



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 3 September 2015

Mr Chairman

I aligned myself with the statement made by Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union. In my national capacity, I would like to inform the Permanent Council of Norway's decision to provide NOK 200 million in budget support to Ukraine to support the Ukrainian Government's work to carry out reforms.

In a statement earlier this week, Foreign Minister Brende said that 'this support for Ukraine is important for helping to achieve essential restructuring and modernisation.'

The disbursement of budget support from Norway follows the World Bank's approval, on 25 August, of the progress made in Ukraine's extensive reform programmes.

In his statement, Minister Brende underlined that 'for Norway, it has been important to demand results from the reform process in Ukraine. The Ukrainian authorities need to show that they are able to change the culture of poor governance and corruption that triggered the Euromaidan protests. This is the mandate they have been given by the voters. By demanding clear results, we are helping to make sure that changes take place', the Minister said. The fact that the World Bank and the IMF are now talking in positive terms about the reform process shows that Ukraine is indeed making progress.

Mr Chairman,

With reference to the conflict in eastern Ukraine, where Ukrainian Government forces are fighting separatists supported by Russia, Brende underlined in his statement that 'Ukraine has every right to defend its territorial integrity. It is extremely difficult to carry out reforms while parts of the country are being actively destabilised by pro-Russian separatists backed by the Russian military. Ukraine has to spend huge sums of money on a war it has been forced into. These funds could otherwise have been used on economic reforms', the Minister said.

The Foreign Minister went on to underline that 'it is crucial that the work to implement the reforms continues unabated. Ukraine has to make the transition from being a country with poor governance and widespread corruption to a country governed by the rule of law. This will take time, but the important reforms that have been started must continue. Corruption and

a stagnated system were two of the key factors that provoked the Maidan protests. That is why the reforms are so vital', Foreign Minister Birede concluded.

Thank you, Mr Chairman