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

3 March 2011

**In response to the statement by
the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome H.E. Mr. Edward Nalbandyan, the distinguished Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, to this meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council and thank him for his interesting and informative statement.

We should like to underscore that long-standing and robust ties of friendship and co-operation unite Armenia and Belarus. Armenia is an important strategic partner of the Republic of Belarus. We are trustworthy allies in the Collective Security Treaty Organization, of which Belarus currently holds the presidency. Our countries collaborate closely, both at the bilateral level and in various formats within the framework of international organizations.

We note the significant and constructive contribution made by the Republic of Armenia to the work of the OSCE. We observe with satisfaction that our positions on a whole range of questions on the agenda of our Organization and the priorities for its activity, as well as approaches to improving and strengthening the OSCE, coincide in many respects. We trust that this close co-operation will continue in the future.

As a member of the OSCE Minsk Group, the Republic of Belarus fully supports the efforts of its Co-Chairs and hopes for a speedy and peaceful settlement of the protracted conflict. This will contribute to enhancing security and stability throughout the OSCE region.

In conclusion, we should like to wish the minister every success in his high post and assure him that Armenia can always count on Belarus as a loyal and trustworthy partner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.