



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 3, 2025

Ambassador Haukaas, welcome to the Permanent Council, and thank you for your report. Montenegro is an important U.S. and NATO Ally. We commend your work with both government authorities and civil society toward meeting Montenegro's reform goals.

We appreciate the Mission's continued support for justice system reform, particularly in response to organized crime and corruption. The United States recognizes the progress Montenegro has made in tackling corruption, and we support Montenegro's commitment to implement a national strategy to fight corruption.

You also helped strengthen the justice system's response to violence against women and girls. We applaud your work supporting Montenegrin stakeholders on developing a national press safety mechanism against attacks on journalists and media property.

We support as well your work to combat trafficking of illegal small arms and light weapons, drugs, and human beings by increasing intelligence sharing among law enforcement officers and strengthening the detection capabilities of K-9 units.

We welcome Montenegro's intention to increase its defense spending to five percent of GDP, in line with NATO targets. And we urge Montenegro to take advantage of U.S. and transatlantic partnerships in building, modernizing, and securing critical infrastructure, while protecting it from foreign malign threats.

As an aside, I'd like to say that our fingers are crossed that Montenegro will meet its own goal of being 28th in '28.

Finally, we know the lack of an agreed Unified Budget complicates your Mission's work, and we thank you for raising this. We urge participating States to adopt a Unified Budget as soon as possible to put the organization on stable financial footing so that it can most effectively execute its core functions in line with its mandate.

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