



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Space Flight

As delivered by Carol Fuller, Deputy Chief of Mission,
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 14, 2011

The United States highly values the Permanent Council as a forum for dialogue and cooperation and therefore it is with great pleasure that we are making a statement today on a historical case where dialogue led to a great deal of cooperation.

The United States wishes to join with Russia and people around the world in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's historic spaceflight on April 12, 1961, ushering in the age of human presence in space. The space race that began as superpower competition ultimately led to cooperation, from the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project to space shuttle missions to Mir and the construction of the International Space Station. Cosmonauts have flown on the space shuttle, and astronauts have flown on Soyuz spacecraft. Joined by numerous other countries from around the world, the United States and Russia have shown that in exploring the vast frontier of our universe, we can successfully work together for the sake of knowledge and human advancement. We applaud this spirit of cooperation and will seek every opportunity to extend that spirit to our work here.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.