Ress Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis: A missed opportunity for Belarus

Strasbourg, 30.09.2008 – President Lukashenko never misses an opportunity to miss an opportunity. There was hope that the recent parliamentary elections would be a turning point in the self-imposed isolation of Belarus from the rest of Europe. Unfortunately, it has not happened. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was not even allowed to observe the vote, but the OSCE was there and concluded that the elections failed to meet European standards. As a friend of the Belarus people I am deeply disappointed, but I still hope that they will soon have an opportunity for a genuinely free and fair vote.