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Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY MR. DENIS SIDORENKO,  
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REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE OSCE, AT THE  
2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 25 October 2010

**Economic and environmental dimension (EED)**

**Session 6: Environmental cluster – Promoting co-operation on security aspects of the environment by, *inter alia*, sustainable use and management of natural resources and preventing pollution, land degradation, ecological risks, natural and man-made disasters; the way forward**

Mr. Chairperson,

Environmental security is one of the core components of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security. This is something that we are well aware of and acknowledge in Belarus, which together with Ukraine and Russia suffered most as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

In my statement I should like to dwell on the question of climate change and the Kyoto Protocol.

In recent years, the attention of many countries, including Belarus, has been focused on drafting a new climate agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012. Our efforts together are aimed at the adoption in the near future of a comprehensive and effective international treaty on climate change.

Evidence of the proactive position taken by Belarus on this question can be seen in a number of Belarusian initiatives as part of the negotiation process on the new climate agreement, which are aimed at upholding the interests of all parties and enhancing the national potential of each country to reduce man-made emissions.

Alongside work on the new climate agreement, Belarus is continuing its efforts to promote an amendment by it to Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Having acceded to the Copenhagen Agreement, the Republic of Belarus announced its intention to reduce its emissions by 2020 by 10 per cent compared with the 1990 level. The entry into force of the Belarusian amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, establishing very strict

quantified commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to other countries, is of prime interest to Belarus.

The full participation of Belarus in the Kyoto Protocol and our country's inclusion in the single international system for measurement, reporting and verification will make it possible for the Republic of Belarus to assume its share of responsibility for the safe future of our planet.

Furthermore, the Belarusian amendment creates an international precedent, providing for the assumption by one of the parties of the strictest quantified commitments not in the distant future but within the framework of existing international climate legislation. The adoption of the Belarusian amendment could serve as a positive example for other States as regards taking on commitments in the new commitment period.

Meanwhile, the ratification of our amendment is currently stuck, primarily on the part of our partners from the European Union (EU). Unfortunately, we find ourselves caught in a vicious circle in the dialogue with the European Union on this matter: the EU Member States point to the position taken by the European Commission, while the European Commission refers to the absence of a consolidated position within the EU.

I might mention that the decision on the Belarusian amendment was adopted by the parties on the basis of consensus, in other words all the States Parties to the Kyoto Protocol were in favour of adopting that amendment. In this way, all the European Union countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol unequivocally expressed their intention to support the Republic of Belarus.

It is our hope that the negotiations with the European Union on this topic will continue in bilateral and other formats, and we are also looking forward to a positive consolidated decision by the EU on the ratification of the Belarusian amendment some time soon.

In our view, the demonstration of greater flexibility by the European Union in resolving this question would enhance the image of the EU as a standard-bearer in the efforts to combat climate change. A positive decision by the EU recognizing the Belarusian amendment would serve as further evidence of the EU's commitment to the goals of combating climate change and as an indication of a constructive approach to ensuring equal rights for all participants in the global climate process. As such, it would give substance to the EU's position on this subject within the OSCE and make it more convincing.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.