



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Presentation by the Chairs of the Three Committees

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 28, 2024

Ambassador Burian, Ambassador Raunig, Ambassador Callan, let me express the United States’ sincere appreciation for your excellent reports and skillful leadership of your respective committees. As 2024 draws to a close, Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine is still the most serious challenge to this region’s security and therefore to our work across all OSCE dimensions. Russia has impeded that important work and has rendered your inspired leadership all the more important and impactful.

Ambassador Burian, dear Peter, we thank Slovakia for stepping up to chair the Security Committee this year. It is a valuable forum to address the non-military security implications of Russia’s war against Ukraine – a dynamic situation to which you and your team have ably adapted the committee’s focus. Russia's reckless hybrid actions increasingly blur the lines between military and non-military security challenges, which renders the committee’s work even more complex and relevant.

Ambassador Raunig, dear Florian, we thank Austria for its impressive four-year tenure as Economic and Environmental Committee chair. Pursuing avenues of cooperation on shared priorities like good governance, countering corruption, and addressing climate change demonstrate how concrete actions in the Second Dimension help create favorable conditions for security and prosperity across the region. We look forward to continuing our work in 2025 on enhancing connectivity, furthering anti-corruption efforts, increasing digitalization, and improving water management practices. The committee must continue to prioritize the task of addressing the economic and environmental harm that Russia’s war has inflicted on Ukraine and the broader region.

Ambassador Callan, dear Anne-Marie, Ireland has chaired the Human Dimension Committee during two critical years, expertly navigating the many roadblocks Russia and Belarus have tried to erect against our discussion of human rights concerns, challenges to democratic principles of government, and violations of international humanitarian law. As the Kremlin, the Lukashenka regime, and authorities in a number of other participating States further crack down on human rights defenders, restrict independent media, and enact or contemplate laws that chill the exercise of fundamental freedoms, this committee’s role in highlighting these disturbing developments and providing a platform to hear from civil society organizations is more important than ever.

Ambassadors, my sincere thanks to you and your excellent teams for the valuable work you have done this year. As your reports testify, the ongoing work and the many successes of

the committees in the face of myriad challenge is an impressive demonstration of what this organization can and should accomplish.

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