



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE, H.E. IGOR CRNADAK

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 9 June 2015

Mr Chairman,

We greatly appreciate this opportunity to hear the priorities of the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Minister Crnadak, and to exchange views with him.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the general priority of Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote and protect human rights, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups. This is an area where both the Council of Europe and the OSCE have competence and expertise and where closer cooperation and coordination would be useful.

Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence is a priority for my government and we support Minister Crnadak's intention to work on this. Norway is preparing ratification of the Istanbul Convention and we expect to ratify it this year. We hope our discussions in the OSCE on an addendum to the Action Plan on Gender Equality will result in a Ministerial Council Decision in Belgrade, to supplement the Decision in Basel last year.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the adoption of the Council of Europe's Action Plan on the Fight against Violent Extremism and Radicalisation leading to Terrorism. The OSCE has valuable experience in this area and is actively engaged in the fight against terrorism. Coordination and exchange of information will enhance the efforts of both our organisations.

As Chair of the Human Dimension Committee, let me take this opportunity to remind the Permanent Council of the Joint Meeting of all three dimension committees taking place next week. We have invited the UN Special Rapporteur on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism, Mr Ben Emmerson, to address the meeting. The agenda also includes a panel discussion on cross-dimensional approaches in countering terrorism. The decision to hold this joint meeting is an

acknowledgement of the complex nature of this issue and the need to involve all three dimensions.

Mr Chairman,

We support the Chairmanship's intention to continue the priority of the Belgian Chairmanship and strengthen cooperation between the Council of Europe, the OSCE as well as the UN. This applies both at headquarter and field level.

The continued lack of implementation of important commitments makes it necessary to stress these commitments in Strasbourg, Geneva and Vienna, through discussions, dialogue and concrete projects. A certain duplication need not be a cause for concern, as long as we inform each other of our plans and activities.

Mr Chairman,

Norway is pleased to contribute to the continued democratic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including through the OSCE. Last week the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU entered into force. This was an important step forward. However, what really matters is the actual implementation of the reform agenda. Successful reform will lead not only to further integration with the European community and the European marketplace, but also to real social and economic development.

Mr Chairman,

Let me conclude by assuring Minister Crnadak of the full support of Norway during his chairmanship.

Thank you, Mr Chairman