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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALYAKSANDR SYCHOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE, AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE OSCE
PERMANENT COUNCIL AND THE OSCE FORUM FOR
SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

15 April 2010

**In response to the statement by the Secretary General of the
Collective Security Treaty Organization**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Belarus welcomes Mr. Nikolay Bordyzha, Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), to today's joint meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and the OSCE Permanent Council and thanks him for his informative statement, which, I am sure, once again made clear to our partners to what degree the goals and aims of our two organizations – the CSTO and the OSCE – overlap.

As a member of the CSTO, the Republic of Belarus firmly believes that that organization is today an integral component of the European security architecture. The CSTO is making an important contribution to ensuring security and stability in the OSCE region through specific activities aimed at maintaining and strengthening collective security in its area of responsibility and also through measures to counter modern-day threats and challenges of a transnational nature.

We share Mr. Bordyzha's view that over the last few years the CSTO has considerably increased its potential and has become one of the key players in ensuring regional security in the Euro-Atlantic area.

All CSTO member States are participating States of the OSCE. Both organizations are engaged in a major effort to combat terrorism, trafficking in narcotic drugs, organized crime, illegal migration, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and in countering the threats emanating from the territory of Afghanistan. All of this creates a natural and logical basis for the further development and deepening of strategic and practical co-operation between the OSCE and the CSTO. Over the longer term, we regard it as useful to examine the question of the conclusion of memorandum of mutual understanding or the signing of a declaration regarding co-operation between both organizations.

I should like to make the point that the CSTO has always demonstrated an open attitude to the question of interaction with all international organizations operating in the Euro-Atlantic region. In that connection, in the same way as other CSTO member States, we regard as timely and useful the idea of holding in 2010 a meeting bringing together senior officials of the OSCE, the CSTO, the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States and NATO, a meeting that would without question impart a fresh impetus to multilateral co-operation in the OSCE region in the field of security.

We would propose that in general terms thought be given as part of the Corfu Process to the usefulness of conducting, with the OSCE as the forum, regular annual strategic meetings bringing together the senior officials of the aforementioned organizations so that they can “synchronize their watches” and co-ordinate their activities. This would also make it possible to put into practical operation the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security and to put into effect the consultation mechanism set out in the OSCE’s Maastricht Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century.

In conclusion I should like to note that the history of the joint efforts by the CSTO member States in countering the threats to collective security goes back considerably further than the relatively short period during which the organization itself has existed. Sixty-five years ago the peoples of our countries, standing shoulder to shoulder and at the cost of enormous sacrifices and unprecedented bravery, defended our common freedom and future, making a decisive contribution to common victory over fascism. It is precisely for this reason that such great attention is being paid and such great significance attached in the CSTO countries to the forthcoming 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, something that Mr. Bordyza mentioned in his statement.

Allow me also to wish the CSTO Secretary General every success in his future work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.