



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT ON UKRAINE**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 20 January 2015

Mr Chairman,

I join others in thanking ambassadors Apakan and Tagliavini for their updates.

Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement made by Latvia on behalf of the European Union. Let me in addition underline a few issues that are especially important to Norway.

Mr Chairman,

First, we welcome today's adoption of a declaration on the crisis in and around Ukraine. It demonstrates the support of all 57 to the work of the trilateral contact group and that we stand united, at least in principle, in calling for full implementation of the Minsk documents.

Second, the Russian Federation bears a heavy responsibility for the crisis in and around Ukraine, and must back up its words with concrete actions. We call on Russia to return to its international commitments and the Minsk-agreements by withdrawing support to separatists in eastern Ukraine and reversing its illegal annexation of Crimea. All parties must do what they can to deescalate the situation, and we call especially on the Russian Federation to use its influence over the separatists to attain a sustainable ceasefire.

And finally, the safety of the SMM monitors is of paramount importance to Norway. We are very pleased to report that the Norwegian participant in last week's security visit to Ukraine gave a positive review of the SMM's security arrangements. We thank ambassador Apakan and his team for their tireless efforts to ensure the safety of all monitors.

Thank you, Mr Chairman