



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON THE SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION IN UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 5 June 2014

Mr Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement made by Greece on behalf of the European Union. In my national capacity, I would like to add a few points on the Special Monitoring Mission.

Mr Chairman,

The Monitoring Mission is performing a very important task, for Ukraine and for the OSCE. We are pleased to see that the Mission has been gradually expanded with qualified personnel.

Mr Chairman,

In the Eastern part of Ukraine the Mission works under deteriorating circumstances. Two teams of monitors are still being held back by separatists and others have had to be relocated to places where they can continue to perform their tasks. We commend the Mission's leadership for their efforts to ensure the release of the abducted monitors and the safety of all staff.

We are concerned about the situation for the abducted monitors. We followed very closely the efforts undertaken during last weekend to relocate monitors in Donetsk and Luhansk.

Mr Chairman,

We support the decision to relocate the monitors. Safety and security for the personnel must come first. We are pleased that this has been underlined by the SMM leadership as well as the Secretary General. We are also pleased that measures are being taken to strengthen the capacity of the Mission in this area, including with the assistance of individual participating States, that have made expertise available to the mission. All this is important to us as we consider new candidates for the positions of the Mission.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.