



STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO THE HEAD OF THE OSCE  
CENTRE IN DUSHANBE, AMBASSADOR VLADIMIR PRYAKHIN

**As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna,  
29 May 2008**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

The Norwegian Delegation welcomes Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin back to the Council, and we thank him for his comprehensive report focusing on main developments in Tajikistan and the Centre's activities since October 2007.

Norway has duly noted that cooperation between Tajikistan and the Centre in Dushanbe has been further enhanced during the reporting period, and that consultations have been strengthened in many areas of cooperation. We strongly support the Centre's activities in assisting Tajikistan in the implementation of its OSCE commitments in all three dimensions. We welcome the readiness of Tajik authorities to further expand the cooperation with the OSCE and other international actors in developing democratic institutions and improving human rights and the rule of law.

Mr Chairman,

The Centre's work to assist Tajikistan in strengthening border security and management is strongly supported by Norway. In follow-up to the request from Tajikistan in 2006 for OSCE assistance, and the subsequent endorsement of the three border management and security projects in November 2007, Norway made a financial contribution to the Patrol Programming and Leadership Project. We have also supported the IOM in establishing and equipping a training centre for border forces in Dushanbe. Norway stands ready to consider positively other OSCE activities addressing the training of border security and management personnel, as well as police training, including with regard to the OSCE engagement with Afghanistan.

Norway has supported the Small Arms and Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition Programme (SALW/CA) for Tajikistan since the launching of the

programme in May 2005. We continue to be impressed by the success of this programme. We are very satisfied that the majority of the tasks under Phase II of the programme are being implemented, and we look forward to the planned completion of the programme at the end of the year.

Within the economic and environmental dimension, Norway commends the Centre for its work in addressing environmental security issues, including its activities in support of water management. We encourage the Centre to further intensify its activities in promoting good governance and its support to Tajikistan in building capacity for combating corruption.

Norway fully supports the many important activities the Centre undertakes within the human dimension in promoting human rights and pluralistic and independent media, as well as with regard to gender-related and anti-trafficking activities. We encourage the Centre to further develop its activities in these areas in close co-operation with the Tajik authorities. We appreciate the Centre's support in the creation of a national Ombudsman for human rights and welcome the Centre's plans for further assistance to the host country in this important field.

We are pleased to note the continued and improved dialogue and cooperation between the Centre in Dushanbe and the Tajik authorities. We understand that the consultations between the authorities and the OSCE Chairmanship on a new and updated mandate for the Centre are at an advanced stage. The Centre's further expansion of its activities across all three dimensions underscores the need for a broad and robust mandate covering the whole array of activities in all three dimensions, and we are looking forward to receiving a draft decision to this effect.

With regard to the problems the Centre has experienced in attracting qualified staff for the new tasks that were assigned to the Centre in 2008 in response to Tajikistan's request for increased OSCE activities, we hope that the participating States will make joint efforts in seconding well-qualified candidates for these positions. Ambassador Pryakhin's remarks about problems in recruiting staff prompt me to reiterate our oft-stated concerns about the inadequate conditions for both seconded and locally employed mission staff, problems which now need to be addressed. Adequate staffing is of course a precondition for the Centre being able to discharge its important responsibilities in a manner fully satisfactory for both the donors and the host country.

In conclusion, let me commend Ambassador Pryakhin and his team in Dushanbe, as well as in the five field Offices, for their very valuable work and assure them of our continued support for their efforts.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.