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**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT ON THE DETENTION OF INDICTED WAR CRIMINAL RADOVAN
KARADZIC**

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
26 June 2008

Mr. Chairman,

Norway also welcomes the recent detention of Radovan Karadzic in Belgrade, and fully expects that he will be extradited to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to face trial for the serious crimes of which he has been accused.

The detention is particularly important for the victims of the atrocities, and will contribute to healing the wounds after the war in the Balkans. The impunity so far of some of the most prominent war criminals has been a serious problem in the relations between the countries in the region. Hopefully, this arrest can contribute to further normalisation and closer cooperation between the countries that previously formed part of Yugoslavia.

Karadzic' detention and subsequent transfer to ICTY will be a victory for international law, an important contribution to justice for the victims, and a big step towards establishing the responsibilities for what happened in Srebrenica and some of the other worst atrocities to have happened in Europe since the World War II.

The detention also contributes to removing a stumbling block on the road to Serbia's path towards full participation in European integration and cooperation, and to the full normalisation of Serbia's relations with the international community. However, Norway would like to stress the importance of continuing the efforts to bring to justice the accused war criminals that are still at large, notably General Ratko Mladic.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.