



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE  
OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF UKRAINE, H.E. LEONID KOZHARA**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Special Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 17 January 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure to join previous speakers in welcoming you, Minister Kozhara, as our new Chairman-in-Office and to pledge our full cooperation with you and your team.

You have taken the Chair in a difficult time for our organization. There is a dwindling respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in several participating States. Intolerant attitudes towards minorities and immigrants are on the rise in many of our countries.

There are differing views on fundamental questions concerning our security. These differences threaten to undermine the efficiency of the organization.

In that respect, I regret that we failed to provide you with a budget for your chairmanship in time. We should not accept that some of our partners use the budget process in an attempt to shift the balance between the three dimensions and to curb the activities of one of our institutions.

Mr. Chairman,

The decision on Helsinki +40 in Dublin was important. We hope that the process ahead of us will create political momentum in the OSCE and make the organization stronger and capable of assisting us in overcoming the challenges of the 21st century. We will support you in your efforts to get this important process on track.

Mr. Chairman,

We support your ambition to bring the work forward across all three dimensions. The comprehensive concept of security is core to our organization. In this regard we regret the lack of human dimension Ministerial decisions over the past two chairmanships. Our commitments must keep up with changing realities. Therefore, in Kiev we must reach consensus on pressing issues such as media freedom in the digital age and on tolerance.

We reiterate our full support for the autonomy of our institutions and for our field missions. We underline the indispensable role of civil society. We pledge our active participation in the upcoming human dimension events, where the free and unhindered participation of civil society is a top priority for us.

Norway will also during your chairmanship take an active part in a fundamental aspect of the work of this organization, namely the investigation into how we – the 57 participating States – fulfill our OSCE commitments. This process of *peer review* was firmly anchored in the Astana Commemorative Declaration and is an important objective of the weekly review of current issues in the Permanent Council. It is – as we all know – the primary objective of the annual implementation meetings.

Mr. Chairman,

We are pleased to see that you have placed arms control and confidence and security building measures high on your agenda. We share the view that there is a need for revitalizing, updating and modernizing in this area. We therefore welcome your intention to facilitate a continued exchange of views within existing mechanisms of the FSC on these important topics.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome your determination to actively address the protracted conflicts. We are encouraged by the progress that has taken place towards a solution of the Transnistria conflict. We will support your efforts to advance the settlement of this – and the other conflicts – based on existing initiatives and on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In conclusion, Mr. Minister Kozhara, we look forward to working closely with you and your team. We wish you every success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.