



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Kazakh Media Law

As delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative Douglas Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 25, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States Government is concerned about the Kazakh Senate's passage of the media law on March 18. That draft law falls far short of OSCE commitments and international standards.

After a robust public debate characterized by widespread and sharp criticism of the draft law, including by several Kazakhstani journalists' associations, we are disappointed that it continues to move forward.

We understand that the law already may have been passed to the President, who has 15 days in which to take action on it. Just as he withdrew the NGO law last fall, we hope that the President will take the wise decision to veto the media law this time.

Thank You.