

Delegation of Belarus

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DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, AT THE 2011 ANNUAL SECURITY
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**Working session 1: Transnational threats and challenges:
strengthening the coherence of the OSCE response and interaction with
other international actors**

Madam Moderator,

First of all I should like to thank our distinguished speakers, in particular the Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Mr. Nikolay Bordyuzha, for their informative statements.

In our brief commentary, we should like to dwell on the matter of co-operation between the OSCE and the CSTO in countering transnational threats and challenges.

We imagine that all of the delegations today will once again have been able to hear for themselves how much the aims and work of these two organizations in the field of security overlap.

The Republic of Belarus, which is chairing the CSTO in 2011, firmly believes that this organization is an inalienable element in the system of pan-European security. The CSTO makes an important contribution to safeguarding security and stability in the OSCE region through specific activities to strengthen collective security in the area of its responsibility. In the first instance this concerns the effective countering of modern transnational threats and challenges.

The CSTO member States have achieved significant results in preventing illegal migration and drug trafficking, ensuring information security and co-ordinating efforts to deal with emergency situations. Countering new threats and challenges to security was one of the basic themes discussed at the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CSTO member States in Minsk on 31 May 2011.

Madam Moderator,

In the last few years the CSTO has markedly enhanced its potential and turned into one of the key players in the safeguarding of regional security in the Euro-Atlantic space.

All of the CSTO member States are OSCE participating States. Both organizations make significant efforts to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime, illegal migration, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the threats emanating from Afghanistan. This creates a natural and logical basis for further development and intensification of the strategic and practical co-operation between the OSCE and the CSTO. We believe that it would be useful in the long term to discuss the question of a memorandum of understanding or the signing of a declaration on co-operation by the two organizations.

The CSTO has always been open to co-operation with all international organizations operating in the Euro-Atlantic region. We believe that it is important to continue the practice of holding meetings of the heads of these organizations within the framework of the OSCE to “synchronize watches” and co-ordinate activities. This would also give new stimulus to multilateral security co-operation in the OSCE region, the practical application of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security and implementation of the consultation mechanism described in the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century adopted in Maastricht.

Thank you, Madam Moderator.