



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY AT
STALINGRAD

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile to the Permanent Council, Vienna
7 February 2013

Mr Chairman,

I would like to join our Russian colleague in taking this occasion to recall the significance of the battle of Stalingrad.

We may differ in our assessments of developments that followed the *end* of the Second World War. And we may differ in our assessments of *today's* state of affairs. But I believe we are all united in recognising the enormous significance of the Red Army's victory at Stalingrad, a victory which became a turning point in a war that ravaged so much of our continent in the last century.

The memory of what happened 70 years ago should also remind us of the importance of the work that is carried out today to avoid new wars and new conflicts, to protect the sanctity of human life, the inherent value, dignity and integrity of every single individual. These goals are at the very core of the OSCE.

We therefore today pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who in Stalingrad paid the ultimate sacrifice in the fight to halt the Nazi war machine.

I should also like to mention that my own country is forever grateful to the Soviet Red Army for liberating the northernmost part of Norway in late October 1944 and for withdrawing in 1945 to let our population choose their own destiny.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman