



**ROYAL MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

4 December 2006

Dear Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Transatlantic Dialogue on a Common Future, which takes place on Voksenåsen here in Oslo December 4-9. This week-long dialogue on political, social, cultural and business issues of common interest between the United States and Scandinavia is the first in what we hope will be a series of dialogues with the long range goal of increasing the knowledge and understanding between future leaders in Europe and the United States.

The conference is supported by the Norwegian and Swedish Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the U.S. Embassies in Oslo and Stockholm, the Finnish Embassy in Oslo, the Freedom of Expression Foundation, the Nordic Cultural Foundation and the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation.

The relationship between Norway – and for that matter the Nordic Countries – and the U.S. involves our history, our values, our family ties, our culture, education and research cooperation, our business, trade and technology – in fact most parts of our society. Sometimes we have our differences and then it is imperative that we know each other, that we have personal ties and that we continue our dialogue.

I hope that you will all have a week full of experiences, acquire new knowledge and make new friends. And that you will use this in your continuing Transatlantic Dialogue. It is important for our common future.



Jonas Gahr Støre