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STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO SKOPJE

As delivered by Ambassador Ellen Svendsen,
Vienna, 21 May 2026

Thank you, Chair.

Norway thanks Dr. Susan Penksa for a clear and substantive report. We welcome the Mission's work. We also welcome the way it is presented.

The report links activities to mandate. It shows progress. It gives figures. It identifies tools, frameworks and next steps. This is useful for participating States. It is also a good example for other field operations.

The Mission's Strategy for 2025–2027 is well aligned with Norwegian priorities. Criminal justice. Integrity and anti-corruption. Fundamental rights and social cohesion. Gender equality. Youth.

We welcome the concrete results reported. The resolution of statelessness cases. Legal identification for Roma citizens. Stronger Local Prevention Councils. A modernized police training system. Stronger integrity safeguards in the judiciary. Better access to the Ombudsperson Institution.

These are practical results. They are also political results. They help North Macedonia implement OSCE commitments. They strengthen institutions. They support trust between citizens and the state.

Norway attaches importance to national ownership. We therefore welcome that the Mission works closely with national institutions and supports reforms that are anchored locally. We also welcome the emphasis on baselines, tools and evaluation. A credible results framework is not bureaucracy. It is how we learn. It is how we prioritize. It is how we defend field operations in a difficult budgetary environment.

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Norway will continue to support field activities that are mandate-based, results-oriented and clearly relevant. This report shows why such support matters.

I thank you.