



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE STATEMENTS BY THE HEAD OF THE
SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, H.E. DIDIER
BURKHALTER, AND THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, H.E. IVAN MRKIĆ**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 2 July 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I join previous speakers in warmly welcoming the Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Didier Burkhalter and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, H.E. Ivan Mrkić to the Permanent Council and thank them for their thorough presentations.

We are impressed and heartened by the two countries' firm determination to work together to increase the efficiency of our organization. Their will to coordinate closely will ensure more continuity and better planning for the benefit of all participating states. We agree that the approach that their two countries have chosen could inspire others and may become a model for future candidates for chairmanships.

We share the approach and priorities that they have outlined, and are committed to working with them to ensure successful Swiss and Serbian chairmanships.

Switzerland and Serbia will both have an important role to play as we approach the fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Norway will support their efforts to bring the Helsinki+40 process to a successful conclusion. We share the view that this process should provide our organization with a platform better adapted to the current situation and new challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

We agree that the comprehensive and cross-dimensional approach to security is a major asset and the comparative advantage of the OSCE. Our comprehensive approach and existing acquis give us a solid platform to address new challenges and threats in all three dimensions.

In the politico-military dimension we have a well-developed toolbox related to work on the conflict cycle and to fight transnational threats. We do, however, need to advance the agenda on conventional arms control and confidence and security building measures. We support the intention to work on updating and modernizing the Vienna Document and to bring it in line with existing realities.

We strongly support the next two chairmanships' plans to increase efforts to resolve the protracted conflicts within agreed formats, including by appointing special representatives for the three conflicts with mandates covering both consecutive periods to ensure continuity. These conflicts cast a shadow over the work of OSCE and tend in many respects to disrupt the work of the organization.

In the economic and environmental dimension we agree that the OSCE needs to develop a stronger branding and we support the intention to work specifically to strengthen good governance and combat corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. I would like to add that Norway believes that we in the 2nd dimension should concentrate on areas where the OSCE can make a real difference. We should also focus on opportunities to involve civil society in 2nd dimension activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Work in the Human Dimension is a priority area for Norway and we support the commitment of Switzerland and Serbia to advance the implementation of all human dimension obligations. We very much agree that civil society plays an important role in assisting participating states in fulfilling their commitments related to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. We also need, however, to update our commitments to bring the OSCE in line with existing realities.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we would like to assure both Switzerland and Serbia of our strong commitment to actively co-operate with them during their respective chairmanships.

Thank you.