

PC.DEL/868/12  
25 September 2012

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY THE  
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS AT THE  
924th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 September 2012

**In response to the statements by the delegations of the  
United States of America and the European Union**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have listened carefully to the statements by the delegations of the United States of America and Cyprus on behalf of the European Union and shall bring the points made in them to the attention of our capital.

With regard to the protest in Minsk on 18 September of this year, we should like to point out that it was not sanctioned and was held in violation of Belarusian laws.

The journalists detained during this event were released once their identity had been established. Several of the people actively involved in the picket were given administrative fines by the court.

Altogether, we find it unacceptable to make politically motivated generalizations and assertions regarding some sort of government-led “campaign of intimidation” and violence against representatives of Belarusian civil society.

As for the matter raised by the European Union, we should like to stress that the fact that four foreign citizens were denied entry visas has nothing whatsoever to do with election observation. These citizens are foreigners whose entry into the territory of the Republic of Belarus is regarded as undesirable. We are certain that in view of the overall number of registered OSCE observers (some 400) this fact is unlikely to have any impact on the observation process.

Belarus intends to co-operate constructively with the observation missions sent by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The ODIHR mission’s interim report clearly testifies to this.

We should like once again to confirm that the Belarusian authorities will do everything necessary to ensure that the elections proceed openly and in full accordance with the national legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.