



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

As delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative, Mr. Asbjørn Brandsrud  
to the (Reinforced) Permanent Council, Vienna  
14 November 2008

Mr. Chairman,

- Norway is very grateful to the Finnish Chairmanship for its tireless efforts throughout the year, which has contributed in a very positive manner to enhancing the role as well as the visibility of the OSCE in international affairs. Let me also commend the chairmanship for its careful preparation of the upcoming Ministerial and for this opportunity for participating states today to present priorities for this meeting

As for priorities,

- Norway would welcome a political declaration reflecting our common values and principles, reconfirming existing commitments, not least with regard to the human dimension. We think the chairmanship's approach to have a brief and focussed declaration should be supported, and we welcome the ideas presented by the Chairmanship earlier this week, which we believe is a solid basis for the declaration.
- We support the Chairmanship's idea to organise a working luncheon for the ministers to discuss European Security.
- We are in favour of regional declarations on Nagorno Karabakh and on Moldova; and hope to see progress with regard to achieving a lasting resolution to these protracted conflicts at the Ministerial Council Meeting. Like others we strongly believe that the Mission to Georgia should continue its work on the basis of the current mandate.
- We also support the adoption of a substantial decision on the commemoration of the 60 years anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on trafficking in human beings and on terrorism. The same goes for a decision on Rule of Law, initiated by Germany, Austria, Belgium and Hungary, and which Norway is co-sponsoring. We also support a decision on Roma and Sinti.
- Norway strongly believes time is overdue for adopting a convention giving the OSCE a legal capacity.

- We believe that the OSCE as a regional organisation, and with respect for the leading role of the UN, is well placed to addressing the security implications of climate change. We are looking forward to a ministerial decision laying the ground for the OSCE engagement.
- Strengthening border security and management, not least within the Central Asian region and on the border between OSCE participating States and Afghanistan, has been an important field of our work throughout the year. We strongly support a ministerial decision on further OSCE action in border security and management.
- In view of Norway's well-known position on cluster munitions, I cannot but express Norway's support for the statement just made by the Netherlands. We appeal again to all participating states to sign the Convention on Cluster Munition, and reiterate the invitation to all states to participate in the signing conference in Oslo 2-4 December.

The convention on Cluster Munitions will be the new international norm addressing cluster munitions. The use of cluster munitions is now an option that entails considerable political costs. This effect will be even stronger when the Convention formally becomes part of International Humanitarian Law.

Thank you.