

PC.DEL/308/12  
30 March 2012

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 907th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 March 2012

**Regarding the European Union's sanctions against the Republic of Belarus**

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the question being discussed here today regarding the imposition of sanctions by the European Union against a number of Belarusian citizens and enterprises, we should like to state our position on that subject.

The Russian Federation has on more than one occasion spoken of the inadmissibility of resorting to measures of economic pressure or coercion. However, the sanctions announced by the European Union, unlike the measures taken earlier, are in fact of an economic nature, with the consequence that they can negatively affect co-operation between countries that are part of the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space and may pose something of a threat to the economic security of our States and, more generally, to the development of integration processes on the Eurasian continent.

This standpoint was clearly set out in the Joint Statement by the Governments of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation that was published on 11 March of this year and circulated within the OSCE.

We should like to add that the European Union's sanctions will have an indirect effect on Russian interests as well in the light of the increasing degree of integration between the economies of Belarus and Russia and the prospects for a transition to a Eurasian economic union.

We once again call on our Western colleagues to refrain from a policy of pressure vis-à-vis Belarus and to adopt instead a policy of equal and respectful dialogue with that country as a way of settling any problems that may arise.

Thank you for your attention.