



## United States Mission to the OSCE

# Statement in Response to External Auditor's Report on the 2003 OSCE Financial Statement

As delivered by Acting Political Counselor David Kostelancik  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 22, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States wishes to thank the external auditor for his well written and deeply researched audit report that gives the OSCE an unqualified rating for its financial health.

We would also like to thank the Secretary General for the 2003 financial report, which looks to us equally well prepared.

We urge our colleagues to accept the financial report and to approve the draft decision authorizing the secondment of the external auditor to the OSCE for another term.

We share many of the concerns and recommendations laid out in audit report and ask the Secretary General to give his attention to the prompt implementation of many of the report's findings.

In particular, we are very interested in seeing finalized proposals for an audit committee, and measures to clarifying the delegation of authority within the organization. We look forward to improved accounting of extra-budgetary contributions and standardized cost sharing for administrative services.

Finally, we feel it is extremely important that prior year recommendations be fully acted upon and closed out.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.