



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Response to the Report by the Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners**

As delivered by Kaye Lee, Director, Office of Resources Management  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
October 13, 2011

We welcome the return of Lieutenant Colonel Napiontek to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report.

The United States considers relations between neighbors an important indicator of the successful realization of our shared principle of cooperative and indivisible security, and we commend both Latvia and the Russian Federation for their productive collaboration on the issue of military pensioners.

It is clear from LTC Napiontek's report that both parties are continuing their cooperation, although there remains a divergence of thought on procedures to include additional persons on the list of eligible military pensioners. We hope that continued discussion and the exchange of comprehensive data on military pensioners will resolve this point of contention.

We note the report's conclusion that the upcoming months will determine whether or not the OSCE can suspend its representation to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners.

We hope that this will indeed be the case, and while the OSCE will remain interested in and supportive of the Joint Commission's onward efforts, we are optimistic that the time will soon come for the two parties to build on their record of success without active OSCE engagement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.