



Statement by Norway on Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management in  
the OSCE area as delivered by  
Deputy Permanent Representative Asbjørn Brandsrud to the Permanent  
Council/FSC, Vienna  
10 March 2010

**Madam Chairperson, Mr. Chairman**

Norway joins previous speakers in warmly welcoming Ambassador Salber to this joint FSC-PC Meeting and thanks him for yet again providing us with very useful and insightful ideas on how to further develop and strengthen the OSCE Conflict Prevention and Crisis management capacities.

We lend our full support to the views expressed by Spain on behalf of the European Union regarding the overarching goal of enabling the OSCE to respond more promptly to emerging crises. As the Corfu process now enters a more concrete phase, we appreciate that several proposals on how to improve our tool-box have been tabled, and welcome the one put forward by Finland and other EU-countries that aims at improving, in particular, the OSCE early warning and early action capacity - not least with regard to improving the capacity of the OSCE Secretariat and Institutions to deal with crises at an earliest possible stage. In this context we also welcome the US proposal on strengthening the role of the Chairman-in-Office to respond quickly in the event of escalating tensions or conflict. The same apply to the proposal from UK, Romania and Slovakia on post-crisis and post conflict rehabilitation. In our view, these proposals are complementary, build a continuum, and cover a broad spectrum of the conflict cycle. We fail to see how this can contradict the consensus principle as long as these new tools will be adopted precisely by consensus, as also mentioned by others. Neither are we afraid of giving the OSCE

and its executive structures more flexibility – to the contrary. As the history of this organization demonstrates, the OSCE has been at its best when we have been able to pool resources and tailor responses to a concrete situation threatening security, and, important in this context, have allowed for and enabled the C-i-O and the Secretariat *a room of manoeuvre* to take initiatives and act, - of course in close consultations with participating States.

**Madam Chairperson/Mr. Chairman,**

It is indeed important to be able to act swiftly to dangerous situations. However, it is even more efficient and cost effective to be able to *prevent* crisis than to have to react when a conflict already has started. We firmly believe that areas with a high potential for ethnic violence ought to be given a special priority when it comes to our efforts on crisis prevention. In this context I'd like to underline the importance we give to the recommendations from the High Commissioner on National Minorities and specifically his Bolzano/Bozen recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations. We look very much forward to an opportunity to discuss these recommendations and possible ways of upgrading them as this delegation suggested at an earlier Corfu-meeting, and which met with support from a number of delegations. As mentioned in that meeting, we will come back to how to take this issue further in the form of a food-for-thoughts paper.

**Thank you.**