



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON THE OUTCOME OF THE BELGRADE – PRISTINA
DIALOGUE**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile to the Permanent Council,
Vienna 25 April 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to join others in welcoming the agreement between Kosovo and Serbia of last week, which we regard as an important step in the process of normalization between the two countries. In his statement of 19 April Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said that the agreement will create the basis for strengthened political stability and economic development in the region as a whole and for a closer European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Kosovo and Serbia. He commended the role the European Union has played in facilitating the dialogue between Belgrade and Prishtina.

The Norwegian Foreign Minister also congratulated the two governments on showing courage and a spirit of compromise. The outcome of the dialogue, he continued, is a great achievement for Serbia and Kosovo, as it is for the European Union and Catherine Ashton who has led the talks.

Mr. Chairman,

As already pointed out by my Swiss colleague the long presence and extensive experience of the OSCE from the area, makes our organization well positioned to contribute to the implementation of this historic agreement. Our institutions as well as the field missions on the ground must stand ready to assist both governments when called upon to do so. This also implies that we must make sure that our institutions as well as the field missions in question must be provided with the necessary resources.

Thank you