



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
IN SERBIA 21 JANUARY 2007**

As delivered by Minister Counsellor Erling Skjønberg
to the OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna
January 25, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

Norway would like to commend the Serbian government and people for the smooth running of the parliamentary elections on 21 January. The fact that almost two thirds of the electorate supported the democratic parties is a solid vote of confidence in the country's democratic forces. Moreover, we are pleased to note OSCE/ODIHR's statement that the elections were in line with OSCE commitments, and on the whole a compliment to the democratic standards that Serbia have reached.

The preliminary election results indicate that there is a good basis for continuing the important process towards closer European integration. At the same time, Serbia is facing many demanding challenges in the time ahead, not least with regard to the future of Kosovo. It is therefore important that a vigorous government is being established as soon as possible.

Norway, on her part, will continue to provide extensive assistance to reform processes and institution building in Serbia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.