



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO H.E. DR. ANTANAS VALIONIS,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF LITHUANIA**

**As delivered by Ambassador Mette Kongsheim
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 27, 2005**

Thank you, Mr Chairman,

Norway joins others in warmly welcoming His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Lithuania, Dr. Antanas Valionis, to the Permanent Council. We have listened carefully to his statement and agree with his views on building on OSCE's comparative advantages.

Norway is a strong supporter of effective multilateralism and OSCE's role in building peace, security, democracy, and prosperity. We share minister Valionis' vision of the OSCE, a vision which builds on three elements : An effective organisation that is quick and flexible as well as active in fostering political dialogue.

Norway also shares the Minister's position on the need for a stronger Secretary General in order to improve management and endow the OSCE with increased efficiency, consistency, coherence and institutional memory. As my delegation has pointed out before, strengthening the role of the Secretary General in executing the political priorities set by the Chairman in Office does not imply weakening the role of the CiO. On the contrary, it is a win-win situation for both.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister's ideas on how the OSCE could be a framework for different sub-regional constellations within the whole OSCE region is interesting. This is linked to our discussions on OSCE's relations with other international organisations and partners, as reflected in paragraph 1.3 in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons. We believe that the core of the issue is

the responsibility of participating or member States to ensure that policy planning looks at all relevant organisations in concert, and that we think creatively in order to reap the full benefits of co-operation. Norway therefore values Minister Valionis' idea.

The relations between Lithuania and Norway are excellent. We welcome the great interest Lithuania takes in the OSCE. We also appreciate the close co-operation between Norway and Lithuania in several multilateral organisations, including the Nordic-Baltic Task Force on combating trafficking in human Beings. We also highly value the excellent Nordic-Baltic collaboration here in the OSCE, i.a. on issues regarding reform of the Organisation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman