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Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY
THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE
OSCE AT THE 1226th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 May 2019

On World Press Freedom Day

Mr. Chairperson,

On the eve of World Press Freedom Day, we should like to mention the attachment of Belarus to ensuring freedom of expression and of the media, which play a highly important role in the building of an active, informed and dynamically developing society. Belarus pays constant attention to this aspect and takes a responsible approach to the fulfilment of its commitments within the OSCE.

We note the importance of the work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and his office, with which we have established and continue to pursue constructive dialogue.

Mr. Désir visited Belarus from 18 to 20 March this year, where he met the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Information, the leadership of the specialist parliamentary committee and representatives of the media community and non-governmental sector.

Along with some critical comments, the OSCE Representative praised the open and constructive dialogue on freedom of the media in Belarus. He noted with approval the high level of Internet availability in the country and its growing role in promoting new media, which provide an important platform for debate in public and online.

Following the meetings, guidelines were elaborated for continuing joint efforts to ensure fulfilment by Belarus of its OSCE commitments regarding freedom of the media.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.