



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR
ARNE WALTHER, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY FORUM**

As delivered by Ambassador Mette Kongslem
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 12, 2006

Mr. Chairman,

The Norwegian Delegation warmly welcomes the Secretary General of the International Energy Forum, Ambassador Arne Walther, to the Permanent Council. My delegation would like to thank him for his interesting presentation of the work of the International Energy Forum focusing on issues of energy security and the links between energy, environment and economic development, as well as the IEF's global dialogue on energy.

Mr. Chairman,

Energy security - or security of energy supply - is an issue which is on the agenda in a number of countries, and which has been the recent focus of several multilateral energy fora such as the International Energy Agency in Paris and the International Energy Forum in Riyadh, as well as at the G8 Summit under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation.

Stable supplies of energy is a prerequisite to continued global economic growth. To achieve this there is a need to further enhance and balance the producer/consumer dialogue and the interlink between security of supply and security of demand. The IEF has been instrumental in bringing about closer contacts and fostering greater understanding between producers and consumers.

Norway is of the opinion that important elements in our efforts towards securing stable supplies of energy are increased transparency and predictability in energy markets, predictable and non-discriminatory investment regimes, suitable taxation of energy sources, and facilitation of a secure and affordable access to energy transport networks.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway is the world's third largest exporter of oil and gas. The role as a stable and important energy provider is one that we take very seriously. We hope to see our role as an energy

provider further enhanced based on the promising resource potential which exists in the Barents Sea.

As a major producer and exporter of oil and gas Norway places great emphasis on making such production sustainable.

The main challenge is how the global community can meet the continuing rise in energy demand while at the same time limiting emissions of greenhouse gases and minimizing the environmental impact.

Our efforts must include increasing research and development of technologies for cleaner production and more efficient use of fossil fuels in the recognition that such fuels will continue to dominate energy supplies for many years.

Focus should also be placed on improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy sources in the total energy mix.

Norway considers measures aimed at reducing energy poverty to be an important task for the global community. Access to modern energy services in poor countries is a prerequisite to economic development and will be an important factor in reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will soon be presenting his report resulting from the energy security information mission and make suggestions on an enhanced dialogue on energy within the OSCE. When presenting his interim report to the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee in May, the Co-ordinator already pointed to a number of key aspects which could be the subject of enhanced energy dialogue within the OSCE. The challenge will be to operationalize elements of this report. Important in this context will be to bear in mind the need to avoid overlap with the work of other international organizations, while at the same time contributing to enhanced energy security for consuming and producing and transit countries alike.

I thank you.