

PC.DEL/494/10
10 June 2010

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

Delegation of Switzerland

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

10 June 2010

On the statement by Mr. Antonio Milošoski, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland also sincerely welcomes Mr. Antonio Milošoski, Macedonian Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, to this meeting and thanks him for his interesting statement. As a predecessor in this office and aware of the many commitments incumbent on the chairmanship, Switzerland particularly appreciates the fact that you have not hesitated to come to Vienna to speak to the OSCE participating States. Your presence in the Permanent Council at the start of your six-month chairmanship demonstrates the importance for you of co-operation between the two organizations. We greatly welcome your desire to actively continue this co-operation.

The organizations in Strasbourg and Vienna have many things in common: their geopolitical scope and membership are extensively the same and both are committed for a large part to the same basic values. And yet they scarcely overlap but rather complement each other, since their methods – in one case legally binding instruments, in the other politically binding commitments and best practices – are different. For the credibility and effectiveness of their activities it is therefore important that the Council of Europe and the OSCE co-operate and co-ordinate closely. An excellent recent example of good co-operation is the election monitoring mission carried out jointly by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities during the local elections in Georgia on 30 May 2010.

Mr. Chairperson,

The close contacts alone between the secretariats of the two organizations make a great contribution to efficient co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE on an everyday basis. A core aspect in this regard are the regular meetings of the co-ordination groups to discuss the joint areas of operation – anti-terrorism, national minorities, trafficking in human beings, and tolerance and non-discrimination.

Meetings at the political and expert level are a fixed component of the agendas of the Council of Europe and OSCE chairmanships. Since the declaration on increased co-operation

made in 2005 in Warsaw, the presiding foreign ministers meet once or twice a year to discuss prospects for co-operation, and to define and finalize joint action areas for the near future. The last 2+2 meeting of this type took place on 5 March 2010 in Geneva between the Kazakh Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Kanat Saudabayev and the Swiss Federal Councillor Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey, accompanied by the Secretaries General of the OSCE and Council of Europe. This was the first meeting with an OSCE Chairmanship that is not a member of the Council of Europe; we hope it is not the last! It underlines the shared values and objectives that will continue to link the Council of Europe and the OSCE in the future.

Mr. Chairperson, I wish Foreign Minister Milošoski a successful chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and thank you for your attention.