



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

**As delivered by Military adviser, LtCol Arne H. Knapskog  
to the 813<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation,  
Vienna, 24 February 2016**

Madame Chair,

I would like to use this opportunity to inform the Forum about the bi-annual large-scale exercise – Cold Response 16 (CR16). This is the exercise notified last year by Norway as the biggest one taking place in our country in 2016.

Cold Response 2016 will be held in the Trøndelag counties in Central Norway from 29<sup>th</sup> of February to 11<sup>th</sup> of March. Approximately 15,000 military personnel from 12 nations are expected to participate.

The numbers of participating troops notifiable according to the Vienna Document Chapter V is 12,910. The envisaged number of aircraft sorties to be flown in the course of the activity is 640. The exercise will be organized and commanded by the Norwegian Joint Headquarters in Bodø.

Details about CR 16 has been notified according to the Vienna Document. The latest notification is numbered CBM/NO/16/0003/F25/C, 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

The main purpose of Cold Response 16 is to train personnel in how to conduct combat operations under cold weather conditions. Norway is ideally suited for winter activities, and geography and climate give unique possibilities to practice these skills.

The aim of the exercise is to retain and further develop military capabilities in high-intensity, joint and combined operations in a changing environment. This

includes retain and further development of interoperability between participating forces, integrating the Connect Force Initiative.

Madam Chair,

Within the framework of the Vienna Document, this exercise falls below the threshold for observation. Nevertheless, voluntarily and in the spirit of transparency and confidence Norway has chosen to invite countries close to us to observe this exercise. The following states will participate with observers: Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom and the US.

Information regarding the exercise can be found on the webpages of the Norwegian Armed Forces.

May I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you Madam Chair.