

FSC-PC.DEL/12/09  
19 February 2009

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALYAKSANDR SYCHOV,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
TO THE OSCE, AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE FORUM FOR  
SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 February 2009

Mr. Chairman,  
Madam Chairperson,

The permanent delegation of the Republic of Belarus welcomes the statement by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Alexander Grushko, at this joint meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and the OSCE Permanent Council.

We should like to thank him for his detailed analysis of the European security situation and also for his thoughts on improving the European security architecture through the elaboration of an appropriate treaty.

Unfortunately, recent events and trends in the OSCE area are evidence of a continuing erosion of the basic principles of European security and an inability to prevent new conflicts and to ensure equal security for all participating States. As we see it, fundamental arms control regimes are being destroyed, some States are trying to strengthen their security at the expense of others' interests, and the danger of a bloc mentality is increasing. In this context, fundamental OSCE principles and commitments increasingly remain aspirations on paper.

In this situation, the Republic of Belarus welcomes and supports the initiative of the Russian Federation to draw up a treaty on European security and considers the proposal to be an important and timely one. We believe that this legally binding document will make it possible to provide sufficient guarantees for the security of all the countries of the Euro-Atlantic area, strengthen confidence-building measures, confirm the basic principles of arms control and improve relations between States in this sphere.

For our part, we intend to take a most serious approach to the drafting of a treaty on European security and to participate in the efforts to give substance to this concept and to the draft treaty. In this connection, we believe that priority attention should be focused on the politico-military aspects of security that, as experience has shown, are currently having a decisive effect on the political climate in Europe.

It is important not to lose any time and to get down to consultations this year on the basic parameters of the future document. We place particular hopes on the discussion of these issues during the Annual Security Review Conference. We also welcome the decision of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to include the European security architecture as a central item on its agenda this year.

At the Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki, the Belarusian delegation supported the idea of holding a summit, which would officially mark the start of negotiations on a treaty on European security. As we understand it, OSCE participating States and international organizations active in the Euro-Atlantic area could take part in such a meeting. We believe that the OSCE could become one of the real forums for work on the treaty on European security.

We call on all our OSCE partners to take a most serious and responsible approach to the discussions on this matter, something that will undoubtedly bring us closer to comprehensive, equal and indivisible security on the basis of co-operation. It is only through open dialogue that we shall be able to overcome the growing crisis of confidence, prevent the entrenchment or appearance of new dividing lines in Europe and strengthen the OSCE's authority.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson and Mr. Chairman.