



United States Mission to the OSCE

PRESS RELEASE

September 24, 2010

U.S. Delegation to the 2010 OSCE Review Conference in Warsaw

Ambassador Michael Guest will lead the U.S. delegation to the Warsaw, Poland, portion of the 2010 Review Conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), September 30 to October 8. Held as part of the run-up to the December 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, the Review Conference is organized jointly by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Kazakhstani Chairmanship of the OSCE. It will focus on the OSCE's human dimension principles.

The Warsaw Review Conference will be the OSCE region's most important human rights event of the year. There, representatives of government and civil society will come together to evaluate the implementation of human dimension commitments by the 56 participating States of the OSCE and to review the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with these commitments. The event serves as a forum to bring together hundreds of government representatives, human rights activists and international experts.

As Ambassador Guest recently said, "All of us share a passion for human rights. And the 2010 Warsaw Review Conference is an opportunity to examine the progress each of us has made in meeting our commitments to protect and advance OSCE human dimension principles." Ambassador Guest is enthusiastic about "working with [his] civil society and government colleagues from the other OSCE participating States in this candid and forward-looking examination."

Ambassador Guest is senior adviser to the Council for Global Equality. Formed in 2008, the Council is a coalition of 19 human rights organizations that advocates a stronger and more consistent U.S. government and corporate voice on behalf of the equality and fair treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in the United States and overseas.

Before co-founding the Council, Ambassador Guest enjoyed a 26-year career as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. Department of State. Overseas, he served with distinction as America's first openly gay, Senate-confirmed U.S. Ambassador (to Romania, 2001-04); other senior-level positions included, inter alia, Dean of the Department's Leadership and Management School (2005-07); Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, then Acting Assistant Secretary, for Legislative Affairs (1999-2001); and Deputy Executive Secretary (1994-96). He ended his career in December 2007, after which he joined U.S. civil society.

As U.S. Ambassador to Romania, Mr. Guest played a critical role in shaping that country's successful preparations for NATO membership – drawing on earlier efforts, as Deputy Chief of Mission, to focus the Czech Republic's preparations for joining the Alliance. His extensive background in European security policy also includes service as Deputy Director for Political Affairs in the Office of European Security and Political Affairs (1989-91), where he was responsible for the U.S. political

dialogue at NATO and within the then-Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE); and served on the U.S. delegation in negotiations that eventually gave rise to Germany's reunification.

Key Members of the U.S. Delegation to the Warsaw Review Conference, Sept. 30 – Oct. 8:

- Ambassador Michael Guest, Delegation Head
- Ambassador Ian Kelly, U.S. Representative to the OSCE, U.S. Mission to the OSCE in Vienna, Austria
- Ambassador Cynthia Efird, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), Washington, D.C.
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Thomas Melia, Washington, D.C.
- Carol Fuller, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Mission to the OSCE in Vienna, Austria
- Catherine Fitzgerald, journalist, public member

For information about the Warsaw Review Conference: www.osce.org

For information about the U.S. Mission to the OSCE: <http://osce.usmission.gov>

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