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PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE OSCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR IN UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 12 June 2014

Mr Chairman,

Only the Ukrainians themselves can ensure a process towards a unified, stable and democratic Ukraine. The election of a new President is an important step forward. They should be allowed to continue their work under the leadership of President Poroshenko without destabilizing interference from inside and outside.

But they should also be confident that they will be supported by the international community. We must support Ukraine bilaterally and through our multilateral organizations. The OSCE is obviously very important in this regard, and Ambassador Jarbussynova's report therefore comes very timely.

Mr Chairman,

We are impressed by the number of projects the Project Co-ordinator has completed since she last reported to us. We are also impressed by how the PCU has been able to adjust its activities to better meet the current needs of Ukraine. We encourage the PCU to continue working out new projects, including for possible extra-budgetary funding. I take this opportunity to commend Ukraine for its constructive approach to cooperating with the OSCE, with other international organisations as well as with bilateral donors.

Norway is committed to provide long-term support to Ukraine. As I mentioned in statements on Ukraine last month, our budgetary allocations to Ukraine will increase considerably, to 18.5 million euros in 2014. We see the OSCE as an obvious partner in our support to Ukraine. We will therefore channel a considerable proportion of the available funding for Ukraine through our Framework Agreement with the OSCE.

As our joint efforts to support Ukraine picks up strengthened coordination between various donors will be important in order to avoid duplication.

Mr Chairman,

Ukraine is faced with multiple challenges. It is therefore crucial that OSCE projects continue to cover all three dimensions of security. In order to remove some of the root causes of the current crisis in the country, democratization, good governance and civil society will be given priority for Norwegian funding. I should also like to mention that Norway is ready assist also in other ways. This includes continued support within the field of energy efficiency. We are furthermore ready to share with Kyiv our experience from being a close partner of the European Union.

Mr Chairman,

Ensuring stability is an important part of the raison d'être of the OSCE. We must therefore put the OSCE to work in participating States where stability is threatened. The PCU is too small, and is given too limited resources to play the role we would want from it. I therefore agree with those who today have argued in favour of strengthening the PCU. Looking ahead to next year's budget, we should provide the PCU with the human and financial resources it needs to make a significant difference.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.