



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 13 March 2014

Mr Chairman,

I have been instructed to repeat some of the points I have made in previous discussions on the situation in Ukraine:

We condemn Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Norway considers Russian actions as a breach of international law.

Norway welcomes the establishment of a new Ukrainian government and we urge both parties to seek to resolve the situation with peaceful means.

We furthermore urge Russia to de-escalate the situation and we have pointed out that Russia's behavior towards Ukraine strongly contradicts with the Russian expressed policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of a state.

My Government calls on Russia to pull their forces, now spread across Crimea, back to their bases or out of Ukraine, as appropriate.

Mr. Chairman,

We have also strongly argued in favour of using the tools we have at our disposal in the OSCE. We are very pleased to see activities already undertaken or underway under the leadership of our institutions, the Secretary General and the PCU in Kiev. I have announced my country's practical and financial support.

The most pressing task now is to reach consensus on dispatching a Monitoring Mission. We hope that we very soon will be able to agree on the mandate for such a mission. We are ready to contribute.

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union raised in their statement today several points with which we agree. I will not repeat them, but add the following two points:

First, that we are surprised that my esteemed Russian colleague seems to have conveyed an invitation to ODIHR to observe an illegitimate referendum in an OSCE participating State other than his own, without the consent of the authorities of the country in which this illegitimate referendum will take place.

Secondly, that Norway has had some sympathy for our Russian colleagues' call for stronger engagement against what they label "aggressive nationalism". We believe that also our Russian colleagues are concerned these days by examples of rather aggressive nationalism in the Russian Federation itself, as well as among Russian speakers in the Crimea.

Thank you.