



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by the ACMF Chair Concerning Progress on Reforming the Budget Process

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 25, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

The United States is indeed sorry to hear of the lack of progress on improving the budget process, a task we gave ourselves as part of this year's budget decision. We understand that the discussion at Tuesday's ACMF demonstrated general support for the relevant draft resolution issued by the Chairmanship after extensive consultations long preceding the August recess. It is extremely unfortunate that one state could not bring itself to join consensus on such a simple proposal. Despite the Russian Federation's repeated calls for reform, it has found itself unable to support this reasonable reform proposal. We must begin to wonder what the true intentions of our Russian "comrades" are.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.