

Chairmanship: Greece

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(788th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Wednesday, 30 December 2009

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 10.25 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. Marinaki

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF
THE OSCE OFFICE IN MINSK

Chairperson

Decision: The Permanent Council adopted Decision No. 925 (PC.DEC/925)
on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk, the text of
which is appended to this journal.

Belarus (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision),
United States of America (Annex), Russian Federation, United Kingdom

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment of the Head of Mission of the OSCE Office in Minsk: Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

PC.JOUR/788
30 December 2009
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

788th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 788, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

We strongly support the one-year extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk and believe it can continue to do valuable work across all three dimensions of security. We believe that the flexibility and dynamic action of OSCE field missions is one of the Organization's greatest strengths, and we are firmly convinced that field missions should be free to develop and undertake programmes within their mandates, without having individual projects micro-managed.

We believe the efficient use of the valuable resources of the Minsk Office and the other OSCE institutions can greatly assist the Belarusian Government in making necessary progress in fulfilling its OSCE commitments.

We would like to request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



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

PC.DEC/925
30 December 2009

Original: ENGLISH

788th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 788, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 925
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 2010.

PC.DEC/925
30 December 2009
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Belarus:

“In connection with Decision No. 925 of the Permanent Council to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk until 31 December 2010, our delegation would like to make the following statement:

The Republic of Belarus wishes to stress once more that the procedure for the implementation by the OSCE Office in Minsk of all projects and programmes in accordance with Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 486 of 28 June 2002 and 526 of 30 December 2002 envisages 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 activities 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 is actually carrying out with a view to implementing its mandate. It must refrain from political assessments of events or predictions regarding the development of the situation in the host country.

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

The Republic of Belarus has repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that there are no objective grounds for the presence of an OSCE field mission in Belarus. What is more, we have regularly pointed out that OSCE missions are not permanent institutions and that plans must be made to gradually close them down as they fulfil their mandates.

In the event of a violation of its mandate and conducting activities beyond the agreed terms the Belarusian side reserves the right to discontinue at its discretion the work of the OSCE Office in Minsk.

In consenting to the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk for another one-year period, the Republic of Belarus firmly takes this position and will continue to work in that direction.

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