



## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

### STATEMENT ON UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 8 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement made by Luxemburg on behalf of the EU. I would like to add a few words in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Yesterday my government presented its annual budget proposal to Parliament. It included a proposed increase in our support to Ukraine for the coming year.

In a press statement Foreign Minister Børge Brende underlined that Ukraine has shown genuine willingness to implement far-reaching reforms and pursue European integration. This is a bold choice and the right choice, and deserves our continued support, he said. The Government therefore proposes to increase Norway's support to Ukraine by 80 million Norwegian kroner. With this increase, Norway's support to Ukraine in 2016 will total 390 million Norwegian kroner – approximately 41.5 million Euros.

The funding will be used to strengthen the comprehensive reform process the Ukrainian Government has initiated. The main priorities for Norway's support are judicial reform and good governance, energy sector reform and efficiency, improving the country's competitiveness, and strengthening the private sector and entrepreneurship. In addition, there will be funding for work on behalf of internally displaced persons from eastern Ukraine and Crimea.

In the same statement the Foreign Minister also said that after many years of misrule and oligarchy and the recent Russian destabilisation, Ukraine has fallen far behind other countries in the region. This means that wide-ranging reforms and modernisation are needed. In addition to dealing with the conflict, the Ukrainian Government's biggest and most important task now is to carry out reforms and enable the state to safeguard the needs and interests of the people, Foreign Minister Brende concluded.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.