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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GENEVIÈVE RENAUX,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 November 2010

**Elections in Belgium: follow-up to the recommendations by the
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**

Mr. Chairperson,

Belgium would like to inform the OSCE participating States and institutions of the various legislative measures that have been taken in response to the recommendations by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights following its observation of the legislative elections in Belgium in June 2007.

In terms of procedure, the Electoral Code has been modified not only to include the possibility of receiving international observers and observers from Belgian civil society but also to standardize the procedure for verifying signatures when a list of candidates is presented by the electors and to improve the training of the presiding officials and assessors in the polling and ballot-counting stations.

As regards electronic voting, initiatives have been undertaken by way of a preliminary draft law to introduce a paper trail that would enable the results to be audited and the ballots to be recounted manually and to permit the publication of reports by control bodies and a clearer explanation of the technical and operational aspects of electronic voting. A vulnerability study of the entire system is also planned by experts in information technology security.

Thank you for your attention.