



**PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY  
TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

As delivered by ambassador Ellen Svendsen at the  
Special Permanent Council, Vienna,  
24 April 2025

**Thank you, Mr. Chair**

First, let me join others in expressing our condolences on the passing of his holiness Pope Francis. Pope Francis was a powerful voice for social justice and human dignity. He built bridges in a divided world, and inspired millions with his commitment to peace. Our thoughts are with all Catholics across the globe and with the delegation of the Holy See.

**Mr. Chair,**

Thank you for convening this important meeting. Norway aligns with the statement made by Poland on behalf of 26 EU member states. Allow me, however, to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Norway strongly condemns Russia's attacks on several cities in Ukraine last week and last night.

Once again, Kyiv woke up to horror.

Once again, ordinary people were hit by Russian attacks while they were sleeping or seeking refuge. Attacking civilians in their homes in this way is terrorizing the population. It is a serious violation of international humanitarian law.

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Norway also condemns in the strongest possible terms the brutal missile strikes that has shattered the heart of the city of Sumy on Palm Sunday. Our thoughts are with the victims, their loved ones, and all those affected by this night's tragedy.

These atrocities constitute an assault on the very idea of peace. With repeated attacks like these, it is difficult for to believe that Russia is genuinely interested in meaningful ceasefire negotiations.

If Moscow truly seeks peace, it must prove it—stop the missiles, end the delaying tactics, and reciprocate Ukraine's declared readiness for an unconditional cease-fire.

Last week's bloodshed underlines a hard truth: Russia controls the dial that keeps this war running. The path to an enduring settlement begins with silence on the battlefield, unhindered humanitarian access and international monitoring.

Norway stands with Ukraine and will continue to reinforce sanctions, humanitarian aid and defensive support until aggression ends. The victims of Sumy, Kyiv, Kharkiv and so many other Ukrainian cities deserve justice; Europe deserves stability; and peace demands Russian action. We urge Russia to choose that path today.

In conclusion, we once again call upon Russia to release our illegally detained SMM colleagues Vadym Golda, Maxim Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov.

I thank you.