



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 12 March 2015

Madam Chair,

I aligned myself with the statement made by Latvia on behalf of the European Union. In my national capacity, I would like to make two remarks. Both relate to the SMM.

First, it is now crucial that all OSCE participating States support the SMM politically, as well as practically, including with personnel. We will do our part. There are currently 11 Norwegian monitors in the SMM. We aim at increasing this number, and will continue nominating qualified personnel.

Madam Chair,

My second point has already been made by several speakers before me, namely that the SMM urgently needs two things from all signatories of the Minsk Agreements: full cooperation, including unfettered access to all parts of the ceasefire zone, and baseline information related to heavy weapons. Without it, credible verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons is impossible.

Thank you, Madam Chair