



MISSION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO H.E. LUIS FILIPE MARQUES AMADO.
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL**

**OSCE Permanent Council
Vienna, 12 July 2007**

Norway joins others in warmly welcoming H.E. Luis Filipe Marques Amado to the Permanent Council. We have listened with great interest to his substantive statement.

Although different in structure and purpose the EU and the OSCE share the same principles and values. There are numerous examples of constructive co-operation in the field, especially in the Western Balkans. An overall goal must be to further strengthen the co-operation between the two organizations so that they can complement each other to ensure regional security and stability. Effective multilateralism is a key.

Mr. Chairman,

The European Neighbourhood Policy is important in promoting stability and democracy, and is in line with OSCE's core values and functions. Likewise, the EU's strategy for Central Asia will be an important tool in an area where the cooperation with the OSCE should be strengthened.

Norway highly values and supports the Presidency's commitment to stabilizing the Western Balkans, including by launching the largest civilian ESDP mission to date in Kosovo. The unique field experience of the OSCE, and its expertise in capacity building in the Western Balkans, should be utilized in a common endeavour to ensure a peaceful implementation of the future status settlement in Kosovo.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway fully agrees that the transatlantic link has been, and is, very important for the stability in Europe. We also agree that Europe has to strengthen its strategic partnership with Russia and that the OSCE is an excellent forum for dialogue.

We stand ready to continue participating in EU-led crisis management. Norway is participating in the Althea operation and EUPM in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as in the new police mission in Afghanistan. We have stated our readiness to participate in the future ESDP operation in Kosovo.

Norway supports a strengthened European role in security and defence in cooperation with NATO. We hope that the EU Presidency can bring this cooperation forward.

From the perspective of Norway's cooperation with the EU, our participation in the Nordic Battle Group is of particular importance. The EU battle groups will, in our view, increase the overall ability of the international community to prevent, contain and resolve upcoming crises.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway wants to be an active and constructive partner in Europe. We highly appreciate the political dialogue with the European Union through the European Economic Area (EEA) cooperation and the bilateral dialogue. Furthermore, we highly value the consultations we have with the EU here in Vienna.

Norway thanks the His Excellency for the congratulations and good wishes to Ambassador Vollebaek as the new HCNM. This will be conveyed to Mr. Vollebaek. In closing, Norway wishes Portugal all possible success for its EU presidency.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman