



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE HELSINKI+40 PROGRESS REPORT

As delivered by Minister Counsellor Margaret Slettevold  
to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 21 November, 2013

Madam Chairperson,

First of all Norway would like to thank the Chairmanship for its work in launching the Helsinki+40 process this year. Norway considers the Helsinki+40 process a good opportunity to reinvigorate the OSCE, and give it newfound political momentum. As such we fully support the efforts to move the process forward.

We believe that a ministerial declaration on the Helsinki+40 process will allow for our Ministers to give guidance to the incoming Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships for their future work on the process. The guiding principle must be to identify what changes need to be done with this organization to keep it relevant and dynamic. In this respect we must also address the difficult questions on the Institutions, the Secretariat and the Field Missions. We believe in strong and independent institutions and in free, unhindered participation from and dialogue with the civil society. Any guidance that provides substance on these issues from the Ministers will greatly simplify our upcoming discussions here in Vienna.

Madam Chairperson,

We are ready to engage constructively in such discussions on the process in the run-up to Kyiv.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate our support for the incoming Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships. We wish them every success in their endeavours to move the Helsinki+40 process to the next stage, and hopefully, with their able leadership, we will see a stronger and even more relevant OSCE by the end of 2015.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.