



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**Statement on OSCE Activities to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism and
Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism**

**As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 26 May 2016**

Mr Chairman

I would like to thank the Head of the TNT Department, Mr Alexey Lyzhenkov, for his presentation.

Preventing and countering radicalisation and violent extremism are among the central challenges of our time. It affects us all, and is a key priority for Norway.

Norwegian police estimate that around 90 Norwegians have travelled to Syria and Iraq. Most of them have joined the IS. At least 17 have been killed. Half of the around 30 that have returned to Norway have been put on trial.

We share the concern of colleagues about the potential threat to our security those who return to our countries from Syria and Iraq may represent.

Let me however add that the number of Norwegians killed in Syria and Iraq, and the number of returned fighters put on trial, seem to have contributed to a reduction of the number of young men, and a few women, that travel from Norway to join the IS.

Mr Chairman,

Through my Government's National Action Plan Against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, adopted in 2014, significant efforts have been invested in combatting VERLT in Norway, including by improving cross-government cooperation and coordination.

We aim to share lessons learned from this Action Plan with colleagues in the Security Committee.

Mr Chairman,

We highly value the OSCE's contribution to the work on preventing and countering VERLT. Our organisation's comparative advantage is well established, and is set out in the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight Against Terrorism.

Two elements are particularly important in this regard. The first is the central role of the Human Dimension and the autonomous institutions in our comprehensive approach to countering terrorism. The second element is our network of field operations. We thank the Secretary General for highlighting this through his report. We are grateful for the ATU's excellent follow-up of our Ministerial Declaration from Belgrade, and we take due note of the recommendations in the report. We echo the call of others for an increased regional focus in the work to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.