



United States Mission to the OSCE

**OSCE Representative to
Estonian Military Pensioners
Commission**

Delivered by Deputy Political Counselor David Kostelancik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 15, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We'd like to join the European Union in welcoming Captain Uwe Mahrenholtz back to the Permanent Council, and thank him for his report and dedication to the work of the Commission and to helping the military pensioners it serves.

The United States is encouraged by the continued progress being made to increase the number of persons holding temporary residency permits of the maximum length of five years, and the news that no pensioners hold permits of less than one year validity. This is the fruit of the constructive attitude evidenced by all sides, and the work of Captain Mahrenholtz.

We read with interest Captain Mahrenholtz's report on developments concerning the Law on Aliens and the extending of permanent residency. We look forward to further news from Estonia on the possible broader applications of the October 2002 ruling by the Estonian Supreme Court Administrative College.

In closing, we wish Captain Mahrenholtz all the best and look forward to further updates.

Thank you.