



**STATEMENT BY NORWAY AT THE OPENING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY
CFE CONFERENCE, VIENNA 13 JUNE 2007**

*Delivered by Mr. Kåre R. Aas, Director General, Department for Security Policy and
the High North, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Mr Chairperson,

Several delegations underlined yesterday that the CFE Treaty has been to the benefit of all States Parties and to the security and stability in Europe. Norway shares this view.

The Treaty has been beneficial despite the dramatic changes which have occurred on our continent since 1989.

Mr Chairperson,

As a response to these changes, we negotiated the Adapted Treaty and signed it at the Istanbul Summit.

We should use this conference to look ahead to find common solutions to the challenges facing the CFE regime.

Such a forward looking approach will enhance European stability and security. This requires political will and flexibility by all of us.

Let me assure you that Norway is committed to work for a conference document containing durable common solutions.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken due note of the Russian concerns.

Norway would like this conference to achieve substantive results regarding the following issues;

Firstly; A reaffirmation by all States Parties of their commitment to the CFE Treaty and its associated documents.

We must preserve the CFE regime because it provides clear obligations on conventional force limitations, including limitations in the flanks.

Equally important are the obligations for information exchange, notifications and verification. They all provide the necessary openness and confidence. These measures are important to my country.

Secondly; a commitment by us all to an early entry into force of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

The Adapted Treaty is the proper answer to the current security environment in Europe. We all agreed to this at the Istanbul Summit in 1999. The Adapted Treaty provides for increased transparency and enhanced conventional arms control in an undivided Europe without block structures.

An additional important element is that it provides for the accession of new States Parties.

Let me underline that we consider it vital to preserve the sub-ceilings of the Adapted Treaty.

Thirdly: a political willingness by all States Parties to fulfil the remaining commitments reflected in the 1999 Final Act. We should reach this goal by engaging in a constructive and substantive dialogue. Norway recognizes progress made by the Russian Federation. We should further explore the idea of transforming the present force in Moldova into a multinational force.

We welcome the German invitation to an informal meeting this autumn for an in-depth discussion on the development of the CFE regime.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson,

We have expectations regarding this extraordinary conference. We should make use of this opportunity to move forward on the outstanding issues. At the same time we associate ourselves with those States Parties seeing this as a first step of entry into force of the Adapted Treaty. For this to happen, we should convene again at a later stage to take stock on the progress achieved.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to ask that this statement be appended to the journal of the day.