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**STATEMENT BY  
THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
TO THE OSCE AT THE 942<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 February 2013

**Regarding the presidential elections in Armenia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to congratulate our Armenian colleagues on the recent important political event in the life of the country, the holding of presidential elections.

The election campaign, during which the voters were able to make their choice freely, was well organized and conducted calmly and openly.

The observation mission of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in which observers from Belarus took an active part, noted that the elections were free, transparent and competitive and in full compliance with the country's national legislation.

We also took note of the positive assessment of the presidential elections in Armenia by the missions of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in particular with regard to the legal framework in which the elections were organized and the role of the mass media. It is gratifying to note that the OSCE observers saw clear improvements in the election process compared with the last electoral campaign.

In spite of some divergences in the assessments of certain aspects of the election process, we welcome the general positive opinion by international observers of this recent election of the President of Armenia.

The Belarusian Head of State congratulated Serzh Sargsyan on his convincing victory in the elections and expressed his confidence in particular in the continued realization by all sides of the considerable potential of Belarusian-Armenian co-operation based on the historically friendly relations between the two nations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.