



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT ON RESPONDING TO TERRORIST ATTACKS**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 5 June 2014

Mr Chairman,

Last week we mourned the victims of the recent terrorist attack at the Jewish Museum in Brussels. The topic of my statement is not the despicable attack itself, but the Russian statement on that attack.

Mr Chairman,

The Russian statement made me think of the trauma Norway went through after the terrorist attack in Oslo and at Utøya 22. July 2011, when 77 people, mostly teenagers, were brutally murdered by an extremist.

Mr Chairman,

The Russian representative said last week that they share the concern of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who sees a direct connection between the Brussels tragedy and the condoning of anti-Semitic sentiments by the authorities of the European States.

Mr Chairman,

Such a view seems to imply that the authorities of European states must carry responsibility for the terrorist attack in Brussels.

We heard similar voices after the terrorist attack in Oslo and at Utøya. It was argued that the root cause of the attack was to be found in the policies of our Labour Party Government. This view was flatly rejected by a united Norwegian people as both false and tactless.

Only the terrorists themselves are responsible for their acts.

Mr Chairman,

The Russian representative went on to say that events of recent years demonstrate that the European Union States have failed to draw conclusions from the intensification of radical nationalist and extremist tendencies in the OSCE area. He also said that they frequently justify their inaction by referring to the guarantee of freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Mr Chairman,

We disagree with the view that we can fight extremism and terrorism by simply suppressing opinions and ideas. We believe in confronting the extremists with counter arguments.

Mr Chairman,

In the evening of 22 July 2011, speaking to a nation in shock and disbelief, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said that

We must never give up our values.

We must show that our open society can pass this test too.

That the answer to violence is even more democracy.

Even more humanity.

But never naivety.

That, the Prime Minister said, is something we owe the victims and their families.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.