



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2017
PROGRAMME OUTLINE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 12 May 2016

Mr Chairman,

European security is under growing pressure. There is a need for intensified dialogue and cooperation. The importance of the OSCE is increasing. We must be willing to invest in our organisation for it to deliver on our increased expectations.

Mr Chairman,

The 2017 Programme Outline is very modest. Perhaps too modest. Due to years of negative growth, we are worried that fund managers no longer ask for the resources they need, but instead what they think they can get.

There is a need for substantial increases in the budgets of our autonomous institutions. They help make our societies more democratic, stable and peaceful. Let us stop undermining their ability to do so.

We also believe there is a need to strengthen the OSCE's capabilities across the conflict cycle, in countering transnational threats, and in its field missions in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia.

Mr Chairman,

We support and encourage efficiency measures. At the same time, we will maintain a cautious approach, in order to avoid quick savings with unintended consequences.

We want a strong OSCE. That is the basis for our position today, and it will remain our basis during budget negotiations in the autumn.

Thank you Mr Chairman