



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN HUNGARY

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna January 19, 2012

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the following participating States: Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Norway.

We are monitoring closely the developments in Hungary, including a number of recent legislative acts that have raised concerns in terms of the country's implementation of its OSCE commitments as well as democratic standards and norms, particularly in such key areas as: freedom of the media, religious equality, the checks and balances needed for the work of the Central Bank and the judiciary, and recent developments in elections legislation.

We take particular interest in the assessments and recommendations of the EU on these matters concerning one of its member states. We also note that the EU Commission began infringement proceedings against Hungary earlier this week and we welcome the apparent willingness to cooperate to find a solution.

As friends and long standing partners of Hungary, we appreciate the readiness of the authorities in Budapest to engage openly and constructively in implementing any recommended reviews, and to ensure that Hungary remains in full compliance with all its obligations to established democratic values, standards and norms, including those of the OSCE.

Thank you.