

Delegation of Belarus

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

16 February 2012

Regarding the presidential elections in Turkmenistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to congratulate our Turkmen colleagues on the conduct of the presidential elections.

We drew attention to the active participation of the Turkmen electorate, as illustrated by the high turnout.

In the opinion of the observer mission from the Commonwealth of Independent States the election campaign in Turkmenistan was organized to a high standard and in full compliance with the national law. The elections themselves were conducted in an open and calm atmosphere. The mission identified only a few technical irregularities.

The President of the Republic of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, congratulated Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov on winning the presidential election stating in particular that Belarus and Turkmenistan were linked by a relationship of genuine partnership and constructive co-operation based on trust and mutual respect. Belarus expects a continuation of the traditionally rich and multifaceted dialogue between the two countries.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.