



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY RELATED TO ODIHR'S NAM REPORT ON AZERBAIJAN

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 18 July 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to recognise the appropriateness of Azerbaijan bringing up this issue in the Council.

I understand that there may be factual mistakes in ODIHR's Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) report. I will not comment upon any possible mistakes, but I would like to make the following two points:

First, in ODIHR's recent NAM report on the upcoming parliamentary elections in Norway, scheduled for 8 September, there are points on our election procedures and practices that ODIHR believes may not fully be in line with OSCE commitments and other international standards. We find such points raised by ODIHR very useful, even if many in my country would disagree with ODIHR.

Second, during my tenure here in Vienna I have read ODIHR's many NAM reports with interest. I do not remember having seen anything that indicates that these reports are not factual and objective.

Furthermore, ODIHR has over the years developed an internationally accepted and acknowledged election observation methodology. This methodology is one of the best examples of useful tools developed by the OSCE. I am confident that ODIHR's election observation methodology will continue to be applied to the benefit of us all – in our endeavours to develop our democracies.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.