



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN KYRGYZSTAN

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
8 April 2010

Mr. Chairperson

Let me first echo the grave concerns expressed by the Chairman-in-Office (CiO) and by the previous speaker from the EU about the situation in Kyrgyzstan, particularly the wide-spread use of violence, resulting in several fatalities. We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims.

We join the urgent appeals of the CiO and others to all parties to act calmly and with restraint, and to abstain from any further acts of violence

We also join the timely appeal of the Representative on the Freedom of the Media to re-establish the free flow of information, allowing media to fulfill their vital task of providing information, both on events so far and on further developments

We commend the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, under the competent leadership of Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere, for its very timely and good reporting on the situation.

We applaud the Kazakh Chairmanship for its prompt reaction and for all its efforts to stop the violence and bring the situation under control, including the convening of this Special meeting of the Permanent Council. We welcome in particular the newly announced appointment of a high-powered Special Envoy, in the person of Ambassador Zhanibek Karibzhanov, who is already on his way to Bishkek, and who will soon be reinforced by our very able and experienced Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Herbert Salber. We note with satisfaction the agreement reached with the Secretary General of the UN on close cooperation with his own newly appointed Special Envoy, former Secretary-General of the OSCE, among other things, Jan Kubis.

We appeal to the parties to avail themselves of the offers of the Centre and the CiO to facilitate contacts with the aim of restoring a situation of security, peace and order.

Finally, let me express the hope of a swift normalization of the situation, where the underlying causes of the unrest can be addressed within the framework of normal democratic processes, in a broad political dialogue, where the CiO, the Centre in Bishkek, and all the other tools and institutions of the OSCE should be put to the best possible use.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman