



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON THE SIGNATURE OF AN SAA AND INTERIM AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE EU AND SERBIA

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
8 May 2008

Mr. Chairman,

I would just like to express a brief word of satisfaction and congratulations on the signature of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement and an Interim Agreement between the EU and Serbia.

Membership of the EU also means membership in the European Economic Area, the very comprehensive agreement integrating the EEA EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the EU's Internal Market and in EU cooperation in a number of other important areas. According to well-established practice, the cooperation with the EEA EFTA countries has also been developed *pari passu* with the substantive cooperation between the EU and the candidate countries.

We look forward to continuing and developing our excellent relations with Serbia, also within the wider framework of Serbia's further participation in European integration, and we wish Serbia and the EU every success in these important endeavours.

Thank you.