



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/775
28 December 2006

Original: ENGLISH

644th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 644, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 775
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE OFFICE IN MINSK**

The Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk until 31 December 2007.

PC.DEC/775
28 December 2006
Attachment 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT
UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE
OSCE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

By the delegation of Belarus:

“In connection with the decision to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk until 31 December 2007, our delegation would like to make the following statement:

The Republic of Belarus wishes to stress once more that the procedure for implementing all projects and programmes of the OSCE Office in Minsk in accordance with Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 486 of 28 June 2002 and 526 of 30 December 2002 foresees prior consultations and co-operation with the Government of the host country. The Republic of Belarus considers that the result of such consultations must be the Government's agreement regarding the implementation of each project or programme. No activity financed from extrabudgetary funds may be carried out without the agreement of the host country. The project activity of the OSCE Office in Minsk must meet the real needs of Belarus. The OSCE Office in Minsk should focus primary attention on transferring its tasks and experience to Belarusian State institutions.

The OSCE Office in Minsk must carry out monitoring activities in the areas where it is to provide assistance to the Government of Belarus on the basis of factual data, using all sources of information in a balanced manner. The coverage of any particular events and facts without presenting the official opinion of the Government of the host country is inadmissible. In its reports the Office must, first and foremost, report on the work it has actually carried out with a view to implementing its mandate. It must refrain from political assessments of events and predictions regarding the development of the situation in the host country.

In their activities the personnel of the OSCE Office in Minsk must be guided, *inter alia*, by the principle of political neutrality and non-interference in the internal affairs of Belarus.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

PC.DEC/775
28 December 2006
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT
UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE
OSCE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The interpretative statement we have just heard from the delegation of Belarus may reflect that delegation’s views, but I want to make clear that it does not reflect the views of the United States. We believe that one of the greatest strengths of our Organization is the flexibility and dynamic action of our field missions under the political direction of our Chairman-in-Office. Our field missions are given the mandate to undertake broad programme responsibilities, and not to have each and every project micro-managed. Our heads of mission should be free to develop projects based on their overall mandate, and to operate in all of the interdependent areas of work of the OSCE. That is the strength of our Organization, and that is the added value of our missions.

I would like to request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.’