

# Anglo - Norwegian relations seen from London

By Bjarne Lindstrøm, Ambassador of Norway to the United Kingdom - October 2006

I was fortunate enough to be appointed ambassador to London in 2005 - the year we commemorated Norway's hundred years of independence and hundred years of diplomatic relations between our two countries.



*Bjarne Lindstrøm,  
Norwegian Ambassador to London.*

It is a relationship which - of course - did not begin in 1905.

The Norse attack on the monastery at Lindisfarne in 793 might not have been the beginning of a relationship in the proper sense, but the alliance in the tenth century between King Athelstan of England and King Harald Fairhair definitely was. Since then our relations have developed, and I dare say, matured.

Today, our relationship covers practically every bilateral field of cooperation and activity. We share the same values, ideals and culture. We believe in the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. We are politically and economically united in numerous ways. To mention a few:

For decades - even longer than that - we have been close allies in the defence and security policy fields.

We are working together and with other countries to defeat international terrorism. The attacks in London last year and in other parts of the world have demonstrated that no country is immune.

Both our Governments are pre-occupied with environmental issues and are committed to working actively to reduce harmful emissions and secure a sustainable economic develop-

ment. We are partners in the international efforts to harvest marine resources in a responsible way and in our efforts to stop illegal activities taking place.

Last, but not least, our Governments, oil companies and maritime industry are working together to exploit the oil and gas resources on our respective continental shelves. The opening of the Langeled pipeline from Norway to the United Kingdom in October this year illustrates the significance of this: Norway is now in a position to supply the United Kingdom with more than 30 per cent of its annual gas requirements.

As Norwegian ambassador in London, it is my privilege to be contributing to the maintenance and further development of these ties.