



**PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE
PROGRAMME OFFICE IN BISHKEK**

As delivered by Minister Counsellor Knut-Are Sprauten Okstad at the 1574th

Permanent Council, Vienna, 23 July 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Thank you, Ambassador Frobarth, for a clear and substantive report.

We appreciate the Office's alignment with national priorities and its emphasis on national ownership — visible in the gradual handover of Tunduk.

Your report offers concrete results. Border and customs capacities strengthened, including explosive ordnance disposal. Mobile Police Receptions resolving thousands of citizens' requests, with public trust in the police rising markedly. Progress on UNSCR 1540, penitentiary reform and torture prevention. Advances in gender equality, disability inclusion and youth participation.

Areas close to Norwegian priorities: rule of law, human rights, gender equality, youth, security sector capacity-building.

Ambassador Frobarth, even though your work builds on the foundation laid by those before you, we have been truly impressed by the energy you have embraced your first year at the mission.

Dear Pal Dunay, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek is a beacon. It should not be seen only as a project, but as an institution whose academic autonomy must be safeguarded as firmly as other leading universities in the OSCE area guard their own. This unique structure deserves further development, and we think it would be useful for all participating States to hear more from its students and their activities. They do indeed constitute the core strategic value of the Academy.

Looking to 2027, Norway welcomes the four-pillar adjustment and encourages the Office to strengthen the link between mandate, activities and results. A clear results framework is not bureaucracy. It shows what our support changes, and where it matters

most. A partnership. Predictability and flexibility from us, transparent reporting from you.

Ambassador, please convey our gratitude to all your staff.

Thank you.