



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Statement in Reply to the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities**

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
March 4, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you Mr. Swiecicki for your report this morning. I would also like to thank Ireland for its warm hospitality in hosting the Second Preparatory Seminar, and to congratulate the organizers on a very successful event.

After two preparatory seminars, the United States is both encouraged and hopeful that the OSCE will identify some concrete tasks it can undertake in the Economic and Environmental Dimension to improve states' ability to promote domestic business development, attract outside investment, and to ensure that they are positioned to make the most of the expanding global economy.

As the Dublin Seminar showed, domestic policies and practices are the single biggest impediment to business development and must therefore redouble our efforts to help participating States craft and implement policies that are business and investment friendly and corruption free.

Business will go where opportunities exist, and business savvy citizens will migrate where they can maximize their own economic potential. All of us should be concerned about retaining our national intellectual capital and should work to create an atmosphere where those citizens who want to start small and medium enterprises can do so with minimum difficulty and maximum hope for success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.