



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN THE DIGITAL AGE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, June 14th, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I speak on behalf of Liechtenstein and Norway.

We thank the US Ambassador for bringing up for a new discussion the initiative for a declaration on fundamental freedoms in the digital age, a draft text that Norway co-sponsored for the Vilnius Ministerial.

In line with the EU statement, Liechtenstein and Norway also believe that the universality of human rights does not change with the introduction of new information technologies and that they shall apply with equal force online as they do offline. However, the use of new information technologies also rapidly changes the media environment. In that respect, we still see merit in forwarding a text that not only reaffirms old, well established commitments, but which also underlines how important it is for governments to protect the rights of individuals to express themselves also by the use of new technologies.

Some of us may have to adjust our legislation to the new media environment. For such purposes we need to enable our institutions to offer the necessary assistance to the participating states. This is also a matter of resources and of how we make priorities in the Unified Budget process.

Mr. Chairman,

The internet, mobile networks and social media tools are just the beginning of a new era which will affect our common security in more than one way. These new tools will also affect the everyday life of our citizens. That is why we think this is an issue appropriate for a ministerial decision.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.