



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Maj Gen Claudio Zappulla, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman in Office

As delivered by Charge d'Affaires Douglas Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 18, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would also like to welcome General Zappulla to the Permanent Council and to thank him for his outstanding leadership over the past three years.

General - your comprehensive report has highlighted the step-by-step successes of both Article II Confidence and Security Measures, and sub-regional arms control under Article IV. The recent progress on both these issues is yet another sign that the countries of Southeast Europe are successfully working together to solve problems that only 18 months ago seemed insurmountable.

The next year will be a time of great change for the region as well as an opportunity to capitalize on the gains made over the past few years. The dedication, diligence and forward-looking spirit of all concerned will make continued gains a reality and a better life for the present and future generations. We are all in this together.

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to General Zappulla today. His steady and patient hand and his leadership will leave a lasting and positive impact on the region. The United States of America wishes him the best of luck as he takes Command of a fighter/bomber division in the Italian Air Force. We also hope that he'll have a chance to take at least one last flight in an F-104

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.