



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO THE PROJECT
COORDINATOR IN UKRAINE**

As delivered by Councillor Hilde Austad
to the Permanent Council, Vienna, 7 July
2016

Thank you, Mr Chairman,

We join others in welcoming Project Coordinator in Ukraine ambassador Verba to the Permanent Council. The PCU continues to enjoy our strong support. We especially value efforts to support Ukraine's reforms, through close cooperation with Ukrainian partners, across government and civil society, including through the national dialogue project.

In his talks with political leaders of Ukraine in Kyiv this week, Foreign Minister Brende underlined continued Norwegian support for Ukraine's reform efforts, including through the OSCE.

Mr Chairman,

Cooperation and coordination with other international actors, including with the SMM and the autonomous institutions, remains crucial. We appreciate the PCU's efforts in this area. We also appreciate efforts to maximise impact through consolidation of objectives and a focus on areas where the OSCE has a comparative advantage.

Mr Chairman,

We welcomed the increase in the PCU's 2016 Unified Budget, as it enables a better response to the needs of the host country. However, more funds means a

need for more staff. We look forward to a substantial increase, especially in management positions, in the 2017 Unified Budget.

Thank you, Mr Chairman