



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON AFGHANISTAN**  
As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the 51<sup>st</sup> Joint Meeting  
of Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 9<sup>h</sup> May 2012

**Mr. Chairman,**

We have aligned ourselves with the EU statement, but in my national capacity I would like to make two additional points:

First, on the military side Norway is pleased to see the positive progress achieved in the Faryab Province, and the increased ability of the Afghan National Security Forces to maintain security in that region. This allows Norway to withdraw our military forces from Faryab already this autumn as a concerted part of the ongoing transition process.

Despite the withdrawal of our PRT from Faryab, Norway will maintain a substantial military contribution in Afghanistan till the end of 2014. Training and mentoring of the ANA will continue, and this spring our Special Operation Forces assumed responsibility for the training and mentoring of the Afghan Police's Crisis Response Unit in Kabul. From September this year we will provide ISAF with a C-130 transport aircraft. Additional military contributions are still under consideration. Norway also contributes USD 60 million to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund in the period from 2010 to 2014.

Second, our non-military engagement in Afghanistan will continue well beyond 2014, aiming at contributing to a positive social and economic development in the country. This year Norway's development assistance program to Afghanistan has a

budget of around 130 million USD, placing Afghanistan among the top priority countries for Norwegian development assistance. Priority areas include good governance, human rights and rule of law, as well as rural development and education for girls.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman**