



ENGLISH only

STATEMENT ON THE ONGOING RUSSIAN AGGRESION IN UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Ellen Svendsen at the Permanent Council, Vienna, 16
October 2025

Chair,

Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine continues to have devastating consequences for civilians and on infrastructure. The recent grave escalation of strikes on Ukraine's energy system, deliberately targeting facilities essential for life and dignity, is not only appalling; it is a sign of Russian weakness. We join the OSCE Troika in strongly condemning these repeated attacks.

We also condemn the attack on a UN aid convoy in Kherson recently. As Russia knows very well, but completely disregards, humanitarian workers and convoys are protected under international humanitarian law.

The Ukrainian ability to rebuild damaged infrastructure stands in stark contrast to the Russian relentless waves of attacks. It is a token of the impressive resilience of the Ukrainian nation.

As was stated many times in yesterday's FSC, resilience is the first line of defense. Ukraine's fight against the Russian aggression is the first line of defense of European security. Therefore, Norway's support to Ukraine is steadfast and long-term—political, humanitarian, financial and civilian security assistance. Yesterday, the Norwegian government presented its proposal for the 2026 national budget. The government proposed to continue Norway's strong support for Ukraine, maintaining the commitment of more than 7 billion EUR.

This is more than a financial commitment — it is a message to Ukraine and our allies: Norway's support for Ukraine's fight for European security is unwavering. It is also a clear signal to Russia: Your attempts to sow division and weaken international support for Ukraine have failed.

We remind Russia that intentionally directing attacks at civilians and civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate attacks, are war crimes. All those responsible must be held to account. Russia must end its war, withdraw from all of Ukraine, and respect Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its

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internationally recognized borders. Ukraine has the inherent right of self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

We further demand the immediate release of all arbitrarily detained civilians and POWs, including OSCE staff, and the safe return of all deported Ukrainian children.

Russia can end this war of choice at any time. Until this happens, Norway will continue to support Ukraine's rightful defense, as well as Ukraine's recovery afterwards.

Thank you.