



*Présidence luxembourgeoise
du Conseil de l'Union européenne*

Représentation Permanente du Luxembourg

auprès de l'OSCE

Wallnerstrasse 2/1/2

Tél. : +43-1-478 21 68

Fax : +43-1-478 26 43

E-mail : vienne.osce@mae.etat.lu

PC.DEL/209/05

17 March 2005

ENGLISH only

Permanent Council No 548

17 March 2005

**EU STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT OF BELARUS ON THE
BELARUS ASSISTANCE COORDINATION WORKSHOP HELD ON 17-18 MARCH IN
VILNIUS**

With regard to the statement by Belarus, the European Union would like to inform the Permanent Council that a *Belarus assistance coordination workshop* organized by the European Commission and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, commences today in Vilnius.

Following the Council of the European Union conclusions of 22 November 2004 this workshop is the third in a series of three events on EU assistance to Belarus, including the assistance to democratisation and the strengthening of the civil society in Belarus, addressing the needs of the population, cross-border cooperation, tackling environmental, health and other care issues. It brings together representatives of the EU Member States, the European Commission, non-governmental organizations, international financing institutions, international organizations and other donor countries. The purpose of the event is to exchange views with other donors, and to communicate our assistance policy approach to the public.