



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

### **Statement on the Political Situation in Armenia**

As delivered by Deputy Representative Douglas Davidson  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 6, 2004

Mr. Chairman, the United States is pleased that Armenian parliamentarians from the governing coalition and opposition parties met on April 26 and 27. We encourage both sides to continue meeting and to work within the constitutional process to promote political reform in Armenia.

The United States has long been concerned about the practice of administrative detention and the Soviet-era Code of Administrative Offenses still in force in Armenia.

We note that the new law on Public Demonstrations, Gatherings and Rallies, passed by the National Assembly on April 28, is a step in the right direction. However, we encourage the government to work with the Council of Europe and other experts to further refine the law to bring it fully in line with international standards.

We also look to the Armenian authorities to fully investigate recent assaults on political activists and we look forward to the swift and thorough resolution of these cases.

Thank you very much.