



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT ON THE KILLING OF THE HEAD OF AFGHANISTAN'S
HIGH PEACE COUNCIL**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 22 September 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to join other in strongly condemning the attack earlier this week in which Burhanuddin Rabbani and several others were killed. This was not just an attack on Mr Rabbani and his colleagues, but a serious assault on the Afghan Government and the ongoing stabilisation efforts.

Norway's Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre met Mr. Rabbani this summer when Mr. Rabbani took part in the Oslo Forum mediators' retreat, where the status of the reconciliation process was one of the topics discussed. Minister Støre said in a press statement yesterday that the attack is bound to have an impact on this important work. But he also underlined that the assassination does not alter the fact that it is essential to find a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan that also involves neighbouring countries.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.