



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT TO WELCOME THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL**  
On behalf of the delegations of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Norway  
As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik  
to the Special Permanent Council, Vienna  
4 July 2011

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the delegations of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Norway.

We wish to join the previous speaker in warmly welcoming H.E. Ambassador Lamberto Zannier and congratulating him on his appointment as the Secretary General of the OSCE.

As we know, Mr. Zannier has a long and impressive record working for peace and security. As Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre from 2002 to 2006 he knows the organisation inside and out, as became clearly apparent during his hearing with the delegations in March, where he also demonstrated that he has many good ideas for the improvement of the work of the Secretariat and the organisation. We look forward to deepening these discussions with him.

We are relieved that the transition from the old to the new Secretary General was so smooth, after all the complications encountered in the process. This is important to maintain the organization's ability to act and react to current and future challenges. We are convinced that we made a good choice and that we have selected an excellent Secretary General. It is important to build on this consensus also for other important decisions ahead, not least in the preparations for the Ministerial Conference in Vilnius.

We commend the Chairmanship for conducting the selection process in as fair and transparent a manner as possible, and for bringing it to a successful conclusion just in time.

We would also like to take this opportunity to pay a belated, but very sincere tribute to the outgoing Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, for his excellent performance and

tireless work for the benefit of the organisation. We wish him and his family all the best for the future.

We look forward to working with the new Secretary General; we wish him every success in his new endeavour, and we assure him of our full support and cooperation.