



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF NORWAY ON PRIORITIES IN KYIV

As delivered by Deputy Director General Rune Resaland to the Reinforced Permanent Council, Vienna, 19th November, 2013

Thank you Mr Chairperson,

In order to secure a success in Kyiv, we should all reflect for a moment on the fact that our organization can only progress and make new achievements if all participating states have the necessary political will to move forward. The recent progress in the area of cyber security is a good sign of such political will. This reinforced PC should be used to bring further progress in our work.

Let me at the outset make it clear that Norway supports the Ukrainian package for decisions in Kyiv and that we share the views and priorities outlined in the statement of the European Union. I will therefore focus only on certain issues that we regard as particularly important.

Mr Chairperson,

In Kyiv we must stress the importance of the Helsinki + 40 process and give Switzerland and Serbia a firm basis for their work. The organization must remain lean and strong, continue to build on open and frank political dialogues, and promote cooperation with civil society.

The OSCE has over the years established an impressive set of commitments in all three dimensions. These commitments apply even if we do not renew them. The pressing issue is in fact to implement already existing commitments.

At the two previous ministerial meetings, we failed to make decisions in one of the dimensions. We should avoid this in Kyiv. Decisions in all three dimensions are important in order to underline our comprehensive approach to security. Failure to adopt decisions on pressing issues in one of the dimensions would in the long run undermine the credibility of our comprehensive approach.

It is also important that we keep the OSCE acquis up to date, in all three dimensions. If we fail we risk that our organization could become irrelevant. An important case in

point is the need for the OSCE acquis to reflect the increasing attacks on and harassment of journalists in the OSCE area.

When new issues – new challenges to our security – arise, we may need to *expand* our acquis. A decision on a first set of basic CBMs in the Cyber area could serve as a good example in this regard.

Of other cross-dimensional issues on the table we have the declaration on Afghanistan and the updating of the Action Plan on Trafficking in Human beings. We will work constructively to turn these into decisions as they will make the OSCE's acquis in respective areas more up to date.

Mr Chairperson,

Turning now to 3rd dimension where the Ukrainian chair has tabled four draft decisions. Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. We would like to see all four drafts being adopted, and we especially stress the importance of the one on safety for journalists. We would like to see such a decision reflect the fundamental changes that have taken place in communication and information sharing; this has to do with keeping the OSCE acquis up to date.

In conclusion, Norway is fully committed to this organization and its objectives. We support the Chair's overall approach and we will continue to be constructive in order to help find the necessary compromises.

Mr Chairperson,

You can count on Norway's support in your efforts to make the Kyiv Ministerial a success.

Thank you.