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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE
963rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 July 2013

Regarding the OSCE Office in Baku

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for its efforts in this matter.

Just four weeks ago, the Head of the OSCE Office in Baku reported on the diverse activities of his Office in Baku, which met with general approval. The newly adopted mandate now has regard for the interests of the host country. It also takes into account the comprehensive security approach of the OSCE and supports the contacts with civil society, which we consider to be essential. In view of the tasks of our Organization for Security and Co-operation, it is important for us that the OSCE is represented in the Southern Caucasus. We are therefore pleased that the mandates of the OSCE presences in Baku and in Yerevan were adopted today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.