



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by the Acting Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Izabela Hartmann

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Kate Rebholz
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 30, 2026

Ms. Hartmann, dear Izabela, welcome back to the Permanent Council and thank you for your stewardship of this field mission.

The United States is grateful to you and your entire team for taking difficult budgetary decisions that refocused resources around your mandated political and monitoring work in Transnistria. We look forward to working with you as you develop your 2027 Program Outline. We recognize that the single greatest obstacle to greater efficiency remains the Mission's six-month mandate, which forces you to renegotiate staff and procurement contracts semiannually. The United States supports a standard one-year mandate and calls on other states to do so, as well.

With the adoption of the 2026 Unified Budget, the United States is eager to work on Field Mission strategic planning. Our priorities are promoting peace, preventing wars, and increasing prosperity – which are directly aligned with your Mission's focus on achieving a lasting, comprehensive political settlement with a special status for Transnistria within Moldova. We see your Mission's added value in the trust-based relationships forged on both sides of the Dniester and your access to the Security Zone and Transnistria. This uniquely positions you to facilitate dialogue where other actors cannot. We welcome the resumption of 1+1 meetings at the chief negotiator level and the agreement to intensify working group engagement on practical matters affecting people on both banks, including individual human rights cases, freedom of movement, the functioning of vehicle registration offices, chemical waste removal, and economic issues.

We commend your pursuit of progress on the humanitarian front and welcome the release of one individual detained by the de facto Transnistrian authorities and your facilitation of a medical monitoring visit for another detained person, and we hope to see the release of other detainees. We also applaud your Mission's efforts to strengthen the professional capacity for combatting human trafficking on both banks. Your work with Moldova's Ministry of Education and Research in support of impactful Holocaust education is also welcome.

Dear Izabela, thank you once more for continually seeking greater efficiencies – like your use of technology to cut costs. We also appreciate your increased emphasis on outcome- and impact-based reporting, which we look forward to in the months to come.

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