



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Response to the Report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Jan Haukaas**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, Kate Rebholz  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
June 25, 2026

Ambassador Haukaas, dear Jan, welcome back to the Permanent Council. You have demonstrated that fiscal responsibility and mandate delivery are not in conflict. The Mission's work to shift from institution-building to programming that emphasizes national ownership reflects exactly the kind of disciplined, results-driven stewardship we ask of all OSCE field operations.

That record of achievement is also why we so strongly support Montenegro's call for the Mission's closure by end-2027, which aligns with the conclusion of the Mission's 2025-2027 Strategic Framework. Montenegro has described this moment as the transformation – not the end – of its OSCE relationship, and we fully support that framing.

Chair, since the Ministerial Council meeting, the United States has consistently emphasized the need for this organization to reform. Predictability and timely budgeting are critical to the OSCE's ability to respond to the region's security challenges. To that end, we need a 2027 budget adopted on time in 2026. We look to the heads of all OSCE structures to draft an initial budget for 2027 that protects the fiscal discipline and cost containment gains we made this year. To be clear, we expect a zero nominal growth (ZNG) 2027 unified budget proposal in October which maintains the same top line budget numbers from 2026.

Finally, as you have heard us state in other venues, we want to reopen negotiations on the scales of contribution. We look forward to the launch of the Informal Working Group before summer recess.

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