



## United States Mission to the OSCE

---

# Response to George Soros

Delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes to the  
Permanent Council, Vienna  
April 10, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to join in welcoming, a fellow American, Mr. Soros here today. We appreciate his sharing experiences and his valuable insights into the future with us.

Mr. Chairman, the United States is especially grateful to Mr. Soros because his long-standing and commendable philanthropic efforts coincide so closely with the aims of the OSCE. I am glad you have learned this through your preparation for today. The numerous projects Mr. Soros funds, particularly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, have come to characterize his commitment to an "open society," which is of such special interest to this organization.

We believe that striving for a more open society should be a basic goal for every country represented here. Governing institutions, civil society, and international organizations must all work actively to support and nurture this goal. Only with the full participation and commitment of all parts of society can lasting peace be assured.

The United States recognizes and commends Mr. Soros' constant and laudable efforts throughout the world, and we look forward to continued cooperation between the OSCE and the Soros Foundations Network. I would add here, Mr. Soros, that what you described as needing to be done in three words "achieve good government", is what OSCE does everyday through the remarkable opportunity we have here for 55 Ambassadors to work together in person towards that goal.

Finally, having learned what you have, I hope you will spread your new-found knowledge about the important work that this organization does and what the United States does on a multilateral basis through this organization, and to see where the work the OSCE and your Foundations can achieve a multiplier effect through a focus on shared goals and objectives.

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1~i  
i  
1

---

Obersteingasse 11  
A - 1190 Vienna, Austria

Telephone  
+43-1-313-39 ext. 3201

Fax  
+43-1-368-6385

E-mail  
[oscevie@state.gov](mailto:oscevie@state.gov)