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# Prohlášení Statement Déclaration

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České předsednictví  
v Radě EU

Czech Presidency  
of the Council of the EU

Présidence tchèque  
du Conseil de l'UE

2009

Vienna 29 January 2009

## Permanent Council No. 748 EU Statement on Belarus

The European Union has taken note of the results of the talks which the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, held on 22 and 23 January 2009 in Minsk.

We fully support ODIHR's continuing efforts to assist Belarus to bring its electoral framework and practice into line with OSCE standards and commitments. We welcome the fact that ODIHR's proposals concerning the follow-up to last year's Parliamentary elections in Belarus received a first positive response from the Belarusian authorities and that steps were agreed to further discuss them at the expert level in February.

Mindful of the fact that the improvement of the electoral framework constitutes one of the key areas in which the EU expects real progress from Belarus we encourage the Belarusian authorities to continue their co-operation with the ODIHR on these proposals.

The EU hopes that this co-operation will produce tangible and measurable results.

Stálá mise České Republiky při OBSE

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The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

\*Croatia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.