

Vienna, 7 April 2011

Ambassador Janez Lenarčič
Director, ODIHR
Aleje Ujazdowskie 19
00-557 Warsaw
Poland

Ambassador Lenarčič

In our letter of 6 April 2011 to Ambassador Alyaksandr Sychov, Head of the Delegation of Belarus to the OSCE, we the undersigned participating States of the OSCE invoked Paragraph 12 of the 1991 Moscow Document, in order to establish a fact-finding mission to Belarus to examine concerns regarding the demonstrations that took place there on 19 December as well as developments since then. We expect the mission to investigate all matters relating to: the arrest, detention, conviction and sentencing of several hundred protestors and many journalists; allegations of torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, physical coercion and intimidation; and the apparent harassment of human rights activists, lawyers, opposition political parties, independent media and civil society organisations. Belarus's actions with regard to the demonstrations may constitute a particularly serious threat to the fulfilment of its OSCE commitments in the human dimension.

In accordance with the procedure laid down in Paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Moscow Document, we are pleased to confirm that we have appointed Professor Emmanuel Decaux of France from the resource list of experts (ODIHR.GAL/1/11 of 7 January 2011 refers) to serve as a rapporteur on the fact-finding mission.

We look forward to working with ODIHR and the Government of Belarus in the coming days on the establishment of the mission, in accordance with the timelines and co-operative procedures foreseen in the Moscow Document, in particular Paragraph 6.

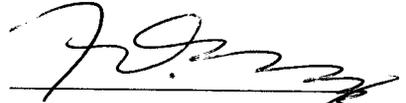
Mr Michael Schmunk
Permanent Mission of **Germany** to the OSCE



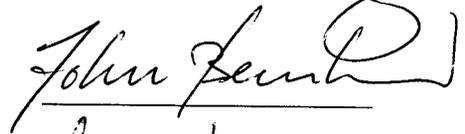
Dr Carol Fuller
United States Mission to the OSCE



Ambassador Fredericka Gregory
Delegation of **Canada** to the OSCE



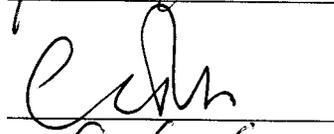
Ambassador John Bernhard
Mission of **Denmark** to the OSCE



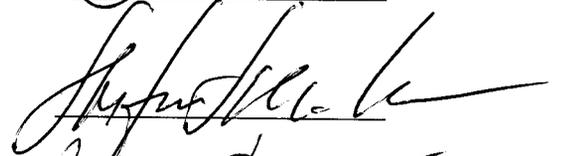
Ambassador Timo Kantola
Permanent Mission of **Finland** to the OSCE



Mr Geoffrey Cole
United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE



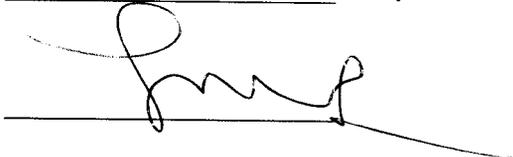
Ambassador Stefan Skjaldarson
Permanent Mission of **Iceland** to the OSCE



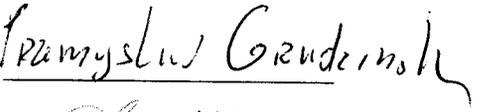
Mr Asbjørn Brandsrud
Permanent Delegation of **Norway** to the OSCE



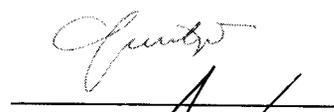
Mr Joan Coert
Permanent Representation of the **Netherlands** to the OSCE



Ambassador Przemyslaw Grudzinski
Permanent Mission of the Republic of **Poland** to the OSCE



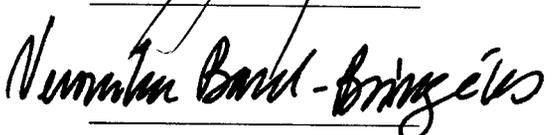
Ambassador Cornel Feruță
Permanent Mission of **Romania** to the OSCE



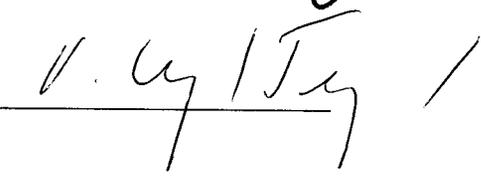
Mr Peter Hulényi
Permanent Mission of **Slovakia** to the OSCE



Ambassador Veronika Bard-Bringéus
Permanent Delegation of **Sweden** to the OSCE



Ambassador Veronika Kuchyňová Šmigolová
Permanent Mission of the **Czech Republic** to the OSCE



cc: Ambassador Alyaksandr Sychoy, Head of the Delegation of Belarus to the OSCE