

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE OSCE
MISSION TO MONTENEGRO**

As delivered by Ambassador Ellen Svendsen at the Permanent Council, Vienna,
25th June 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chair

Norway aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. Allow me to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

A warm welcome to Ambassador Jan Haukaas. Thank you for a comprehensive and result-oriented report. It links activity to mandate. It shows progress. It gives figures. It names tools and next steps. This serves participating States well. It sets an example for other field operations.

Scholars of field presences make one point above all. Ownership is the true measure of success. A presence proves its worth when reform takes root and can stand on its own.

By that measure the record in Montenegro is strong. Norway commends the work on small arms light weapons and ammunition. Safer stockpiles mean a safer region. We value the stronger forensic and investigative capacity behind real prosecutions. We welcome more women in policing. Representation builds trust. We applaud Montenegro's press safety mechanism. The first of its kind in the region. It already protects journalists in practice. And we note with pride the election study visit to Norway. Sharing democratic practice is cooperation at its best.

Mr Chair. Field presences rest on host-state consent. Twenty years of partnership have built capacity that now lives inside Montenegro's own institutions. That should be the aspiration of every Mission.

Norway warmly supports Montenegro's European path toward membership by 2028. We follow the conversation on the Mission's future with confidence and an open mind. Whatever shape cooperation takes next, Norway will remain a committed partner.

Dear Jan. We wish you and your excellent team a strong year ahead. Norway stands with you. You have our full support.