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**The Fourteenth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum:
Statement by Norway to the Plenary session V: The link between transport
and the environment**

**Norwegian proposal for a work shop on Transport, Security and
Environment (Ref EF.DEL/52/06)**

As delivered by Ms Henriette Nesheim, Adviser at the Ministry of Fisheries and
Coastal Affairs, Prague, May 24, 2006

Mr. Chairman,

As pointed out in our opening statement on Monday, Norway would like to use this opportunity to give you a more detailed presentation of our proposed work-shop on transport, security and environment this autumn. A food-for-thought paper has already been distributed. We hope you have had a chance to study it.

Safe and secure transport options are of vital importance for a country or a region, especially when it comes to energy transport. All transport of energy involves at least two countries' borders, and often more than one mode of transport. The shifts between transport modes pose increased risks with regards to safety and security. In Norway we are particularly concerned with the effects of different transport modes on the environment. We would hope to engage in the on-going dialogue on these issues with other concerned countries.

Over the years Norway and its partners in the high north, especially Russia, has gained considerable experience in working with oil spill preparedness and emergency response in the maritime transport sector. However, the Norwegian approach is to focus not only on the maritime sector, but on entire transport corridors, considering the whole logistical chain.

Norway is ready to share with other OSCE participating states the experience that has been gained in the Nordic region and in the Barents Euro-Arctic region. We therefore propose to organize a work-shop on transport, security and environment in Toensberg in the south of Norway from 16 -18 October this year. The programme would include a visit to the Norwegian Coastal Administration's centre of Emergency Response in Horten on the Oslo Fjord.

We do feel that this is the right time for such a work-shop due to the increase in global transport, in particular in energy. During this work-shop we hope to identify key challenges that could be followed-up by pragmatic co-operation and regional initiatives. We hope that this will not be a one-time event, but that it starts up a process between participating states on sharing of experiences and best practices, including follow-up meetings on specific subjects in cooperation with the upcoming Spanish chairmanship.

We have in mind a programme with different sessions focusing on multimodal transport corridors, safety and security challenges in transport, and regional cooperation on preparedness and response to oil-spills and other environmental risks. In addition to attracting interesting key note speakers, we hope to engage the participants in a variety of discussions and working groups in order to exchange best practices. We would very much like to continue consultations with other delegations to put in place a programme that is seen as relevant and useful for all interested countries.

Thank you for your attention!