



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT ON RUSSIAN NGOs

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council 30 October 2014

Mr Chairman,

I take the floor in support of my distinguished American colleague, who in his statement raised his deep concern about actions taken by the Russian Federation to dissolve the Russian Memorial Society, as well as about harassment of the Committee of Soldier's Mothers.

Mr Chairman,

Have on many occasions spoken about the role of civil society in democratic societies. I have spoken about the support Norway gives to such organisations, in Norway, as well as in other countries.

I have recently – in the PC – underlined that we do this because we are convinced that no democracy can thrive without an active civil society. Our agenda is to help develop democracy in the OSCE area, and thereby also contribute to making our part of the world more stable, more secure.

I therefore share the concerns just expressed by my distinguished US colleague. The two Russian NGOs he mentioned in his statement are organisations that should be commended for their work, they should be supported by Russian authorities. And they are, you will not be surprised, close partners to Norwegian NGOs.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.