



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**Statement by Norway on the assumption of the Dutch FSC chairmanship**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Forum for Security Co-operation  
Vienna, 20 January 2016

Madam Chair,

Thank you very much and thank you to your colleague Mr. Wim Geerts for his presentation. We support your priorities and we share your analysis of the current security situation in the OSCE area.

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on the assumption of the FSC Chairmanship.

I would also like to thank you for your support to us during our chairmanship. We – Norway and the Netherlands – have always been close, not only at the table, but also in outlook and priorities.

A warm welcome to Poland as the new FSC troika member.

We look forward to cooperating with both of you in the troika.

Madam Chair,

You assume the FSC Chairmanship in a challenging time. The trust and confidence we were able to build among us after the end of the Cold war is now gone. We look differently upon fundamental issues related to the security and stability in Europe.

We agree with Foreign Minister Steinmeier, who in this room last week underscored that our dialogue must be renewed in order to rebuild trust and thereby restore security.

The FSC must play a crucial role in this.

The FSC can contribute through dialogue and exchange of views on the crisis in an around Ukraine.

The FSC can be used as a vehicle to ensure full implementation of our politico-military commitments.

We should use it to discuss all relevant aspects of the security and stability in Europe.

Madam Chair,

The failure to adopt any FSC decisions in Belgrade does not diminish my conviction that the FSC is playing and must continue to play an important role in fostering trust and confidence among us.

But we must be honest about why trust and confidence have been destroyed. The current crisis is the result of a fundamental breach of the most basic principles of the OSCE. The crisis can only be overcome, and trust and confidence can only be restored, by a renewed commitment – in word and deed – to these principles.

And we must conduct our dialogue in good faith. Denial of facts, and distortion of facts, are no basis for moving forward.

Madam Chair,

The FSC Security Dialogues give us welcome opportunities to share views on key aspects of European security. Thank you for sharing with us your priorities. Many of the topics on your schedule are among our top priorities. Gender is one of them, the Code of Conduct another. We welcome that you have put sub-regional cooperation on the agenda and look forward to hearing about your co-operation with Germany and within the BENELUX countries.

We commend you for including prominently arms control and CSBMs in your work program. They should be a top priority for all of us. In Belgrade in December last year many Ministers underscored the need for a substantive update of the Vienna Document in 2016, and to make it correspond more closely to the current security environment. The same point was made last week by Minister Steinmeier in his opening statement to the Permanent Council.

You, as well as the next FSC chairmanships of Poland and Portugal, can rely on our full support in this important work.

Madam Chair,

We regard the upcoming High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar as the most important event under your chairmanship. We must make good use of the seminar and make it a valuable contribution to our efforts to develop a climate for productive discussions.

Norway's delegation to the seminar will be headed by our Chief of Defence.

Madam Chair,

Chairing the FSC is a demanding task, but it is rewarding and it can even be fun!

I wish you and your team every success. You have our full support!

Thank you.