

**Speech**  
**of H.E. Mr. Pavel Latushka,**  
**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of**  
**the Republic of Belarus in France**  
**on event in the Council of Europe commemorated**  
**to the 30-anniversary of Chernobyl catastrophe**

*28 April 2016*

Excellencies,

Dear permanent representatives,

Dear colleagues,

Dear members of Association "Alsace - Belarus"

This days we mark the 30th Anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Commemorating this tragic date, we remember all the victims, including all emergency and recovery operation workers, of the twentieth century's major technological catastrophe.

This accident resulted in large-scale radioactive contamination of vast areas in Europe, most heavily affecting the territory of Belarus. It has had an adverse impact on the lives and health of millions of people, in particular children, and has imposed a massive burden on the economy and environment of the most affected States.

We appreciate the enormous efforts made by the national governments concerned to address the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, as well as the involvement of the international community, which provided substantial assistance to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. We commend the contribution made by non-governmental organizations, private initiatives and individuals.

Despite the progress achieved the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster continue to affect the life of the population residing in the contaminated territories.

Dear colleagues,

Behind of this Cinema room, you can see a small but very important exhibition of photos "Belarus. 30 years after Chernobyl". This photos demonstrate first days after the Chernobyl accident and you can see the difficulties facing our people these days.

The Chernobyl tragedy affected at international, national and personal dimensions, goes through the lives of people and I am not exception. The brother of my mother was died from leukemia 4 years after Chernobyl catastrophe. He was the disaster fighter.

In concluding my statement I would like to thank the Private Office of the Secretary General for this opportunity to be here and demonstrate the short film "The lessons of Chernobyl" in the Council of Europe, in the "Palace of Europe".

Thank you for your attention.