

PC.DEL/683/11  
4 July 2011

ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

Delegation of Switzerland

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE 2011 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 30 June 2011

### **Working session I: Transnational threats and challenges: strengthening the coherence of the OSCE response and interaction with other international actors**

Madam Chairperson,

The importance of non-military security has steadily increased in the last few years. As we saw at the Astana Summit, there is strong backing among the OSCE participating States for the further development of activities to combat transnational threats. This is also demonstrated by the great interest at the two OSCE conferences on cybersecurity and combating drug trafficking held recently in Vienna.

I should like therefore to make a few remarks about three selected aspects of transborder challenges: cybersecurity, police co-operation and trafficking in human beings.

Let me start with cybersecurity.

As one of the world's leading locations for education and the provision of services – not least in the field of information technology – Switzerland has to deal with a high degree of international interdependence. Threats from cyberspace therefore pose a serious challenge for our security, and Switzerland attentively follows developments in this area.

As cyberspace obviously has no national borders, adequate and effective protection against threats in and from cyberspace – be they of a criminal, terrorist or military nature – is impossible without international and multilateral co-operation. Experience with cybercrime has shown the particular importance of strengthening national contact points, which make it possible to exchange information quickly and simply so as to make it more difficult for criminals to operate on the Internet.

The challenge of information security also raises important questions as to the legal implications of cyberthreats and the appropriate measures to counter them. It is now up to the international community to decide which forum is best suited to deal with and judge these questions.

As Switzerland already emphasized in the OSCE Conference on a Comprehensive Approach to Cyber Security in May, the OSCE basically has the potential in this area to make a contribution. We therefore look forward with interest to the strategy paper on the future role of the OSCE in cybersecurity.

My second point is police co-operation.

Switzerland welcomes the efforts to date to streamline OSCE activities to support police reform and develop capacities to combat the various transborder threats. It is also vital in our opinion that discussion of transborder threats is not separated from consideration of the OSCE's possibilities for promoting co-operation in this area.

We therefore welcome the proposal for a decision by the Ministerial Council on a strategic framework for police-related activities. We are confident that it will permit the necessary adaptations to enable the Secretariat to react even more specifically to the needs of the participating States and to provide valuable operational input to support prosecution and judicial authorities.

The third topic is trafficking in human beings.

The issue of trafficking in human beings belongs in any discussion of transnational threats. Not only is it a criminal act and serious violation of human rights, but as a rule it also involves international criminal networks.

It is therefore essential both to strengthen transborder co-operation at all levels and to develop internationally accepted standards and methods to combat trafficking in human beings.

As a major regional security organization, the OSCE is well placed to contribute to the success of this task and it has in fact been doing just that for many years now. Switzerland therefore supports all of the corresponding efforts of the OSCE.

In conclusion, we should like to emphasize once again the importance of institutionalized and coherent co-operation with the United Nations, the Council of Europe and other relevant international organizations and – in the spirit of the Astana Commemorative Declaration – urge that this co-operation be further intensified.

The variety of challenges, topics and efforts to deal with them also highlights the need for a coherent and co-ordinated approach by the OSCE to transborder threats and it is for this reason that Switzerland also supports a corresponding Ministerial Council decision.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.