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**STATEMENT BY MR. VALERY VORONETSKY,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 914th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 May 2012

**Regarding the report by the OSCE Special Representative and  
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to the Permanent Council meeting and thank her for her highly informative report.

For Belarus, a country which advocates greater international co-ordination of anti-trafficking efforts, it is very important that combating trafficking in human beings is a cross-cutting issue for the OSCE's work.

Last year, we managed to agree upon and adopt the Ministerial Declaration on Combating All Forms of Human Trafficking at the Ministerial Council in Vilnius. This testifies to the fact that the OSCE is striving to maintain its focus on the issue of combating trafficking in human beings and to adapt its activities to new circumstances.

The fact that the Irish Chairmanship made anti-trafficking one of the priority areas of its work this year is entirely justified. In this connection, we agree with Ms. Giammarinaro's assessment of the annual OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on the rule of law framework for combating trafficking in human beings which was held in Warsaw on 14–16 May this year.

In our view, the joint event with the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Council of Europe in St. Petersburg in April this year was also successful.

We also welcome the close co-operation of the Office of the Special Representative with United Nations bodies, in particular with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) and also as part of the UN.GIFT initiative.

We should like once again to draw attention to the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. As is well known, Belarus was one of the countries

that initiated and developed the Global Plan, and we have pointed out on several occasions that the OSCE could make a useful contribution to the implementation of this extremely relevant and important international document on combating trafficking in human beings.

We should like to assure you that Belarus is taking a responsible approach to implementing its international commitments with regard to combating trafficking in human beings. One practical example of our efforts is the work of the international centre for combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings in Minsk, which is based at the Academy of the Belarusian Ministry of Internal Affairs. In this context, we should like to thank the Office of the Special Representative and the OSCE Secretariat for their expert assistance with the organization of thematic training courses at that training centre (in fact, the most recent course of this kind was held in May this year).

We are interested in continuing and developing co-operation with the OSCE in combating trafficking in human beings, including through direct project work.

We hope that the issue of anti-trafficking will be among the priorities of the work of the Ukraine, the next Chairmanship of the OSCE.

In conclusion, allow me to thank the Office of the Special Representative for its active efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and to wish it continued success in its endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.