



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE

**STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION
AGAINST UKRAINE**

As delivered by Ambassador Ellen Svendsen at the Permanent Council, Vienna, 12th
March 2026

Mr. Chair

Language and words matter. This organisation and this forum were established to ensure transparency and de-escalation of conflict, through dialogue and diplomacy. To the benefit of the security of the entire region. This forum is, however, increasingly being used to spread disinformation and outright lies.

Let me be clear. The core of this conflict is Russia's unilateral decisions. It is Russia that chooses war over diplomacy. It was Russia who decided to invade its sovereign neighbour. The full-scale invasion of Ukraine was an active choice, not a historical inevitability.

Diplomacy is the core of our organisation, and it demands the participation of all states. Moscow can choose diplomacy. Instead, Moscow is escalating the insecurity of our region, by spreading disinformation and lies. This strategy is dangerous. Moscow bears the responsibility for any escalation.

If Russia truly wants deescalation, that choice can be made now. If Russia wants peace, that can be demonstrated this week. We call upon Russia to stop their attacks on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, return the deported children, release the three detained OSCE officials and accept verifiable steps for withdrawal. Such actions are genuine steps towards peace.

Mr. Chair

Supporting Ukraine means steadfast support of the founding principles of the OSCE, the UN Charter and the rule-based order. Ukraine is fighting for the security in our

region and the core principles of international law. Internationally recognised borders cannot and shall not be changed by force. Norway will stand by Ukraine in this fight until and after a just and lasting peace.

Thank you.