



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
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STATEMENT ON RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Ellen Svendsen at the Permanent Council Vienna,
6 March 2025

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Russia's attempts to portray itself as a victim do not hold up against the abundant evidence of Russia as a brutal aggressor. It is Russia's illegal military aggression against a sovereign state —not "arms deliveries" or "Western interference"—that drives this war and that undermines the very foundations which European security – including this organization – are built. Russia could end this war any day. Yet the relentless attacks continue.

Three years ago, most of us thought Ukraine would withstand three days. Every day since, resilient and brave Ukrainians have been fighting for their freedom, and also for the security of Europe as a whole; for a world order based on the very principles we once agreed upon in this organization - sovereignty, freedom, and the rule of law.

Moving forward, Europe must do more – in all areas – to ensure Ukraine's future. We remain unwavering in our resolve that a just and lasting peace can only be achieved on Ukraine's terms, through strength, not submission. A lasting peace cannot be achieved without Ukraine – and Europe – at the negotiation table.

Norway's position is clear: no external power decides which international organizations a sovereign state may join, be it the EU, NATO, or any other body. It's not Russia that decides on that.

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine's future lies in Europe. As Europe is being put to the test, we must and will step even further up our military support to Ukraine. It is fundamentally important for European security that Ukraine wins. We cannot allow Russia to shape security order in Europe by force.

We remain steadfast in our support for as long as it takes. In doing so, we honor those who have sacrificed their lives and continue to protect the values we hold dear.

Thank you.

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