

Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY MR. VALERY VORONETSKY,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 925th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 October 2012

**In response to the statement by the President of the  
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Migliori, to the Permanent Council and join in congratulating him on his election to that position.

We have listened carefully to his statement and should like to share some of our thoughts regarding individual aspects touched upon in that statement.

The Parliamentary Assembly is undoubtedly an important and integral part of the OSCE. Its active stance on any number of items on the agenda of our Organization is notable and useful. This was also clearly confirmed at the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Monaco.

For example, in Monaco the Assembly adopted a most topical resolution on improving election observation in OSCE participating States. This subject is discussed regularly in the Permanent Council. We welcome the Parliamentary Assembly's readiness to engage in dialogue to improve the OSCE's election-related work. We trust that the need, as mentioned in the resolution, to conduct a comparative analysis of the electoral systems and practices of all the OSCE participating States, with the support of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, will ultimately lead to the drafting and approval by consensus of common standards, principles and rules for the observation of national elections by the OSCE.

Another significant decision by the Parliamentary Assembly in Monaco was the adoption of the largely symbolic resolution on freedom of movement in the OSCE area. We hope that this topic, which has undeservedly been put on the back burner, will be given additional impetus in 2013 during the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE, which, as we understand, regards the problem of freedom of movement as one of its future priorities in the human dimension.

A concrete practical contribution by the Belarusian delegation to the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in 2012 was to initiate the resolution adopted in Monaco on promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy. Questions raised in that resolution are relevant to all OSCE participating States and in many respects consistent with the theme of the 2013 Economic and Environmental Forum. We are looking forward to their continued substantive discussion within the second dimension.

At the same time, a matter of concern is the Parliamentary Assembly's continuing practice of adopting biased country-specific resolutions that contravene the spirit of dialogue and mutual respect, which leads to the Assembly becoming more distanced from pragmatic and constructive co-operation with the participating States.

In conclusion, allow me to wish Mr. Migliori every success in the honourable and responsible position of President of the Parliamentary Assembly of our Organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.