
429th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 429, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 526
OSCE OFFICE IN MINSK**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 185 of 18 September 1997 and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Belarus and the OSCE on the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus of 18 December 1997,

Welcoming the willingness of the Belarusian Government to continue its co-operation with the OSCE,

Decides:

1. To close the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus on 31 December 2002 and to open the OSCE Office in Minsk on 1 January 2003;
2. To give the OSCE Office in Minsk the following tasks:
 - Assist the Belarusian Government in further promoting institution building, in further consolidating the Rule of Law and in developing relations with civil society, in accordance with OSCE principles and commitments;
 - Assist the Belarusian Government in its efforts in developing economic and environmental activities;
 - Monitor and report accurately on the above mentioned objectives.
3. The OSCE Office in Minsk will perform its tasks and carry out its activities, in a transparent way, in close co-operation and consultation with the Government of Belarus and in full respect for the laws and regulations of the host country. All activities of the OSCE Office in Minsk not provided in its regular budget will be carried out in the form of projects and programmes, which must be relevant to the fulfilment of this mandate, consistent with OSCE objectives and in full compliance with the relevant procedures in force in the OSCE.
4. This mandate will apply until 31 December 2003. The prolongation and any changes of this mandate will be subject to a new decision of the OSCE Permanent Council, on an annual basis.
5. The OSCE Office in Minsk will be staffed by a Head of Office assisted by a team of experts.