



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Tenth Anniversary of the Dayton Accords

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 24, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

November 21st marked the tenth anniversary of agreement on the Dayton Accords, which ended the horrific war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a conflict that claimed over 200,000 lives and drove over two million people from their homes. NATO forces, led by the United States military, helped to end the war, and United States and international negotiators at Dayton laid the framework for a sustainable peace.

Over the last ten years, with the assistance of the United Nations and the OSCE, Bosnia and Herzegovina has further developed that peace, progressively strengthening its democratic institutions and beginning to undertake the kinds of reforms needed for eventual Euro-Atlantic integration. During that period, the United States has provided over 1.35 billion dollars in bilateral assistance.

The United States welcomes the European Union's decision to open negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina on a Stabilization and Association Agreement.

We congratulate Bosnia and Herzegovina on ten years of peace and progress. We encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue implementing much-needed democratic and economic reforms and promoting human rights. However, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot put the war completely behind them until Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic face justice in The Hague. The full integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Serbia and Montenegro into the Euro-Atlantic community cannot be achieved until they meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the ICTY.

Much has been achieved in these past ten years, Mr. Chairman, and the United States would like very much to take the opportunity on the occasion of this important anniversary to reiterate our support for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina as they continue to work toward a fully democratic and integrated society and a peaceful and prosperous future.

Thank you.