



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT AT THE OPENING SESSION ON “EUROPEAN SECURITY QUO VADIS?”

As delivered by Senior Adviser Henrik Malvik
to the Annual Security Review Conference,
Vienna, 28 June 2016

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

We appreciate this opportunity to exchange views on European security. In the turbulent times that we are now experiencing, we value the OSCE’s contribution to enhancing security and bridging the divide between us.

The OSCE is playing an irreplaceable role in the conflicts in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and in Nagorno-Karabakh. Regular dialogue in the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation – even though far from ideal, and often far from honest – is much better than the alternative. Our dialogue enhances mutual understanding – although what we understand is not always to our liking.

We value the OSCE’s secretariat, field operations and autonomous institutions and their contribution to capacity building and best practices, and their part in enhancing regional cooperation.

We also value the role the OSCE plays within conventional arms control and confidence and security building measures. The reissuing of the Vienna document this year should be used to update and modernise the document to today’s security environment.

Mr. Chairman,

Our general view on the OSCE is well known: Challenging times require increased cooperation, increased commitment, and increased investment in our common security. We must continue to focus on the OSCE’s added value, but we must realise that in a community of 57 widely divergent states, there will be no progress without willingness to compromise. Norway does not have a strong national interest in each and every part of the work of our organisation. But we realise that everything is important to some of us. We are firm believers in comprehensive security cooperation, also because the comprehensiveness keeps us all committed. At the same time, our belief in investing in European security means that we do

not understand those who obstruct the work of the OSCE in the field or through blocking meaningful OSCE presences in areas with a clear need.

Mr. Chairman,

The very foundation of European security has been challenged in recent years. The core principles of the Helsinki Final Act have been violated, and continue to be violated. Overcoming this fundamental challenge is our most important task in the coming years. We believe in the German Chairmanship's gradual approach, as expressed in the motto "renewing dialogue, rebuilding trust, restoring security". A truly comprehensive approach and innovative events, such as the Chairmanship's Connectivity Conference in May, can be of help to create the conditions necessary for achieving our aim, namely restoring the respect for fundamental principles of international law and OSCE commitments. In order to get there, we must intensify our dialogue and cooperation in all areas.

On this backdrop, Mr. Chairman, we indeed look forward to continued dialogue and honest discussions here in Vienna over the next three days.

I thank you.