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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Extension of the Mandate for the OSCE Office in Minsk

As delivered by
Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Casey Christensen
to the Special Permanent Council, Vienna
December 30, 2009

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 programs 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.