



Statement by Norway on the decision of the Russian State Duma and Federation Council to approve ratification of Protocol 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights

As delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative, Mr. Asbjørn Brandsrud
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
4 February 2010

Mr. Chairman,

Like the previous speaker, Norway very much welcomes the decisions of the Russian State Duma and the Council of the Russian Federation to approve ratification of Protocol 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights.

This development is a positive signal of continued support for the European human rights system. We look forward to Russia's ratification of the Protocol soon, and hopefully before the Interlaken Conference on the future of the European Court of Human Rights on 18-19 February. Russian ratification will be important in order to enable the European Court of Human Rights to contribute effectively to human rights protection in Europe.

Protocol 14 is part of a reform package aimed at securing the future of the European Court of Human Rights. Norway believes that further reforms are absolutely necessary, at national and European level, to stem the flood of applications to the Court and to increase the Court's case-processing capacity. We look forward to cooperation with Russia and all member states of the Council of Europe to adopt an ambitious and forward looking action plan at the upcoming Interlaken Conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.