



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

**As delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative
Asbjørn Brandsrud to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 28 May 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

Norway strongly supports OSCE's election observation activities. Free and fair elections, with full legitimacy at both national and international level, are a cornerstone in any democratic system, and international election observation is an important contribution towards reaching that goal throughout the OSCE area.

We were therefore pleased to be informed that the Kyrgyz Republic on 26 May officially invited ODIHR, and reiterated here today, to take part in the observation of the preparation phase and conduct of the presidential election in Kyrgyzstan on 23 July. At the same time, however, we were surprised and disappointed to learn that, according to the Spot Report by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (No. 19/09), the invitation to ODIHR contains restrictions on the number of observers invited that would not make it possible for ODIHR to conduct a full-fledged election observation according to its own, established standards.

Norway strongly encourages Kyrgyzstan to remedy this situation and allow ODIHR to carry out election observation in accordance with its own conclusions regarding the deployment of a standard Election Observation Mission to assess the presidential election in line with OSCE commitments and domestic legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.