



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Council of Europe's Adoption of Allegations of Marty Report – Kosovo

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 27, 2011

We note that the Council of Europe met Tuesday to discuss the Marty report. The United States takes all credible allegations of criminal activity seriously. Any evidence and sources cited in this report should be shared with competent authorities to conduct a full and proper investigation. This is a matter for law enforcement, under the clearly defined jurisdiction of EULEX, and should be handled in a way that does not impede political progress. Rule of law is paramount to stability and progress.

We urge Serbia and Kosovo not to allow this issue to interfere with the dialog planned between Belgrade and Pristina. There are crucial matters that need to be addressed between both governments, especially in the aftermath of the elections in Kosovo this past December, and we hope that this opportunity for meaningful conversation and diplomatic resolution to conflicts will be taken.

The United States' strong support for Kosovo as a sovereign, independent, multiethnic, and democratic state is well-known. The people of Kosovo are working to advance toward a stable, secure, and prosperous European future. Kosovo's continued development and integration as a partner on the world stage is in the interests not only of the people of Kosovo but also of the entire region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman