



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT ON ODIHR/VENICE COMMISSION GUIDELINES
ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 5 March 2015

Thank you, Chair,

I aligned myself with the statement just made by Latvia on behalf of the European Union. I would like to use this opportunity, in my capacity as Chairman of the Human Dimension Committee, to inform the Permanent Council that the main topic in the next meeting of the Committee, which takes place on 10th March, is the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Our discussion will be introduced by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Mr Maina Kiai.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to encourage colleagues to take advantage of this opportunity to listen to Mr Kiai.

At the same meeting ODIHR will make a presentation on the freedom of association guidelines.

In addition there will be a voluntary report by Austria on how their National Preventive Mechanism is monitoring the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Thank you.