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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE
968th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 October 2013

**In response to the address by Thorbjørn Jagland,
Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Switzerland would like to thank Secretary General Jagland for his concise and interesting statement. Following the Secretary General's example, I should like briefly to say something about the potential for co-operation by our two organizations.

Switzerland firmly believes in the added value of needs-based and complementary co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe, which it intends to continue in its forthcoming Chairmanship.

The operational co-operation between the institutions has proved itself in practice over the years and should be retained and further strengthened. As suggested in the Council of Europe paper last November, there is also additional potential for intensified co-operation. We believe, for example, that it would be useful to make better use of the synergies in the area of field presences, but also in other operational areas, where necessary, beyond the four defined areas of co-operation.

The first concrete steps in this direction have already been taken. Together with our Austrian colleagues, we have for some time been sounding out directions for operational co-operation. One of the first visible results of this project is the joint organization of a conference on combating trafficking in human beings that will be held in these rooms next February. A major part of this conference will be devoted to the question of partnership.

We should like to thank the Secretary General specifically for the importance attached by him to monitoring mechanisms and their reform. Political commitments are worthless if they are not put into practice. Improved implementation and the associated self-critical review of the monitoring mechanisms in the OSCE will therefore be one of the priorities of our Chairmanship next year. We are convinced that in this important area as well we can learn from the experiences of other international organizations, particularly the Council of Europe.

Mr. Chairperson,

Closer co-operation between international organizations was already a particular concern for us during the Swiss Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers three years ago. We shall encourage this strongly next year in the OSCE as well and therefore urge all participating States to support to the best of their ability the extension and intensification of co-operation by the OSCE with the Council of Europe and other organizations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.