



**NORSK JOURNALISTLAG**  
NORWEGIAN UNION OF JOURNALISTS

**Ann-Magrit Austenå**

president

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Oslo, March 29. 2006

Participants of  
Nordic-Arabic meeting in Oslo

Your trip to Oslo, Norway is only a few days away.

Enclosed you will find some practical information regarding the meeting as well as the program.

#### **Arrival/Transport**

Upon arrival at the Oslo Airport Gardermoen we suggest you take the Airport Express Train to the National Theatre Station. It takes only 17 minutes and from there you have a 5 minute walk to the hotel. You see the hotel's "tower" when you come out of the station – with the logo Radisson SAS on top of the building.

#### **Hotel**

You will be staying at the Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel. For more information about the hotel:  
<http://scandinavia.oslo.radissonsas.com/>  
Address: Holbergsgate 30, Oslo, ph: +47 23 29 30 00

#### **Saturday evening**

For those arriving on Saturday I hope you all will join me for dinner. Ashraf and I will be meeting you in the hotel lobby at 19.00 hours.

#### **Meeting location**


The meetings will be held at the Fritt Ord (Freedom of Expression Foundation, <http://www.fritt-ord.no>), located only 5 minutes walk from the hotel. We will arrange for someone to meet you before walking to Fritt Ord. More information on this will be given upon arrival in Oslo.

#### **Contact person**

Mari-Anne Robberstad, ph.: +47 41 44 71 57 is handling all practicalities of the meeting. Please contact her for any questions you might have regarding your stay.

We wish you all welcome to Oslo!

With kind regards

  
Ann-Magrit Austenå  
President of the Norwegian Union of Journalists

(Programme enclosed)

# Programme

## Arabic – Nordic dialogue meeting in Oslo, April 2 – 3, 2006

### Saturday April 1

Arrival of first participants.

19:00 Informal meeting with participants in the lobby of Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel

20:00 Dinner at Theatercafeen hosted by the Norwegian Union of Journalists.

### Sunday April 2

Morning: individual programmes and arrivals.

12:00 Lunch at "Fritt Ord"

13:00 Meeting starts.

- Welcome, and opening of the dialogue meeting by Ann-Magrit Austenå, president of the Norwegian Union of Journalists
- Opening Key note by Aidan White, general secretary of the International Union of Journalists, IJF.
- Greeting by political secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

13:45 Round table discussion chaired by Shada Islam

Analysing the current situation.

- What is the geopolitical background for the amount of tension between western secular political values and the values of political Islam?
- Which social, economic, political and religious interests are at play?
- What are the consequences of the cartoon turbulence for multicultural understanding and mutual respect within the different countries/regions?
- In what directions are "the middle majority" of people moving in different regions?

15:30 Break

16:15 Group discussions chaired by Shada Islam and Søren Wormslev:

- The effect of press regulation through law and/or independent press code of conduct.
- Conducting press freedom: Role and responsibilities of media professionals in

different political, economic and religious cultures.

- Relations and division of influence on media between government, political leaders, media professionals and religious leaders in different cultures and regions.
- Press responsibility for level and development of tension between cultures – both within regions and between regions.

18:00 Short statements from group discussions

18:30 Meeting closes day one

19:45 Transport from Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel

20:00 Dinner at Ekebergrestauranten hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### Monday April 3

09:30 Meeting day two opens at "Fritt Ord". Round table chaired by Søren Wormslev

- Summing up yesterday's group discussions
- What are the main challenges for journalists, editors and media institutions when social, political and religious groups in a country or region are polarized through economic and political initiatives and development?

11:30 Mid-morning coffee break

12:00 Last session:

- On what grounds can dialogue be developed?
- Where to go from here?

13:00 Lunch at "Fritt Ord"

14:00 Press conference with chairs and participants of the dialogue meeting

17:00 Open debate meeting hosted by "Fritt Ord" (See separate agenda)

20:00 Dinner at "Fritt Ord"