

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 925th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 October 2012

Regarding the parliamentary elections in Belarus

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the question raised by the delegations of the European Union and the United States of America regarding the holding of elections to the Chamber of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus on 23 September 2012, we should like to set out our position on this matter.

Representatives of the Russian Federation, some members of the observation mission sent by the Commonwealth of Independent States, and others from the Central Election Commission of Russia took part in the observation of these elections. The overall assessment by the Russian observers was that the elections proceeded freely, openly, in a calm environment and with a high voter turnout.

Unfortunately, the opinion of the OSCE observers was at odds with that assessment, and a politically motivated approach invariably prevailed once again in their preliminary conclusions. Such a difference in the assessments of the elections eloquently confirms the urgent need for the drafting and adoption of common, collectively agreed rules for election observation, including the vote count, and election processes in general in the OSCE area. Russia and the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization are constantly drawing attention to this. I might recall that as long ago as 2007 Russia and several other OSCE participating States submitted a draft document on this subject, a document which has lost none of its relevance.

Thank you for your attention.