

EEF.DEL/7/11
7 February 2011

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALYAKSANDR SYCHOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE, AT THE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE
19th MEETING OF THE OSCE ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Vienna, 7 February 2011

**Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the
fields of development of sustainable energy and transport**

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Belarus attaches great importance to the development of co-operation within the OSCE economic and environmental dimension, which is an integral part of the concept of comprehensive security.

The annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, the new cycle of which is commencing with today's preparatory meeting, is one of the most important instruments in our dialogue. The 2011 Economic and Environmental Forum will take place in a new and improved format, which, we hope, will help to increase its effectiveness and success rate.

We regard the focus of the present Economic and Environmental Forum on the questions of sustainable energy and transport as entirely justified. In the modern world energy and transport constitute a kind of "circulatory system" for States and are of key importance for sustainable economic development, stability and security.

The energy challenges of the twenty-first century, energy efficiency and sustainable use of traditional and new energy sources, effective national policy, good governance and transparency, and regional and subregional co-operation with respect to energy are all questions that deserve thorough consideration and specific action.

We fully share the Lithuanian Chairmanship's vision as regards the need to further develop joint efforts to increase energy security.

Belarus systematically supports the development of energy dialogue within the OSCE and has made its contribution including through the organization in Minsk of a series of regional expert OSCE seminars on critical energy infrastructure, alternative energy sources

and energy efficiency. We are willing to continue to provide a platform for regional meetings of this kind. In particular, we believe it would be useful to hold a separate event in 2011 on the legal aspects of energy collaboration.

At the OSCE Astana Summit the Republic of Belarus proposed the drafting and approval of key principles for co-operation in this area, which would find a common denominator between the interests of producing, transit and consuming countries. We are also in favour of strengthening the OSCE's role in the protection of energy infrastructure, the use of alternative and renewable energy sources and ensuring access for all countries to advanced energy technologies.

In this context, we are counting on the continued substantive discussion of the report by the OSCE Secretary General concerning the complementary role of the Organization in the field of energy security.

Today's preparatory meeting provides a good opportunity to exchange experience and best practices as regards the development of sustainable energy and to try to identify the specific role and contribution of the OSCE to enhancing energy security.

In conclusion, allow me to wish all the participants an interesting and fruitful meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.