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**STATEMENT BY MR. VALERY VORONETSKY,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 911th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 May 2012

Regarding the parliamentary elections in Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

We congratulate our Armenian colleagues on the successful holding of the elections to the fifth convocation of the National Assembly of Armenia on 6 May 2012.

We welcome the fact that the parliamentary elections were properly organized and proceeded peacefully, in an atmosphere of openness and with active competition, on the basis of the new Electoral Code.

We are pleased to note that the Armenian elections received positive marks for the most part from many international observers.

According to observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Armenia were held in accordance with the provisions of the electoral laws in force, freely and openly, and were an important factor in the continued democratization of public life in the country.

A number of positive aspects were also remarked on by the OSCE observation mission as well, including the dynamic electoral campaign, balanced media coverage of the elections, the observance of freedom of assembly and expression, and a reliable legislative framework.

We welcome the convergence of the assessments of observers from the CIS and the OSCE during the electoral process in Armenia and we hope that this trend will continue, *inter alia* through dialogue between the two organizations on the modalities and principles of international election observation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.