

9 July 2009

ENGLISH only



## 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, a.i. Casey Christensen  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 9, 2009

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

It is a pleasure to welcome Special Representative Biaudet to the Permanent Council today. We appreciate her presentation on her Office's priorities and activities, and look forward to the Office's continued work to combat trafficking in human beings across the OSCE region.

Efforts to prevent human trafficking—as the Special Representative noted in alluding to comments by Secretary of State Clinton—and to accurately identify and appropriately assist its victims remain high priorities for the United States, as do national and international efforts to effectively prosecute traffickers. We believe the Office of the Special Representative plays an important role in the fight against human trafficking. We particularly commend the Office's work to help participating States establish national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms, and to help strengthen national monitoring and reporting efforts across the region.

Additionally, we welcome the planned survey to assess the progress made in the OSCE region towards preventing trafficking in human beings. This survey, combined with the Office's country assessments, will assist countries in identifying specific areas where the implementation of OSCE anti-trafficking commitments can be strengthened.

We very much welcome the concrete actions of the Office of the Special Representative, and hope the Office will continue efforts to find greater efficiencies in its work. We look forward to the further development of an integrated approach across the OSCE region to preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and assisting its victims.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.