



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADORS SAJDIK AND APAKAN
As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 28 July 2016

Thank you, Mr Chairman,

I aligned myself with the intervention made by Slovakia on behalf of the European Union. However, as this is my last Permanent Council meeting, I will use the occasion to make three points on the crisis in and around Ukraine, points that are fundamental to my government.

First, this conflict is the result of a fundamental breach by one participating state – the Russian Federation – of the most basic principles of the OSCE. It can only be resolved by restoring respect for those same principles.

Second, the role of the OSCE is important. Through the Trilateral Contact Group, the Project Coordinator in Ukraine, the OSCE institutions and, not least, the SMM, our organisation is tackling different aspects of the conflict. Norway will continue to support the SMM, by seconding qualified personnel and in other ways. The input to you, Ambassador Apakan, from the Nordic countries two weeks ago, on certain organisational matters, is a sign of our continued support and commitment.

Third, we want Ukraine to succeed. We want to see them develop into a stable, transparent, non-corrupt democracy. This would be in the interest of all participating States. For Ukraine to achieve this, the violence must end and the illegal annexation of Crimea must be reversed. Last, but not least, Ukraine will need our full political and practical support.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.