



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY OF
STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, H.E. CONDOLEEZZA
RICE

Permanent Council, Vienna
May 31, 2007

Norway joins others in warmly welcoming H.E. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State of the United States, to the Permanent Council. We have listened with great interest to her address.

Norway believes that the OSCE has adapted well to the security challenges of the 21st Century. The political dialogue and the excellent work done by the Organization's field missions and institutions is an investment in a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future.

Our common principles and commitments, not least in the human dimension, must be fully implemented. We have confidence in the autonomous and impartial way ODIHR is monitoring elections.

The OSCEs work in disarmament, arms control and security building measures (CSBMs) is an important integral part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. The CFE Treaty is a cornerstone of European security. Norway remains fully committed to ratifying the Adapted CFE Treaty as soon as the Russian Federation's remaining commitment on the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova have been fulfilled.

Norway took active part in the discussions which last year led to decisions on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE. We should now redirect our energy to the OSCE's core purpose.

The OSCE still has substantial work to do in the Western Balkans and we ought to allocate sufficient resources to these efforts. The Organization has an important role to play in implementing a status settlement for Kosovo, based on UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari's thorough proposal.

Norway supports a stronger involvement of the OSCE in Central Asia. In this regard we should also keep in mind that the development in Afghanistan does influence many participating States, not least regarding trafficking in drugs.

In closing, Norway would like to thank once again H.E. Condoleezza Rice for addressing the Permanent Council. We look forward to continuing our constructive cooperation with the U.S. in strengthening the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman