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Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE
JOINT MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION AND PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 February 2009

**In response to the statement by Mr. Alexander Grushko,
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation**

Madam Chairperson,
Mr. Chairman,

The Swiss delegation welcomes Mr. Alexander Grushko, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, and thanks him for his comments.

The suggestion by the Russian Federation regarding a new European security architecture has been received with interest in Switzerland. We think it important that there should be a discussion on improving security in Europe and we are convinced that the OSCE is the proper platform for this purpose. From the perspective of the OSCE, any initiative is welcome that might point to a way out of the present situation in which trust among OSCE participating States has been lastingly damaged by unresolved conflicts, some of them involving even open military confrontation.

Security policy conditions have changed since the establishment of the OSCE, and it is important that the Organization should take into account the new circumstances. For this reason, Switzerland welcomes the intention of the Russian Federation to enter into a security dialogue. We are counting on a candid and open dialogue that will include all participating States. This also means that positions need to be reviewed and a willingness to compromise demonstrated. Switzerland welcomes the proposals indicated by Deputy Foreign Minister Grushko for giving concrete expression to Russia's ideas. These will enable the other participating States as well to make substantial contributions to the discussion. In this connection, we should like to note that, as we see it, the dialogue regarding the European security architecture must include both the transatlantic and the Eurasian dimension and that this dialogue must be based on the comprehensive, multidimensional security concept of the OSCE.

The OSCE has over the last few months faced the danger that with the erosion of trust between States trust too in the Organization itself is disappearing. We hope that the discussions held from 6 to 8 February at the 45th Munich Security Conference may be seen as a step in the direction of creating anew a basis for mutual confidence. The discussion

regarding a new European security architecture should also be aimed above all at this objective. In this context, we regard it as extremely important that a comprehensive solution, satisfactory to all participating States, be found for the OSCE Mission to Georgia. Here our efforts should be primarily concerned with collective security and not with particular interests or notions borne out of a bloc mentality. A satisfactory solution regarding the role of the OSCE in Georgia might well be a decisive factor in facilitating a productive dialogue regarding European security.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson and Mr. Chairman.