



United States Mission to the OSCE

Position on HoM Selection Process

As prepared for delivery by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 16, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States takes note of the position paper submitted by the delegations of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan concerning the selection process for Heads of OSCE Missions.

We acknowledge the obvious direct interest a host country has in who leads the OSCE mission in that country.

It is our belief, however, that the current system of appointment of OSCE Heads of Mission appropriately takes account of the views of all interested parties, including the host country, if there is one. We, therefore, see no need to change the current system, which accurately reflects the Chairmanship's prerogative to name Heads of Mission as the CiO sees fit.

Finally, we are intrigued by the form used to promote the position described in the paper. Rather than seek a consensus, the authors are calling for voluntary adherence to the principles described. Such a concept of voluntary adherence may indeed become useful in discussing other matters of interest to the participating States.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.