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Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne

**Conseil Permanent No. 744
11 Décembre 2008**

**EU statement on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE
Office in Minsk until 31 December 2009**

With reference to the Interpretative Statement by the delegation of Belarus in connection with the Permanent Council's decision to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk the European Union would like to state the following:

The EU does not share the view of the delegation of Belarus that the OSCE Office in Minsk "should focus primary attention on transferring its tasks and experience to Belarusian state institutions". To narrow the focus of the work of the Office in this way is certainly not in line with its mandate. The EU wishes to stress again that OSCE Missions should be able to implement programmes and projects in all areas defined in their mandates, thus assisting the host governments to implement their OSCE commitments.

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

La Turquie, la Croatie* et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine*, pays candidats ; l'Albanie, la Bosnie – Herzégovine et le Monténégro, pays du processus de stabilisation et d'association et candidats potentiels ; ainsi que la République de Moldavie se rallient à cette déclaration.

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*La Croatie et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine continuent à participer au processus de stabilisation et d'association.

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