaudet. Your report bears witness to the excellent work you and your staff have done over the last three years, and highlights the ongoing importance of OSCE efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.

The United States attaches a high priority to preventing trafficking in all its forms, identifying and assisting victims, and effectively prosecuting traffickers. As you noted in your remarks this morning, this is one of the serious 21st century threats – transnational threats – that must be addressed through a comprehensive security approach.

Your office plays an important role in this regard, and we commend your efforts to help participating States meet OSCE anti-trafficking commitments and implement relevant Action Plan recommendations. We particularly appreciate your country assessments, and hope this work will continue. We also hope participating States will use this information to deepen their implementation of anti-trafficking commitments.

We recognize your office's valuable work with governments, including assistance in developing policies and national strategies, and appreciate the conferences and technical seminars held throughout the year. We also appreciate the extent to which your office coordinates with other OSCE entities, including field missions, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and units in the OSCE Secretariat. We further commend your efforts to coordinate your activities with other multilateral organizations, and hope that your successor will continue this emphasis on synergies without duplication. We look forward to the further development of an integrated approach to preventing and combating trafficking in human beings across the OSCE region.

Madam Special Representative, thank you for your dedication and passion for working with governments to help put an end to human trafficking. And as you requested at the Permanent Council this morning: to keep the issue of combating trafficking of human beings high on the agenda of the OSCE, I offer the promise of the United States that we will indeed do so, not just at the OSCE but worldwide.

We wish you all the best!

Thank you, Madam Chair.