



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO THE HEAD  
OF THE OSCE MISSION TO SERBIA, AMBASSADOR HANS  
OLA URSTAD

OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna  
29 March, 2007

Norway welcomes Ambassador Urstad back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for a comprehensive and clear report.

Serbia has made progress in many areas. As Mr. Urstad puts it, there now is a clear vision of the democratic road ahead, which requires constant commitment from the reformist forces. Norway, on her part, remains committed to supporting reform and processes of Euro-Atlantic integration for Serbia.

We recall our statement on 25 January commending the Serbian government and people for the smooth running of the parliamentary elections. The elections were in line with OSCE commitments. Norway is pleased that the new parliament better reflects Serbia's multiethnic composition and that women have doubled their representation.

At this stage, we reiterate our call to form a government as soon as possible. This will also further strengthen the good working relation between the Mission and the authorities.

Norway encourages the authorities to demonstrate their commitment to reform, including improved cooperation with the ICTY. We expect the arrest and transfer of Ratko Mladic to the Hague.

Norway commends the OSCE mission's activities to consolidate stability and security in a multi-ethnic environment in southern Serbia. Particularly the efforts done to make the local police and judiciary more open, multi-ethnic and professional. We support the view that priority should be given to improve

economic opportunities in the southern Serbian municipalities. We also welcome the Missions increased focus on the Zandzak region.

The Norwegian assistance to Serbia is focused on support for reform initiatives and institution-building. One of our priorities has been reform of the judiciary and the police. We have a longstanding and constructive co-operation with the Mission in our support to these areas. I would particularly like to mention the good relations we have with the Mission's Department for Law Enforcement.

Norway shares the Mission's concern regarding the lack of awareness and knowledge on trafficking in the judiciary. Norway contributes to the work against trafficking in human beings in Serbia and encourages further efforts in this area.

It is of vital importance that durable solutions are found for refugees and internally displaced people. We encourage the signatory governments of the Sarajevo Declaration to reach consensus on the outstanding issues involving occupancy and tenancy rights and the convalidation of pension rights.

In closing, let me wish ambassador Urstad and his dedicated staff all the best in their future efforts.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman