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**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE EU STATEMENT ON THE EU
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY**

As delivered by acting permanent representative Lars Løberg
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, July 5, 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway is pleased to learn about the European Union Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy. To us, human rights and democracy are key elements for our common security. Full implementation of all the OSCE commitments is equally important to all participating states. We recall the Astana Commemorative Declaration paragraph 6, stating that: “we reiterate that human rights and fundamental freedoms are inalienable and that their protection and promotion is our first responsibility”.

We are happy to see that the EU now acts accordingly, and we look forward to a close cooperation with the EU on the implementation of their action plan as we are ready to cooperate also with all other participating states when it comes to the promotion of human rights and democracy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.