



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by OSCE Head of Office in Yerevan Vladimir Pryakhin

As delivered by Charge D'Affaires Paul W. Jones
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 4, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you also Ambassador Pryakhin for your informative report outlining the important activities and achievements of the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

The United States commends the Ambassador and the OSCE staff in Yerevan for their continued dedication to upholding their OSCE mandate and embracing OSCE commitments with both enthusiasm and dedication.

Over the past year as Head of Office in Yerevan, Ambassador Pryakhin has ambitiously addressed all three dimensions in the fulfillment of his mandate. Not only does Ambassador Pryakhin continue to promote implementation of OSCE commitments in the human, political-military, and economic and environmental dimensions, but he does so with dedication and resolve.

To illustrate, Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to highlight Ambassador Pryakhin's work in promoting Electoral Code reform, implementing anti-corruption strategies, elaborating a police assistance program, and developing anti-terrorism legislation. These important areas of reform and development have contributed to the strengthening of democratic norms and principles.

The impact of these measures was further amplified by Ambassador Pryakhin's commitment to strengthening the level of cooperation between the government of the Republic of Armenia, political parties and various facets of civil society.

The Ambassador's steadfast determination in fostering OSCE values while promoting the democratic development of the Republic of Armenia is impressive. Based on a firm foundation of OSCE principles, the Office continues to support projects promoting freedom of information, expression, assembly and religion.

After several failed attempts, the Jehovah's Witnesses community has now received state registration. In addition, a visit by Ambassador Pryakhin and his staff to the Procurator General on October 13 contributed to the release of detained opposition supporters.

We commend Ambassador Pryakhin's efforts to encourage amendment of the Law on Conducting Public Gatherings, Demonstrations and Marches to reflect the recommendations of the OSCE and Council of Europe.

We also highlight the Ambassadors recent support to the National Assembly, during which the Office successfully completed comprehensive training for the staff of the Parliamentary Standing Committees. This useful training was then implemented during a practical experience exchange in the National Assembly of Hungary.

We encourage Ambassador Pryakhin to continue his hard work to promote reform and cooperation within the OSCE framework. The United States continues to support his dedication to the OSCE mission and commends the Ambassador on upholding OSCE principles.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.