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**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON EXECUTIONS IN BELARUS**  
As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Norway condemns the execution of Vladislav Kovalyov and Dmitry Konavalov in Belarus this weekend. The way the case has been handled raises questions as to whether these men have had proper protection under the law.

Norway is opposed to the use of the death penalty in any circumstances on grounds of principle. This message has been clearly communicated to the Belarusian Ambassador to Norway at a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 15 March. The Ambassador was called in to the meeting in connection with the introduction of tougher sanctions by the EU. Norway has aligned itself with this new sanctions regime.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**