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**STATEMENT BY  
THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
TO THE OSCE AT THE 987th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 March 2014

**In response to the statement by the  
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Belarus warmly welcomes the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, to this Permanent Council meeting. We thank him for the report presented today on his work and his Office's work plan for the current year.

Belarus supports the important work of the Co-ordinator and advocates a further stepping up of efforts in the economic and environmental dimension, which is an integral part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive and co-operative security. We hope to see a greater degree of efficiency in the OSCE's second basket. We look forward to a contribution to the thematic discussions within the Helsinki+40 process on strengthening the economic and environmental dimension and close co-operation between the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and the co-ordinator of Helsinki+40 discussions, the distinguished Permanent Representative of Tajikistan, Mr. Ismatullo Nasredinov.

We welcome the OCEEA's activities in the area of good governance and combating corruption, transport security and energy and environmental security. In this context, we commend the seminar organized in late January of this year in Minsk by the OCEEA in conjunction with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

The issues of socio-economic development, energy security and environmental protection have a direct effect on each and every human being, their quality of life and well-being. Further efforts by the OSCE in these areas can and should make a real, practical contribution to the sustainable development and stability of our countries. We supported the theme proposed by the Swiss Chairmanship for the Economic and Environmental Forum, with its focus on preventing environmental threats to security. We believe that the first

preparatory meeting for the Economic and Environmental Forum established a reasonable basis for further work to that end.

We also believe that the potential offered by the second basket as a platform for dialogue could be used more effectively to develop and strengthen co-operation between the various integration communities and processes in the OSCE area.

In conclusion, let me wish the distinguished Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities success in his work in the future and assure him of our consistent support in the efforts to strengthen the OSCE's second dimension.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.