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**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKEY**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 21 July 2016

Mr Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement just made by Slovakia on behalf of the European Union. Allow me in addition to draw your attention to a statement made by Norway's Foreign Minister Brende after the failed coup last Friday.

In this statement Minister Brende said that preventing further polarisation of the Turkish society will be important in the time ahead. We hope President Erdogan will take advantage of the opportunity to build bridges with all those who rejected the attempted coup: the opposition, independent media and civil society. It is important to send a clear signal that respect for human rights, freedom of the press and freedom of speech will be essential premises for the Turkish government in the future. These are values that have come under pressure in recent years, said Brende.

Mr Chairman,

In a newspaper article this morning about the recent NATO summit in Warsaw, Minister Brende underlined that NATO is a community of values, for which democracy and rule of law are key elements. Steps taken by Turkish authorities in the aftermath of the failed coup will be a test for the Turkish democracy, the Minister added.

In the same article, Minister Brende underscored that its European partners expect from Turkey respect for our common values and principles.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.