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Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY MR. DENIS SIDORENKO,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BELARUS TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 July 2011

**Regarding the draft decision on the agenda for the
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, I should like to thank you for the information presented on the situation regarding the draft decision concerning the agenda for the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. We commend the efforts of the Lithuanian Chairmanship, including the organization of the relevant informal consultations with a view to finding mutually acceptable solutions to this important question.

Belarus's position on the organizational questions regarding the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, including its duration, is well known. For a few years now, Belarus and a number of other participating States have been submitting proposals for optimizing this event, and the present year is no exception.

Unfortunately, our current proposal for organizing the work of the 2011 Warsaw meeting over a period of five working days – without detriment to its thematic content – was in effect ignored by our partners once again and not taken into account in the Chairmanship's draft decision.

At the same time, during the discussions we were pleased to note that the overwhelming majority of delegations expressed their readiness for further dialogue on improving the modalities of OSCE events in the human dimension with a view to making them more effective and attractive – as is, indeed, provided for in Permanent Council Decision No. 476, with which we are all familiar.

In recognition of the overall complexity of the process of considering and making adjustments to the work of OSCE human dimension meetings and also in the light of the statements made by our partners, Belarus submitted during the informal consultations, in a spirit of compromise, a specific proposal on a possible solution, which would in effect result in a consensus-based confirmation of our declared common readiness to begin substantive discussions and focused work on improving the modalities of OSCE events within the third

basket at the same time as the adoption of the agenda for the 2011 Warsaw meeting proposed by the Lithuanian Chairmanship.

This proposal is on the negotiating table, and we are open to further consultations with our partners. We hope that in the time remaining before the OSCE summer recess, given the necessary good will and a truly constructive approach, we shall succeed in removing the persisting differences and in adopting important decisions in the interests of all the participating States and the Organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.