



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Head of Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan, H. E. Ambassador Markus Müller

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a. i. Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 24, 2011

The United States wishes to extend a very warm welcome to Ambassador Markus Müller, Head of the Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan and thank him for his informative report today.

As you are aware, the United States has been a strong proponent of the work you and your colleagues have undertaken in Kyrgyzstan. The United States has contributed one million U.S. dollars and provided three American citizens as a part of your team on the ground. I am also proud that two of our three seconded nationals are female police officers and we encourage other participating States to second their own exceptionally qualified female professionals as we have done.

We are pleased to hear that the CSI is moving in the right direction through the end of Phase One. We look forward to greater levels of achievement for the project especially regarding changing the attitudes of police officers as the CSI advances through the next phases as well. In that regard, we remain deeply concerned by continuing human rights violations in Kyrgyzstan and by the assessment in this report that there is no positive trend indicating improvements. We strongly urge Kyrgyz authorities to embrace what you describe as the modern principles of multiethnic policing and to strengthen their efforts to prevent and deal with human rights violations in a "professional and credible" manner, as stated in your report.

You will recall that in January, in our last intervention in the Permanent Council on this topic, we stressed the need for a clear set of CSI benchmarks to evaluate the progress and the outcomes. Your report indicates that, as a part of the CSI and Kyrgyz Interior Ministry's plan of action, indicators or benchmarks were established. We look forward to receiving those so all participating States can assess the project's success.

We are exceptionally pleased to have heard today from some participating States and from the EU that they will make additional contributions to the CSI. We hope for still more. This will go a long way toward reducing the budget shortfall that had threatened to limit the mandate of the project and we trust it will allow the final tranche of officers and local staff to be hired on schedule this month.

Ambassador Müller, as you point out in your report, the CSI is the only international response to Kyrgyzstan's request for assistance in addressing the terrible ethnic violence that erupted last June. It is crucial that the program achieve the ambitious results we have set for it.

As you prepare to leave the CSI project, we want to express our deepest appreciation for your leadership and adept management of the sensitive initial stage of this project. You have contributed much to the process of restoring peace among all of Kyrgyzstan's citizens as well as between police and local communities. We are aware that the gains made thus far are fragile; but they are also real and part of the process whereby the people and the government of Kyrgyzstan will be able to address and overcome the events of 2010.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.