



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE EVA BIAUDET
OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna
22 March 2006**

Mr. Chairman, My delegation joins others in warmly welcoming Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Eva Biaudet, to the Permanent Council, and thanks her for a comprehensive and important report.

Norway supports the Special representative's continued focus on the individual needs of every victim, prevention and prosecution. In particular we applaud her engagement in assisting governments to implement their commitments, and sustain her vision that the human rights approach must be at the heart of every anti-trafficking action.

We must continue our comprehensive and proactive strategy for combating human trafficking. So far, human trafficking has mainly been linked with sexual exploitation and forced prostitution, but the focus must also be directed at trafficking for forced labour. Norway was therefore pleased by last year's ministerial decision 14/06 which indicates that the OSCE stands ready to take a lead in this respect as well.

Mr. Chairman, during the last years we have identified a number of challenges in the area of combating trafficking. Therefore we welcome the SR proposals, which were also presented in the Human Dimension Committee meeting in February, on ways of ensuring an effective implementation of our commitments.

Also in this area, we must carefully look at ways to make an even more effective use of the OSCE toolbox. Furthermore we believe time is right to do a stock-taking, and to examine the need and added value of new commitments in the area of forced labour.

Finally Mr. Chairman, let me stress Norway's strong support to the SR and her excellent team. We support the program of work and wish you all the best in your future challenging tasks.

Thank you.