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ENGLISH only

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
(PERMANENT COUNCIL, 26 JANUARY 2006)**

We would like to thank Ambassador of Norway for the information she has shared with us on a development in her country which concerns us all, particularly in light of what must be a heightened sensitivity at the OSCE regarding intolerance and discrimination, as attested to by several decisions we have taken in recent years. The CiO's decision to reappoint his three personal representatives for combating intolerance and discrimination represents a consolidation of our enduring focus in this field.

The disturbing trend in several OSCE participating States vilifying Islam or Muslims, as well as discriminatory practices thoroughly counter-productive for and incompatible with sound policies of integration are worrying developments which must warrant our close attention as they represent a clear disregard for OSCE commitments.

The forthcoming brief provided to this Council by Ambassador Kongsheim, as well as the clear stance of her government distancing itself from the mind set behind such developments thereby upholding our common values are exemplary and, shall I say with humility, very much appreciated by my delegation.

I shall not be surprised if similar expressions of appreciation will be voiced by those outside this hall who would applaud Norwegian stand as a yardstick of a good practice.

Thank you.