

Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE OSCE AT THE 952nd (SPECIAL)
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 May 2013

**In response to the address by H.E. Elmar Mammadyarov,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We join in welcoming the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan,
Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, to the Permanent Council.

In our view, statements to the Permanent Council by ministers for foreign affairs are a clear indication of the level of importance given by participating States to co-operation within the OSCE. They provide a good opportunity to learn first-hand about a country's approaches to and assessments of the Organization's activities, which should of course be taken into account in our joint work.

We note the active and principled position taken by Azerbaijan on a wide range of areas in which our Organization works. For the most part the approaches of Belarus and Azerbaijan within the OSCE are similar. This applies to increasing the effectiveness of the OSCE and the need to strengthen the politico-military and economic and environmental dimensions of security, and to the importance of developing a balanced dialogue within the third basket.

The Republic of Belarus has consistently supported the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, and of the parties themselves in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, to find a way of resolving it.

We believe that Azerbaijan is justified in wanting to change the status of the OSCE field presence and transform it into a Project Co-ordinator's office, the activities of which would be aimed at solving specific practical issues in the interests of the host country. We are of the opinion that the host country's position must be fully taken into account by the other participating States when determining the need for and format of an OSCE field presence.

In conclusion, we should like to wish you, distinguished Minister, continued success in your position of responsibility.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.