



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 4 September 2014

Mr Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement made by Italy on behalf of the European Union. In my national capacity, I would like to add a few remarks regarding Norwegian Foreign Minister Børge Brende's visit to Kiev Monday this week. He was accompanied by the Minister for EU and EEA affairs, and met with Foreign Minister Klimkin, Deputy Prime Minister Hroysman and others.

Mr Chairman,

The visit took place to demonstrate Norwegian support to Ukraine, as the country faces military intervention from the Russian Federation, and to translate our words of support into action.

Foreign Minister Brende announced that Norway will give 1 million Euros in humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and stands ready to increase this according to the needs on the ground. He also announced a further increase in Norwegian bilateral support to Ukraine from the current level of 18.5 million Euros.

Mr Chairman,

While Ukraine is defending itself against internal and external aggressors, it also seeks to rebuild its economy and implement its association agreement with the EU. We recognize how challenging this must be, and stand ready to help the Ukrainian economy get back on track.

We believe Norway can offer valuable experience as a non-EU country that is highly integrated with the European Union. As a first step, Norway is offering assistance in the areas of energy

market deregulation, food safety, and judicial reform. This is now being followed up on an expert level.

Mr Chairman,

During his discussions in Kiev, Foreign Minister Brende was pleased to note the importance Ukrainian authorities place on reform, good governance and the fight against corruption. We believe due attention to such matters are vital for the success of Ukraine's ongoing reform efforts and process towards European integration.

Mr Chairman,

Together with Ukrainian authorities, we now seek to operationalize our cooperation further, as we prepare for Prime Minister Solberg's upcoming visit to Ukraine in November. This visit is a manifestation of our firm support to Ukraine.

We stand with Ukraine and reiterate our view that the Russian military intervention on Ukrainian territory is completely unacceptable. We take note of the latest news on a possible agreement for a ceasefire process. However, Russia must now show with deeds that it will reverse its policy, in order to contribute to de-escalation of the situation in Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr Chairman