



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**Statement on the proposed Declaration on Violent Hate Incidents in
the OSCE Region**

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
18 June, 2009

Madame Chairperson,

In the same vein as the previous speakers representing the EU and the Swiss delegation, speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, my delegation would also like to thank the co-sponsors for drafting the proposed Declaration on Violent Hate Incidents in the OSCE Region. Norway is also very concerned by recent reports of hate crime and discrimination throughout our region. We therefore support the draft declaration and deeply regret that there, so far, seems to be a lack of consensus.

As we see it, the OSCE participating States would, by endorsing the declaration, send out an important, timely and appropriate political signal. We therefore continue to hope that consensus may be reached before the summer recess. This should be feasible, considering that the declaration is based on agreed language and only refers to commitments already undertaken by all the participating States.

Thank you Madame Chairperson