



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, H.E. MLADEN IVANIC**

As delivered by Minister Counsellor Erling Skjønberg
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 21, 2005

Let me join others in welcoming Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic to today's Permanent Council. It is with interest that we have listened to his elaboration on the positive developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the favourable assessment of the OSCE mission's work in his country.

Norway commends Bosnia and Herzegovina on its progress in moving forward on its Euro-Atlantic integration agenda. Important reform measures have been enacted. The challenge of full and effective implementation remains.

Continued efforts are required for strengthening State-level institutions and thereby providing a unified and coherent governmental system. Last year's reform of the military was a major accomplishment. A further challenge will be the establishment of a single police structure. These are organisational and political prerequisites for full integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

Progress has also been made regarding ICTY-co-operation. Norway commends the efforts that have been made and encourages continued focus on this issue. The work of the Republika Srpska government's Srebrenica Commission and its report, was a turning point for a broader and fuller understanding of the scope and nature of war crimes committed. The report provides a powerful case for full co-operation with ICTY in the apprehension of individuals indicted for war crimes by the Tribunal.

Norway encourages political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen and continue efforts to co-operate fully with ICTY. Such co-operation is important, not only in terms of criteria for Euro-Atlantic integration, but also in terms of the reconciliation between all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the improvement of inter-communal relations and governmental efficiency.

Norway looks forward to even greater co-operation with Bosnia and Herzegovina in Euro-Atlantic structures, and is committed to supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina in its reform efforts.

In closing, Norway commends the good co-operation between the OSCE Mission and the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The work undertaken by the Mission is indeed important and impressive, and contributes to crucial reform and institution building.