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Statement by Norway in response to
Special Representative and Coordinator for combating Trafficking in
Human Beings Eva Biaudet

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
10 December 2009

Madam Chairperson,

Let me first join previous speakers in welcoming the Special Representative, Ms. Eva Biaudet, back to the Permanent Council, unfortunately for the last time in her present capacity, and in thanking her for her comprehensive report, which documents the impressive progress achieved under her inspiring leadership. Norway is a dedicated supporter of the work of the OSCE and the Special Representative in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. The OSCE has proved its value during her tenure, greatly assisted by our field missions, which provide direct contacts to both participating governments and to civil society.

The OSCE Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has been of great assistance to Norway in the implementation of our commitments. The Norwegian government has adopted action plans to fight trafficking which include both national, regional and international measures to prevent trafficking, help victims and prosecute perpetrators.

We are still deeply concerned with existing gaps in the implementation of international and regional instruments against trafficking. We are convinced that more independent monitoring will help us achieve and measure progress as well as define needs for technical assistance. We therefore welcome the country assessments and country visits of the Special Representative.

Trafficking is a global problem which calls for co-operation at the international and regional level. We therefore encourage continued and strengthened co-ordination between existing and new monitoring mechanisms in Europe and in the UN, in order to avoid duplication and achieve maximum effectiveness.

Finally Madam Chairperson,

I would like to take this opportunity to pay a very sincere tribute to Ms. Biaudet for her outstanding work during her tenure as Special Representative.

Dear Eva,

Your impressive political background and experience, coupled with all your personal qualities, have obviously served you well, because you have done a great job in putting the fight against trafficking high on the OSCE and the regional agenda, and in promoting the OSCE's work in this field to national and international partners, as well as to the wider public.

We extend our best wishes for the next phase in your life, personally as well as professionally, and we look forward to continuing our excellent cooperation with your successor and with the dedicated and competent staff in the Special Representative's office.