

Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE  
950th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 May 2013

**Regarding the report by Ambassador Goran Svilanović,  
Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank Ambassador Goran Svilanović for his informative report and are pleased to be able to welcome him to the Permanent Council in his new capacity as Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), the co-operation council for South-East Europe.

Today we can note with great satisfaction that progress is being made in overcoming the political and economic challenges in South-East Europe. The societies are more open. They are constantly improving their co-operation. The European Union (EU) has relaxed its visa regime and European integration is acquiring concrete forms with Croatia's EU accession. The agreement recently reached between Belgrade and Priština is also seen as a promising step in the right direction.

The RCC is an important mechanism for regional and European integration. It has made an important contribution to this positive development. The RCC can proudly claim to be the only regional forum that currently includes all the States of the region as full members, especially also Kosovo (together with the well-known footnote). With this in mind, we should like to thank you, Ambassador Svilanović, for your personal commitment, which has helped to achieve this goal, and should, at the same time, like to encourage you to play a part in the implementation of the agreement.

Far-reaching reforms are extremely important for the advancement of European integration. Switzerland welcomes the regional endeavours to assume direct responsibility and take the initiative. Regional co-operation can serve as a means to promote dialogue, reconciliation, stability, economic recovery and measures to combat unemployment. Institutions such as the EU or the OSCE can make a significant contribution to the achievement of these goals. Nevertheless it is the responsibility of the South-East European States concerned to carry out the reforms and change the realities on the ground.

Although the RCC was established fairly recently, the organization has, with great commitment, managed to achieve convincing results. Switzerland will continue bilaterally as

well as within international organizations to contribute to regional stability. The OSCE with its field operations and many years of experience in most of the countries of South-East Europe is well placed to work together with the RCC and make its expertise available to others. Also in view of its future OSCE Chairmanship, Switzerland looks forward to close and fruitful collaboration with the Regional Cooperation Council and with Secretary General Svilanović.