



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT,
MR. ILKKA KANERVA

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 19 November 2015

Mr Chairman,

I join others in welcoming Mr Kanerva to the Permanent Council.

Mr Chairman,

Norway sees the work of the Parliamentary Assembly as important to the activities of the OSCE. Direct contact between parliamentarians promotes the goals of our organization. The PA's efforts in strengthening democracy and human rights is particularly important. Their participation, in co-operation with ODIHR, in election monitoring is highly valued.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the Parliamentary Assembly's engagement in Ukraine. The PA has facilitated dialogue between Ukrainian and Russian parliamentarians in support of a diplomatic solution. We were also pleased to note Mr Kanerva's focus on the humanitarian situation in parts of Eastern Ukraine and for IDPs during his recent visit. My government has expressed its concern at the serious situation for civilians, in particular those living in areas controlled by the separatists. Mr Kanerva called on the separatists and those who can influence them to allow all humanitarian aid and aid organizations to enter the areas they control. We strongly support his call.

The Parliamentary Assembly's support for Ukraine's reform efforts is a valuable contribution. My Prime Minister, as Mr Kanerva, has stressed the need to pursue reform, in particular fighting corruption.

Mr Chairman,

As chair of the Human Dimension Committee, I appreciate the excellent co-operation we have had with the Parliamentary Assembly, in particular with the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. The chair of that committee, Ms Isabel Santos, has addressed the Human Dimension Committee these past two years, and I have been invited to inform the parliamentarians on the work in the HDC.

Mr Chairman,

Parliamentarians and governments are working towards the same goals, and we welcome this opportunity to discuss with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.