



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO H.E. Mr. VALDAS
ADAMKUS, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

As delivered to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 8, 2007

On behalf of Norway, it is a pleasure to welcome H.E. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania to the Permanent Council.

We share the vision of a “Europe whole and free” and at peace with itself. The job is not yet done. We have to continue our work to ensure that OSCE’s values and commitments are upheld in all participating States.

The OSCE still has an important role to play regarding security sector reform, policing, the fight against organised crime and trafficking, confidence building, regional cooperation and certainly in Kosovo. The field operations, the institutions and election observations are crucial in providing support to participating States in implementing our commitments in order to achieve common goals.

Regional co-operation is particularly important. Norway appreciates the willingness of Lithuania and others to share their experience on the development of good neighbourly relations as well as domestic reform programmes.

Lithuania presented its candidature for the 2010 Chairmanship in June 2004. We have taken due note of the President’s statement that the feeling of commitment to the OSCE and the wish to contribute more, is the motivation for the Lithuanian offer to chair the Organisation. Norway highly appreciates this attitude. In our view Lithuania’s experience, achievements and devotion makes her an excellent candidate to chair the OSCE and Norway fully supports Lithuania’s candidature for 2010.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman