



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRS OF THE
THREE COMMITTEES

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 11 February 2015

Mr Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement made by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to add a few words in my national capacity.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the work programme of the Finnish chair of the Human Dimension Committee. It includes topics that are priorities of my government, as freedom of expression and freedom of the media, prevention of torture, gender equality and economic, social and cultural rights. We are pleased to see the rights of persons with disabilities in the programme.

We are also pleased to see that the chair will continue to invite to the HDC external experts, including from civil society, to help introduce these topics.

Mr Chairman,

To ensure a comprehensive approach to challenges as countering violent extremism, terrorism and tackling cyber security, a cross-dimensional focus is necessary.

Human rights will often be a cross-cutting issue for topics raised in the two other committees, since, as we know, 'there is no security without full

respect for human rights'. Last year we had several joint committee meetings, either of two or all three committees.

Our meetings were on protecting and promoting human rights while countering terrorism, on migration, and on business and human rights.

The meeting on business and human rights, in cooperation with the Economic and Environmental Committee, introduced a new topic that is highly relevant to our agenda. We hope this area of work can be carried forward.

Mr Chairman,

The Human Dimension Committee has profited from a wide range of voluntary reports from many participating States. These show some of the challenges in implementing commitments and how they have been met. We strongly support the Chair's intention to continue this practice and we will contribute by making reports ourselves.

We commend the Chair of the Security Committee, ambassador Istrate, for introducing voluntary reporting on implementation of counter terrorism commitments, and hope to be able to contribute also in this committee. Sharing information and best practices is important to improve international cooperation on countering terrorism and violent extremism. We support ambassador Istrate's intention of compiling an overview of best practices in this crucial area of work for our organisation. Our declarations from Basel and Belgrade demonstrate that OSCE has an important role to play in countering terrorism.

Mr Chairman,

Let me conclude by assuring the chairs of our active support.

Thank you, Mr Chairman