

Delegation of Belarus

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

5 July 2010

Regarding the interim report on the Corfu Process

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, allow me to commend in the highest terms the efforts of the Chairmanship, the co-ordinators and the OSCE Secretariat for their timely and high-quality preparation of the interim report on the Corfu Process.

This report gives a provisional summary of our joint work this year in the development of the European security dialogue within the OSCE in accordance with the decisions adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens.

In our opinion, the interim report reflects the essence and character of the Corfu discussions and provides a detailed picture of the proposals that have been announced by different delegations. There is clearly a wide spread of opinions among the participating States as regards the approaches to strengthening European security and the OSCE, and the significant number of topics and specific questions raised is impressive. On the whole, the report can serve as a good basis for further work.

Undoubtedly, every participating State has its priorities and its view as to how the modern-day European security architecture and our Organization in particular should evolve. For Belarus, key tasks are overcoming the fragmentation of the security space in the Euro-Atlantic region, ensuring the genuine indivisibility of security, reforming and increasing the effectiveness of the OSCE, and adapting it to contemporary threats and challenges. These were the ideas behind the proposals made by our delegation, *inter alia* in the form of food-for-thought papers with a number of partners.

We firmly believe that all proposals, however conflictual they may seem, should remain on the negotiating table and should become the subject of further consideration. Any prioritization at this stage would be artificial and would not take into account the views of all participating States and in so doing would potentially undermine such fundamental principles

as inclusiveness and comprehensiveness. This is important if we want not only to improve understanding but also to increase confidence among the participating States.

We believe that the discussion and practical work on the proposals should continue to take place within the framework of the existing OSCE consultative bodies, with the aim of adopting, wherever this is possible, specific consensus-based decisions. We are also open to the continuation of strategic dialogue on the most important and acute questions of European security at the level of permanent representatives under the auspices of the Chairmanship. At the same time, given the work carried out and the discussions held in 2009 and 2010, we believe it possible to reduce the intensity of the so-called “Corfu meetings” and to make them truly strategic.

We trust that the forthcoming informal ministerial meeting in Almaty in July and a summit at the end of the year will make it possible to formulate a common vision of the future dialogue on questions of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security within the OSCE, to identify its principal areas and to outline the relevant reference points.

The Corfu Process has clearly demonstrated the existence of quite a number of serious problems and questions that warrant the closest attention of the Heads of State or Government of our countries. Political will is needed – will expressed at the highest level – if many of these problems are to be solved. This only confirms the need for an OSCE summit in 2010.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.