



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

PC.DEC/710
15 December 2005

Original: ENGLISH

584th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 584, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 710
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 2006.

PC.DEC/710
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Attachment

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Belarus:

In connection with the decision to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk until 31 December 2006, 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 be implemented in a balanced way with respect to all areas defined in its mandate and must meet the real needs of the host country.

The OSCE Office in Minsk must carry out monitoring of the development of the situation 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 an 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 evolution 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.

In agreeing to this extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk until 2006, the Republic of Belarus at the same time considers it essential to implement further reform of the OSCE field presences and to take concrete decisions in this respect.

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