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.
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
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.”