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**STATEMENT BY MR. VALERY VORONETSKY,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 November 2011

Regarding the presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with today's discussion about the presidential elections held in Kyrgyzstan on 30 October 2011, we should like to make the following point.

What is particularly important is that by and large the elections took place in a calm and peaceful environment. The electorate had a wide choice of candidates to vote for, and the electoral campaign itself was open and conducted in compliance with fundamental freedoms.

We hope that the results of these elections will help to further consolidate Kyrgyzstan's society and strengthen that country, a partner of Belarus within the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community and elsewhere.

At the same time, these elections once again confirmed that the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) takes a different approach to the formation of election observation missions depending on whether the countries are to the east or to the west of Vienna, so to speak.

We trust that an analysis of the OSCE's experience in monitoring the presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan will facilitate further discussion as regards the improvement of the ODIHR's election observation activities and their coherent organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.