

Statement by Norway,
H.E. Robert Kvile,
at the 19th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council,
Dublin, 6 -7 December 2012

Your Excellency,

We are grateful for your efforts to make this Ministerial a success and we thank you and your dedicated staff for all your hard work here in Dublin.

We note with appreciation the decision on Helsinki + 40, which should enable us to move our organization forward as we return to Vienna.

We also note with appreciation that we have succeeded in completing the package on the efforts to address transnational threats, as well as on other important topics.

Your Excellency,

In spite of your efforts we were not able to reach consensus on any decisions that would reaffirm or strengthen our human dimension commitments.

We regret that no consensus was found on a text that simply would state the obvious, namely that fundamental freedoms are fundamental regardless of choice of technology.

We regret that no consensus was found on a text that simply would state the obvious, namely that, because we see an increase in hate speech, hate crimes and fundamentalist attitudes, we must redouble our efforts to combat racism and xenophobia.

We regret that no consensus was found on a text that simply would state the obvious, namely that, because we see efforts to limit the freedom of assembly and association, we need to reconfirm our commitment to these freedoms.

And, as stated by my minister yesterday, we regret the message from the OSCE PA that they regard the cooperation agreement on election observation no longer to be valid and operative.

Your Excellency,

I ask that my statement be attached to the journal of today.

Thank you.