



United States Mission to the OSCE

**Statement on EU Security
Presence in the Former
Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia**

Delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Douglas A. Davidson to the
Permanent Council, Vienna
April 3, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes the seamless transition of peacekeeping duties in Macedonia from NATO to the EU, which occurred on Monday. We look forward to close cooperation with the EU, the OSCE Mission to Skopje and the Macedonian Government in this endeavor.

The recent conclusion of the NATO-EU agreements on security cooperation—commonly referred to as "Berlin-Plus"—followed by the hand-over to the EU marks the first example of the NATO-EU strategic partnership in action, and is a significant event. We are certain that the EU peacekeepers will fulfil their mandate in Macedonia effectively and professionally.

Thank you.