



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**OSCE CONFERENCE ON COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND
PROMOTING MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING.
Bucharest 7 and 8 June 2007**

**Statement by Mr. Erling Skjønberg, Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Delegation of Norway to the OSCE**

**Plenary Session 6: Addressing racist, xenophobic and discriminatory public
discourse spread through, inter alia, the media, Internet, satellite TV and
textbooks, while respecting freedom of expression**

As part of our political priorities Norway provides financial resources for inter-religious dialogue, supporting projects to promote dialogue between religious leaders.

Last year we established a Forum for Religion and Foreign Policy, where issues related to religion, peace and conflict prevention are being discussed on a regular basis.

Mr. Moderator,

Mass media is powerful in shaping public perception. Media can also contribute to opening up societies and present pluralistic and tolerant views.

Norway is supporting dialogue between media-representatives of different regions and cultures. One example is the Global Inter-Media Dialogue.

This week the second dialogue of its kind was arranged in Oslo. Journalists and editors from 51 countries all over the world met to discuss perspectives on journalism and freedom of expression; how to

give a fair representation of “the other” and report cultural diversity respectfully and truthfully.

It is our hope that this dialogue among journalists and editors will contribute positively to public opinion-making.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator