



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

Statement by Norway in response to
Special Representative and Coordinator
for combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Dr Maria Grazia Giammarinaro

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway joins previous speakers in welcoming the new Special Representative for combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Dr Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, to the Permanent Council for the first time, and for her thought-provoking intervention. I would also take this opportunity to thank the predecessor, Ms Eva Biaudet, for the tireless efforts she made during her tenure of office in fighting this modern form of slavery, as was the very accurate term of description of this tragic phenomenon you used in your presentation, Dr. Giammarinaro.

Mr. Chairperson,

While lending our general support to the extensive comments just expressed by Spain on behalf of the European Union, let me only emphasise the following:

Firstly,

Norway remains a staunch supporter of the OSCE and the Special Representative in its very important efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. We believe that the OSCE – also in this field - has proved its value, through the work of the Special Representative and her staff, and through the assistance rendered by the field missions, which have the advantage of providing direct contacts to participating governments and to the civil society. Norway, for her part, have benefited from the OSCE Action Plan in implementing our commitments,

through the preparation and adoption of national action plans that include national, regional and international measures to prevent trafficking, help victims and prosecute perpetrators. We agree with the Special Representative that combating trafficking in human beings should become even more strategic within OSCE commitments.

Secondly,

Norway regrets the existing gaps in the implementation of international and regional instruments against trafficking, and we are convinced that more independent monitoring is one way to go, which would help us achieve and measure progress, as well as define needs for technical assistance. As a global problem, trafficking calls for extensive co-operation both at international and regional levels. Co-ordination between existing and new monitoring mechanisms in Europe and in the UN should therefore be continued and strengthened in order to avoid duplication and achieve maximum effectiveness, as underlined by the Special Representative.

Dr. Giammarinaro, you can be assured of Norway's support in your important work, and we look forward to continuing our excellent cooperation with you and your competent staff in the years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.