



## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

### STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION SITUATION IN EUROPE

As delivered by Counsellor Hilde Austad  
to the Joint meeting of the three committees,  
Vienna, 6 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Norway is, because of its geographical location, not among the countries that have received the largest flows of migrants. But also for us the increase in asylum-seekers lately has been substantial. In the first nine months of this year, Norway has received 50% more asylum-seekers than in the same period last year.

As has been pointed out, the current situation is a common challenge that must be met by close cooperation between states, international organisations and civil society. Norway has increased its humanitarian assistance to refugees, both in neighbouring countries and transit countries, through the UN and international humanitarian organisations.

There is a need for a joint and intensified European effort to improve systems for receiving refugees and asylum-seekers. We will contribute by providing funding for this purpose through the EEA and Norway grants, which are given to 15 EU member states.

Norway has also sent two vessels to take part in the EUs operations in the Mediterranean.

In addition to handling the acute challenges, we must also address the root causes of migration by improving living conditions, solving conflicts and improving respect for human rights. The work of the OSCE, including the institutions and field missions, is instrumental in contributing to addressing root causes of migration in all three dimensions.

The OSCE also has expertise on handling some of the challenges of migration. Identifying and protecting victims of trafficking among migrants is one area.

Border security and management is another area of expertise where OSCE can train national border authorities in refugee sensitive border security.

Field offices in transit countries should consider how they could assist the host governments.

We agree with the many expressions here today of the need for close coordination and cooperation between the UN, other international organisations and the OSCE.

We are ready to engage with the Serbian chairmanship in considering how to address this issue at the Ministerial Council.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.