



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO H.E. JAN KUBIŠ, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF SLOVAKIA**

As delivered to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
February, 28 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Norway joins others in welcoming H.E. Ján Kubiš, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, back to the Permanent Council, and thanks him for his thoughtful remarks on the co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway fully shares the view that we need to pool our resources and avoid duplication if we are to succeed in effectively protecting human rights and promoting democracy and the rule of law. We therefore welcome the progress achieved in enhancing practical co-operation, both between headquarters and in the field, in the four priority areas outlined in the Joint Declaration of 2005: Fight against terrorism, protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, combating trafficking in human beings, and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. In particular, we welcome the close co-operation on national minorities and in combating trafficking in human beings.

We encourage the ODIHR and the relevant Council of Europe institutions to continue their efforts to work closer together in election related areas, as well as in the promotion of tolerance, non-discrimination and mutual understanding. We believe that even more could be done to coordinate initiatives, in order to avoid overlap and duplication.

And in view of your previous experience and accomplishments, Mr Minister, it is hard to think of anyone who would be better placed to achieve further improvements in the cooperation between our two organisations, in pursuit of our widely shared goals.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.