



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

**As delivered by Ambassador Steffen Kongstad
to the 828th Forum for Security Co-Operation,
Vienna, 14 September 2016**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

I certainly wish to join other speakers in welcoming Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva to the Forum and thanking him for presenting the priorities of the Portuguese chairmanship for the last trimester in 2016.

Norway fully supports and welcomes your priorities. Your focus on military doctrines, continuous attention to topics related to Small Arms and Light Weapons and, of course, your focus on the representation and participation of Women in the armed forces and the UNSCR1325 are priorities we subscribe to and which we look forward to discuss in further detail.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the previous Chair, Poland, for its contributions to the Forum and a job well done. And we are very happy to see Romania as a new member of the Troika.

Madam Chair,

Portugal assumes the FSC Chairmanship at a challenging time for the organisation. Europe faces new security threats and the longer lasting ones still dominate the work of the FSC, -as it has for the past couple of years.

In this picture, the Forum for Security Cooperation has an important role to play. Our experience is that the FSC can contribute through dialogue and exchange of different views on current situations. We also see the need for OSCE participating States to implement fully and in good faith existing politico-military commitments as well as update and modernise the Conventional Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building regimes in Europe, in particular

the 2011 Vienna Document. Especially in difficult times, Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs must remain top of our agenda.

In such times, Norway finds it appropriate to revisit the background for the existing arms control framework. We therefore welcome the joint FSC/PC meeting on the 19th October where the 1996 OSCE Framework for arms control is on the agenda. We believe that knowledge of our history and the past will provide a firmer ground to which we can build our new responses to new security threats and challenges.

Madam Chair,

A year ago, my Norwegian colleague and predecessor was sitting in the chair you are now sitting. We know that the trimester to come is challenging and important. The task before you is considerable. We are, however, confident that you and your able team will take the Forum through the coming meetings in an excellent way and we reiterate our full support to your work and endeavours.

Thank you, Madam Chair