



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE OSCE
ACADEMY IN BISHKEK**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 2 June 2016

Mr Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement made by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to add a few remarks regarding the OSCE Academy in Bishkek:

The Academy is a significant OSCE achievement in Central Asia. Its impact is growing steadily. In recent years we have seen an increasing number of students, a higher level of activity, increased cooperation with foreign ministries in the region, more and better internships outside the academy, improved production of policy-relevant research and statistics, and its popularity is increasing every year. This year, as we heard Director Dunay say in his presentation, 1194 applicants from 25 countries applied for 53 available places at the Academy's two Master programmes. I take this opportunity to encourage all Central-Asian countries to make full use of the academy.

Mr Chairman,

A previous speaker made the point that the academy should also promote relations between the countries in question. Indeed, this is an important effect of bringing together a high number of students from different countries.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the renewal of the MoU and the lease agreement with Kyrgyz authorities, and we thank the German Chairmanship for their instrumental role in this. We are also pleased by the renewal of the accreditation of the Master's programme in Politics and Security. This signals improved cooperation between Kyrgyz authorities and the Academy, and provides a stable legal basis for the Academy's activities.

Mr Chairman,

Norway is proud to be one of the main sponsors of the Academy. In order to ensure its financial sustainability, we believe a larger part of the Academy's budget should be included in the Unified Budget. We also encourage other participating States to contribute with financial and human resources.

Financial and academic support from academic institutions and other non-governmental partners is also important. The partnership with the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs could be used as a model.

Thank you, Mr Chairman