



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN REPLY TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP'S REPORT ON THE
FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE SECOND DIMENSION

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council,
30 July 2009

Madam Chairperson,

Let me first join other delegations in welcoming the report by the Chairmanship on the future orientation of the Second Dimension, prepared by the Chairman of the informal Group of Friends. We thank Mr. Alexander Verbeek for his presentation today and congratulate him on a report that both addresses the strategic direction and contains concrete and practical recommendations for the further strengthening of the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension.

The report, while building on the "Maastricht Strategy", pertinently pinpoints the need for improvements in order to further streamline and prioritize the work of the Second Dimension, as well as the need for a more strategic view on the issues at stake. My Delegation agrees with many of the recommendations presented in the package.

We think that the combination of an annual theme for the Forum process with the introduction of several core themes may lead to better integration and produce more synergy in the work. The six core themes or clusters as highlighted are well suited for guidance in the medium-term perspective. In our view the conference on strengthening energy security in the OSCE area held in Bratislava earlier this month could be regarded as an excellent starting point for future work on the cluster of energy security. We also agree that focusing on one of the core themes in the Forum process would further reinforce the work.

Other recommendations of a broader nature, such as sharper focus on security aspects and the linkage to other OSCE dimensions, and making better use of the Economic and Environmental Dimension as a Confidence Building Measure, also deserve special attention in our further deliberations. With regard to recommendations of a more practical nature, we welcome the idea of synchronizing the work of the Forum process with the Chairmanship year and the idea of combining the presentation of an Annual Report with the existing report by the Office of the Coordinator, to mention just two examples from the package.

We are confident that the Greek Chairmanship and the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship will follow-up the discussions on these and other recommendations in the package proposed in

Mr. Verbeek's report, and come forward with proposals for their implementation in order to further improve and add value to the work of the Second Dimension.

Finally, Madam Chairperson, the Second Dimension of our work can make a valuable contribution to furthering security and stability in the OSCE region. In our view, the further deliberations related to some of the recommendations made in the report may also provide positive inputs to our broader agenda in the European security dialogue.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.