



**PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION AT
THE KERCH STRAIT AND IN THE SEA OF AZOV**

Delivered by Ambassador Steffen Kongstad
at the Special Permanent Council, Vienna, 26 November 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chair,

Norway is deeply concerned by the situation at the Kerch Strait and in the Sea of Azov.

We call on both sides to show restraint and reduce tension in the area.

Norway finds Russia's use of force against Ukrainian vessels unacceptable. We call on Russia to release the vessels and their crews. Ukrainian and other countries' vessels must be given unimpeded access to Ukrainian ports on the Sea of Azov.

We once again reiterate our strong support to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Thank you