



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT BY NORWAY

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile to the 2012 Human Dimension implementation meeting, Warsaw 24 September 2012 - Working Session 1

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Let me join others in warmly welcoming Ms Dunja Mijatovic to the HDIM and to thank her for her useful introduction on this topic. Norway fully subscribes to the appreciation expressed by the EU and other previous speakers for the quality of the work done by her office. We are also fully behind the views presented by the EU today on internet freedom, safety of journalists and media pluralism.

Mr. Chairman,

The commitments on freedom of the media are not fully respected or implemented in a number of participating States. Single cases and incidents involving journalists have been, and will continue to be, brought to the attention of the OSCE. Norway has aligned herself to these initiatives, and we will continue to be active in such cases.

We will continue to support OSCE events on media freedom and on the safety of journalists, and we certainly second the chairmanship's priority for a decision during the upcoming Dublin ministerial in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

Freedom of expression is a priority in Norway's human rights policy. Freedom of expression is essential for the realisation of other fundamental rights, like freedom of assembly and access to information. It is a cornerstone of democracy. We believe that governments and regulators are obliged to safeguard pluralism in an increasingly digital world. The universality of human rights does not change with the introduction of new information technologies. They apply with equal force online as they do offline.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a need for concrete action in all OSCE participating States regarding legislative requirements, including guarantees for media freedom and the creation of media laws which properly respect freedom of expression. We are fully behind the priorities given by the Representative, and we are ready to support her in her work for our common good.

Mr. Chairman,

Every participating State must welcome the Representative on Freedom of the Media and her staff on assessment visits. There simply is no excuse for any participating State not to welcome representatives of the OSCE when they travel on a mission.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman