



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON MIGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 30 April 2015

Mr Chairman,

We share the deep concern of our European colleagues about the grave situation for refugees and other migrants in the Mediterranean. The recent tragedy, in which more than 800 people drowned, has once again drawn our attention to the desperate situation for refugees and migrants attempting to reach Europe.

Mr Chairman,

We fully support the European Union's new Ten Point Action Plan on Migration.

Migration must be addressed through a coordinated European response. We will bear our share of the responsibility. Norway will as soon as possible contribute one civilian vessel to Operation Triton in the Mediterranean, with crew from Norwegian Police, Coast Guard and Navy.

The vessel will carry out border monitoring tasks for Frontex, initially for six months. It will have significant and robust capacities for search and rescue operations.

Norway will furthermore provide approximately 6.25 million Euros in humanitarian aid to help alleviate the refugee and migrant crisis in the Mediterranean region.

Thank you, Mr Chairman