



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 3 April 2014

Mr Chairman,

We are satisfied to see that the deployment of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine is progressing rapidly and we welcome the appointment of Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan as Chief Monitor and we wish him every success in his important work.

We are also looking forward to the report of the Human Rights Assessment Mission to Ukraine, which completed its work earlier this week.

We are furthermore pleased to note that the National Dialogue Project as well as the Election Monitoring Mission are progressing according to plans.

Mr Chairman,

We commend the Swiss Chairmanship and the OSCE Executive Structures for their efforts to implement measures to support Ukraine. These measures prove that the OSCE *does* play an important role in fostering security and stability in Europe, also when fundamental OSCE principles are being violated.

Norway has supported all these activities, with extra-budgetary contributions or with personnel, or with both. We are prepared to contribute also to additional projects in support of Ukraine. I therefore encourage our Institutions, the Secretariat, the Project Coordinator's Office as well as Ukrainian authorities themselves to continue developing new projects. A consequence of this is that we may need to increase the capacity of the PCU on a more permanent basis.

Mr Chairman,

Norway remains deeply concerned with the ongoing situation in Ukraine. I would therefore like to reiterate our view on the Russian Federation's illegal annexation of the Ukrainian Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Under international law, no state has the right to intervene in the affairs of another state, through the use of armed force, coercion or any other form of unwarranted interference. This is the case regardless of whether a state takes action itself or provides support to local actors.

The UN Charter prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. It also prohibits intervention in the internal affairs of another state. The situation in Ukraine has not justified any departure from these two points.

Mr Chairman,

Russia has a tradition for advocating the principle of non-intervention. It is a well established fact that tens of thousands of Russian troops have been deployed to areas close to the border of Ukraine at the same time as Russia's Foreign Minister presents a plan for constitutional reform in the sovereign state of Ukraine. This contradicts with the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a state.

Mr Chairman,

Like our allies and partners in NATO and the EU, Norway condemns Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and continues to support the transitional government of Ukraine through this difficult time.

Thank you.