



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Appointment of Miklos Haraszti as Representative on Freedom of the Media

As delivered by Deputy Representative Douglas Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 11, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We simply wish at this point to avail ourselves of the opportunity to welcome our new Representative on Freedom of the Media to the Permanent Council for, as you yourself noted, first time today.

As we noted in an intervention earlier today, the United States believes that freedom of the press and freedom of expression are essential for OSCE principles and commitments. It is for this reason that my delegation is pleased the OSCE's protracted selection process has resulted in the selection of such an excellent Representative.

In our view Mr. Haraszti and his experiences as a writer, journalist and political activist have left him ideally prepared to work effectively for a freer media. His background and past experiences have, we have no doubt, given him ideas as he has just expressed today about what the OSCE can do to help foster free, independent press throughout the OSCE region.

Mr. Chairman, the United States government is delighted with Mr. Haraszti's appointment and we look forward to cooperating closely with him. We even look forward to hearing his criticism of the United States, if and when we deserve it of course.

Thank you.